

## SPORTS

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Best Bet  
NCAA Tournament:  
Oregon vs. Montana  
2 p.m., CBS



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## Ducks focus only on Montana

■ No. 2-seed Oregon starts the NCAA Tournament today, but the Ducks aren't looking past No. 15 Montana

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

So now it starts.

After a season of low expectations, the Oregon men's basketball team shocked the country and won the Pacific-10 Conference title.

But years from now, the Ducks will be remembered for how they performed in the NCAA Tournament. They will be a

Sweet 16 team, or a Final Four team.

Or, if Montana has its way, the Ducks will be a first-round team.

"We're so focused in on getting ready for our next opponent," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said.

Oregon, the No. 2 seed in the Midwest regional, will face 15th-seeded

Montana at 2 p.m. today. With the country, or at least the region, watching on CBS, the Ducks will try to win in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1960.

Montana is an enigma. They went through the Big Sky regular season with a 7-7 record and seemed destined to watch the Big Dance from home. But then came a magical Big Sky Tournament and the Grizzlies ended up as the automatic qualifier from the conference.

### ON TAP

WHO: Oregon men vs. Montana

WHAT: NCAA Tournament

WHEN: 2 p.m. today

WHERE: Arco Arena, Sacramento, Calif.

TV: CBS

The Grizzlies and Ducks have history in more than one way. Montana standout Brett Cummings played against

Oregon guard Luke Ridnour in the Washington State AA championship game in 1999. Ridnour's Blaine Borderites won that game over Cummings' Pullman Greyhounds, and also won

the state title the following year.

As far as team history, the Ducks and Grizzlies played in the same conference, the Pacific Coast Conference, in the early part of the 20th century. Oregon leads the series, 21-4, but Montana has had luck in modern times.

The Grizzlies were the last team to beat the Ducks in a season opener. But "beat" is too nice a term. Montana clobbered Oregon, 78-38, in the opener of the 1991-92 season. That game was the Ducks' first without star Terrell Brandon, who was drafted after the 1990-91 season.

Of course, this meeting is much different. The Ducks have heaps of pressure on them to perform in the tournament, but Kent said they won't feel that pressure.

"They're the Pac-10 champions," Kent said. "They've handled themselves extremely well the entire year, with all that same pressure on them for the last 12 or 13 games. Biggest game in school history, must-win games — all of that. This pressure

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## The view's been great from here

Amazingly, the end has come. And fittingly, it ends at the NCAA Tournament. After almost four years of covering sports for this publication, I will move on after watching Oregon dance in the madness of March.



Jeff  
Smith  
Hakuna Matata

It's truly been an incredible ride, especially with the steep, upward direction Oregon athletics continues to travel.

But no, this isn't being written with a tear in the eye or with nostalgia kicking in. Simply put, I just wanted to share with you what it's been like to be on this end of the newsprint.

It's different. A lot different. And I love it.

With the men's basketball team having a storybook season, and with the NCAA Tournament beginning today, people just can't seem to stop talking Ducks.

Much like it was with football and the historic Fiesta Bowl season.

Much like it was with football and the record-setting Holiday Bowl season.

Much like it was with men's basketball and the wild 2000

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## Ducks oust St. Mary's for first win in WNIT

■ The Ducks take their first postseason game since 1999 with an impressive win over the Gaels

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was Jamie Craighead's kind of night against the Gaels on Wednesday.

Behind the senior's treble of three-pointers in the second half, the Ducks were able to storm past St. Mary's (Calif.) en route to a 72-61 win at McArthur Court in the first round of the Women's National Invitation Tournament. It was the team's first postseason win since the 1998-99 season.

"This one really meant a lot because we finally got that postseason win," junior Kourtney Shreve said.

With junior Shaquala Williams on the bench in the second half because of an illness, Craighead and Shreve stepped up their game, combining for 16 points. Craighead accounted for three of the team's five three-pointers in the game, and Shreve kept the crowd in the game with her passing display.

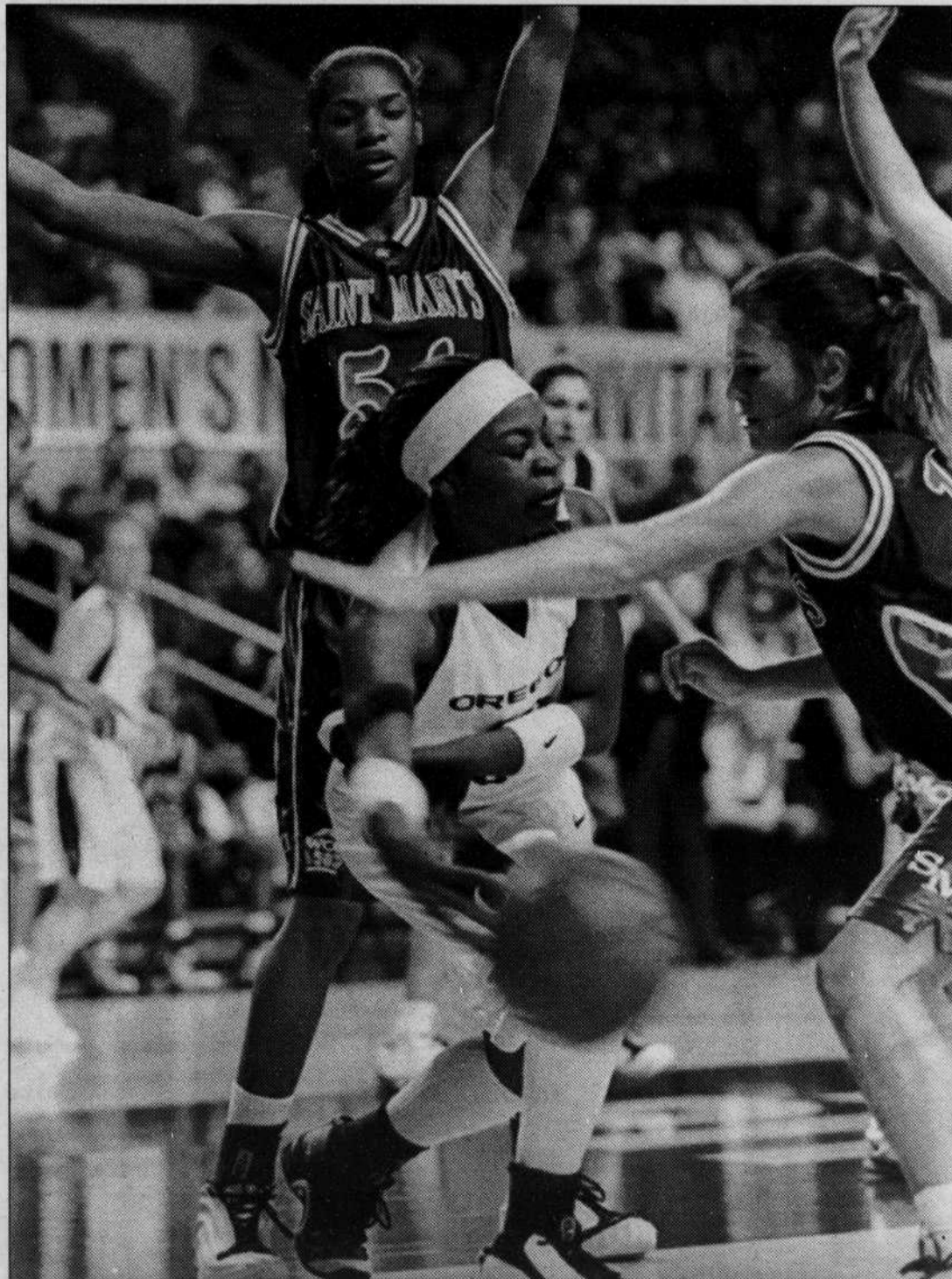
"It was a good game to get us started," Craighead said.

St. Mary's (16-13 overall) seniors Jerkisha and Jermisha Dosty led the way for the Gaels in the first half — they combined for 20 points and 11 rebounds — and gave the Ducks a fit under the boards. Their play allowed St. Mary's to overcome 13 first half turnovers and keep the Gaels within two points at the half.

However, in the second half, Oregon (18-13) was simply too much for the twins.

"They're pretty good players and

Turn to Women's, page 10A



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon senior Edniesha Curry and the rest of the Ducks were able to pull ahead of the Gaels in the second half for a 72-61 win. The Ducks now await the winner of Oregon State-Hawaii for their second-round game in the WNIT.

## Shreve lifts Shaq-less Duck squad

■ Junior guard Kourtney Shreve sparks the Ducks as Shaquala Williams sat out with the flu

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

They did fine without her last year and didn't need her Wednesday night, either.

Battling the flu, Shaquala Williams, the star guard of the Oregon women's basketball team, played just eight minutes in the Ducks' 72-61 victory over St. Mary's at McArthur Court.

In the first round game of the Women's National Invitation Tournament, Williams was held scoreless for the first time in more than three years, when she was kept off the scoreboard at Washington State on Feb. 11, 1999. Until Wednesday, Williams had never not scored in a game she'd played at Mac Court.

The 2000 Pacific-10 Conference Player of the Year, who sat out last season with a knee injury, took just two shots against St. Mary's.

"You could definitely tell there was something wrong with her," Oregon forward Cathrine Kraayeveld said.

But you couldn't tell there was anything wrong with the Ducks, particularly in the second half.

St. Mary's Julie Morris scored the first basket of the second half to tie the game at 30, but Oregon went on an 18-10 run to take a 48-40 lead with 11:07 to play.

Junior guard Kourtney Shreve, playing extended minutes in Williams' absence, hit a deep three-pointer with 9:19 left to extend Oregon's lead to 10. Just over a minute later, Shreve blocked a Carey Noakes three-point attempt and went in for any easy layin to give the

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