

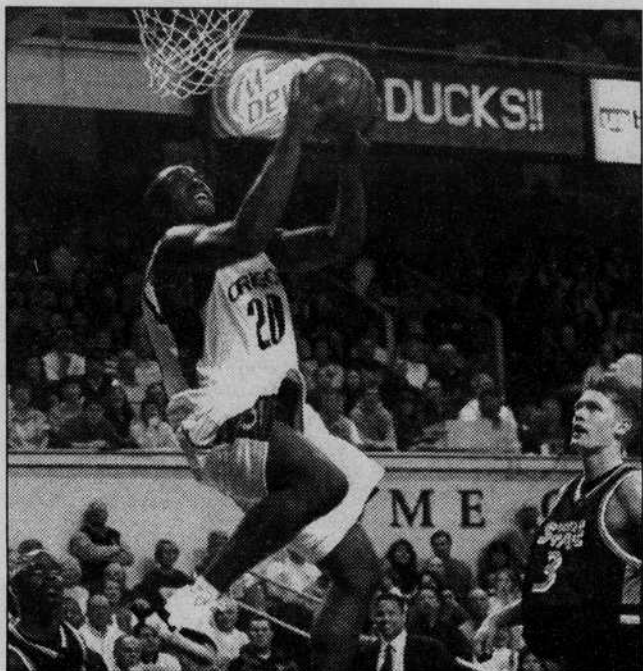
SPORTS

Sports Editor:
Adam Jude
adamjude@dailymerald.com

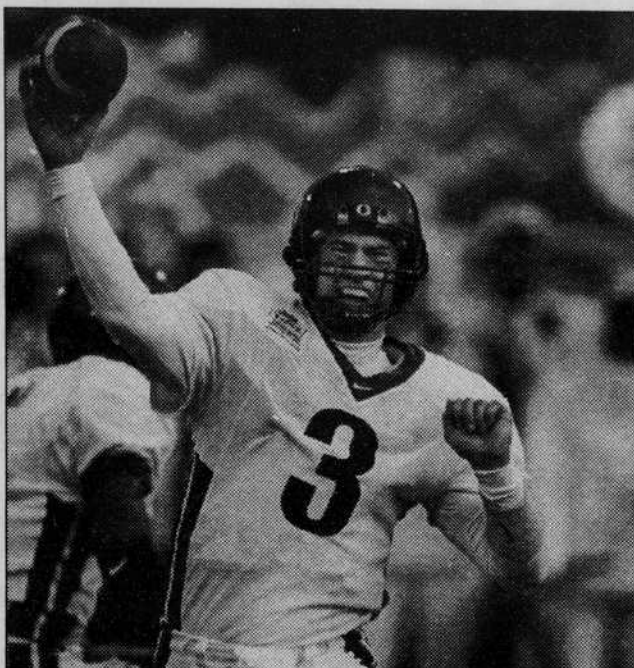
Best Bet
MLB: St. Louis at Seattle
7:00 p.m., FSN



Monday, June 10, 2002



Adam Amato Emerald



John Stoops for the Emerald



Adam Amato Emerald

Not alone in world of Ducks

On the banks of the Hudson River, overlooking mighty New York City, there sits a tiny engineering college called the Stevens Institute of Technology.

There is a legend passed down through generations at Stevens. It was a revolutionary, ambiguous time in America, sometime in the '60s or '70s, and the president of Stevens wanted to change the school's image.

This president held a vote, but the students, desperate to keep their "Engineer" nickname, proposed mascots with names that were unprintable and certainly unusable. The president, sitting in his office and mulling over the situation, was desperate. He looked out his window onto the banks of the Hudson River.

And thus, the Stevens Ducks were born.

There is perhaps no better measure of the success of the Oregon program than the increased visibility for the Stevens Institute, a college in Hoboken, N.J., whose members chuckle at the notion of "The Year of the Duck."

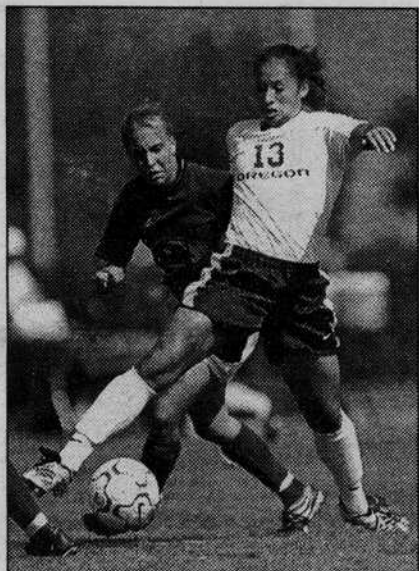
"Because of what (Oregon) has done on a national scale, it doesn't make the Ducks sound so funny any more," Stevens lacrosse coach Byron Collins said. "They used to just put 'Stevens' in the reports, now they say 'the Ducks were led by...' We thank (Oregon) for that."

"We're riding on the coattails of Oregon."

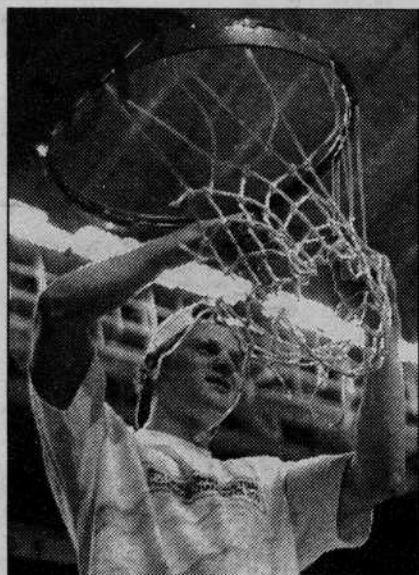
Collins has Mike Bellotti's job at Stevens; he is coach of the premier sport on campus. The lacrosse Ducks do, after all, draw between 750-1,000 fans on good days. Many of those fans are professors.

"There is no football, lacrosse is it,"

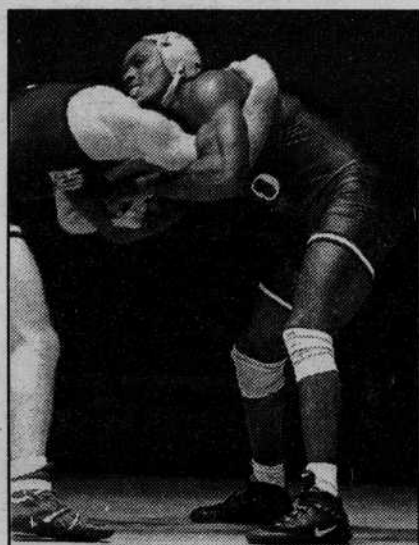
Turn to Hockaday, page 15A



Adam Amato Emerald



Thomas Patterson Emerald



Adam Amato Emerald

the YEAR of the DUCK

Led by the football team's historic 11-win season, Oregon's 2001-02 sports résumé is the most impressive in school history

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

It started with a Sept. 1 football game against Wisconsin and ended at the NCAA track championships on June 1. The 274 days and 300-some events in between created what will surely be remembered as the best year in Oregon sports history.

Future storytellers will label the 2001-02 school year "The Year of the Duck" because for the first time in school history — and just the eighth time in Pacific-10 Conference history — both the football and men's basketball teams won the conference championship. Oregon's overall success, though, came from more than just its money-makers: The supporting cast of the women's basketball, wrestling, tennis and track teams all had memorable seasons.

But many may have even considered this the greatest year in Oregon sports simply because of the success of the Oregon football team in the fall.

The magical season, however, nearly got off on the wrong note. Looking to avenge a 27-23 loss in Wisconsin at the beginning of the 2000 season, the Ducks opened the 2001 campaign at Autzen Stadium in dramatic fashion against the Badgers. In what has become a staple of the Oregon football program, Joey Harrington led the Ducks on a fourth-quarter comeback and pulled off a 31-28 victory.

The Ducks would go on to win nine more times in 10 tries before heading to Tempe, Ariz., for the New Year's Day Fiesta Bowl. Many prognosticators projected Colorado's explosive rushing offense to bowl over the Oregon defense.

Turn to Year of the Duck, page 14A

TOP LEFT:
Freddie Jones
TOP MIDDLE:
Joey Harrington
TOP RIGHT:
Cathrine Kraayeveld

LEFT TOP:
Nicole Garbin
LEFT MIDDLE:
Luke Ridnour
LEFT BOTTOM:
Eugene Harris

Dishing out prestigious Emmies

■ The Emerald sports staff members honor what they feel is the best and worst of Oregon sports in the Year of the Duck

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oh, it's that time of year again, friends. That time when we look back on what happened, reminisce, laugh, cry, all that stuff.

It's Emmie time.

For the third year in a row, we here at the Oregon Daily Emerald will give out the prestigious Emmies, rewarding the best of Oregon athletics. This has been a special year for the Ducks, without a doubt, but you know all about it. So we won't waste time getting to the awards (all awards are voted on by the entire Emerald sports staff).

Most Entertaining Female: We start with the athlete who kick-started our year in a most entertaining way. Freshman striker Nicole Garbin scored the only goal in her first match this fall and never slowed down as the Ducks ran through their most successful season ever.

Garbin finished third on the team with five goals, and we can only hope that there will be more excitement to come from Garbin.

Most Entertaining Male: When Onterrio Smith stepped on campus last spring, nobody knew what to expect from the flashy running back with the troubled past. But Smith proved all the doubters wrong by electrifying the field with his ooh-aah runs. With bobbing and weaving as his specialty, Smith also proved he could overpower defenders like the unfortunate Washington State safety who met Smith and lost on Smith's drive for a touchdown in Pullman.

Biggest Heart: A lot of Oregon athletes have heart, but none were as big as Eugene Harris' this season. Coming off knee surgery in 2001 and playing in pain for most of his matches, Harris still managed to win a Pac-10 title and earn the team's most valuable player award, with his wife and 4-year-old daughter rooting him on. For that, he earns our Biggest Heart award.

Best Interview: This category was a no-brainer. We interact with hundreds of athletes over the

Turn to Emmies, page 15A