

SPORTS

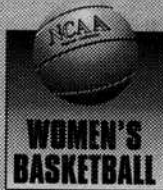
Sports Editor:
Adam Jude
adamjude@dailyemerald.com
Assistant Sports Editor:
Jeff Smith
jeffsmith@dailyemerald.com

Best Bet
NBA: Sacramento
at Philadelphia
5 p.m., TNT



Tuesday, March 13, 2002

Oregon women's first WNIT test is St. Mary's



On Tap

WHO: Oregon women's hoops vs. St. Mary's.
WHAT: WNIT, first round
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Mac Court

■ It's not the NCAA Tournament, but the Ducks are looking to make the most of their chances in the WNIT

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

The class: WNIT 101.
The subject: St. Mary's of California.
The final: 7 p.m. today at McArthur Court.
The Oregon women's basketball team is cramming. The subject was just assigned three days ago and the Ducks are expected to have it mastered.
They've watched some film, which is allowable under the NCAA ethics policy. But they haven't even seen St. Mary's (16-12), a team from the West Coast Conference, in seven years, much less know what to expect in the test.
But the basis of Oregon's studying has been itself, not the subject.

"Not knowing too much about St. Mary's is a good thing for us," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "I think we've done fairly well in preparing for teams we don't know a whole lot about because what we're basing our preparation on is playing our game of basketball — doing the things we need to do in order to be a successful team."

Tonight's first-round bout with St. Mary's is not exactly a final exam for the Ducks (17-13), but it could be. In the one-and-done Women's National Invitation Tournament, first-year coach Smith will have to have her squad well versed in how to stay alive.

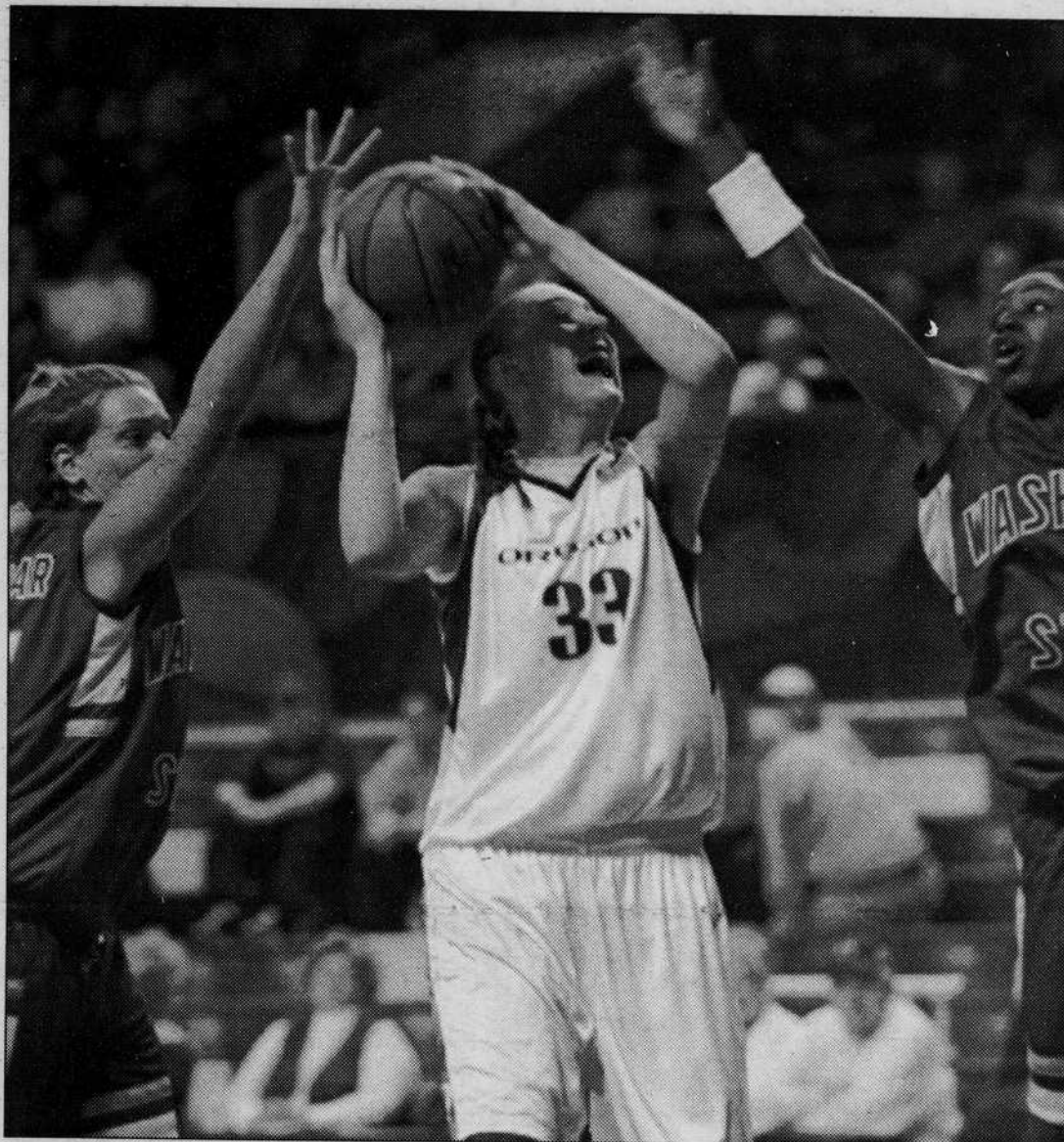
"There's not a whole lot (the coaches) can teach us that they haven't already taught us," Oregon senior guard Jamie Craighead said. "Now it's just about playing basketball. We're just going to go out and play."

The Ducks haven't played a game in 11 days (a loss to Arizona State in the semifinals of the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament), but are well rested for a run in the 32-team field of the WNIT.

"We want to win this tournament," Oregon senior guard Edniesha Curry said. "In postseason play, you don't know much about any team. You just have to play hard because it's one and done. You go out and play your game and play with 100 percent effort."

One advantage the Ducks will have is playing at McArthur Court, where they are 8-5 this season (including two wins in the Pac-10 Tournament). The Ducks also led the Pac-10 in at-

Turn to Women's, page 8



Adam Amato Emerald

Sophomore forward Cathrine Kraayeveld's work on the boards will be key against St. Mary's today at Mac Court.



Adam Amato Emerald

ESPN is following the Ducks everywhere they go during their NCAA Tournament run.

Oregon's postseason run captured by ESPN cameras

MEN'S NOTES

■ The Ducks and head coach Ernie Kent will be filmed over the next few weeks as they travel through the NCAA Tournament

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Even though the NCAA Tournament will be broadcast on CBS, the Oregon men's basketball team will be stars on ESPN in the near future.

The Ducks have been under the scrutiny of ESPN's cameras since Sunday's selection show, and a documentary of Oregon's postseason run will appear on the all-sports network.

"They're going everywhere we go," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said of the cameras. "They're in the locker room, in the buses, in the airplanes, in staff meetings, at halftime, everything. But it's a great opportunity to show our basketball team on a national level, because no other team in the country has that right now."

Kent had a small microphone attached to his sweater as he talked to reporters Tuesday before practice, and joked that the scribes should be careful.

"They're hearing everything you're saying," Kent said. "I'm surprised

they're not up here right now. They roll all the time."
Scary.

Helquist Hurtin'

Oregon's backup center, Brian Helquist, is still questionable to play in this weekend's games.

"He's practicing today, but he won't do a lot of live stuff," Kent said Tuesday.

Helquist strained his right knee in Oregon's win over USC on the final weekend of the regular season. The Ducks managed two wins without the big man, but lost in the second round of the Pac-10 Tournament to USC.

Helquist averaged four points and 2.8 rebounds per game coming off the bench. He played 14 minutes per game in relief of starting center Chris Christoffersen.

Senior center Mark Michaelis admirably filled Helquist's shoes during the Pac-10 Tournament. Michaelis scored seven points and grabbed three rebounds in the first round of the tournament, then got two boards in the second game.

Oregon guard Freddie Jones, who had a high fever during the Pac-10 Tournament, will be healthy for the NCAA Tournament, as will forward Luke Jackson, who fell on his hip after a dunk against Washington.

Turn to Men's, page 9