

## SPORTS

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**Best bet**  
NCAA football:  
Georgia Tech at Maryland  
4:30 p.m., ESPN

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## UO hoopsters learn from long first week

The Oregon men's basketball players are at different stages in their progress

### Men's basketball

**Peter Hockaday**  
Sports Editor

Fast times at the University of Oregon. That could be the motto for the leaner, meaner — and yes, faster — Oregon men's basketball team this year.

"It's hard to believe that this team is faster after losing Freddie (Jones) and Anthony (Lever)," junior guard James Davis said. "But we rebuilt with speed."

No pun intended. The Ducks did indeed rebuild quickly and for speed after losing some key players, adding four guards to the roster, as compared to two forwards and one center.

And after one week of practice, those newcomers are being slowly broken in by head coach Ernie Kent and a veteran-player crew led by Davis, Luke Ridnour, Luke Jackson and others. They are learning new plays, conditioning and generally getting used to each other before the exhibition-season opener Nov. 6 and the regular-season opener Nov. 24.

Each player on the team is dealing with different issues until they meet on the court for the tipoff of that first game of the season. It is a team of individuals trying to become a team. With that in mind, the Emerald talked to three different

Oregon players at three different stages in their career. Here are their first-week testimonials.

#### Jordan Kent

"It's really tiring," Jordan Kent said of the first week of practice. "I'm trying to learn two or three new plays every day."

Coach's son. High-school star. Dual-sport wonder. All these are labels that apply to Jordan, the newest Kent family member to play for the Ducks. And after years of dinner-table discussions about Oregon basketball and sitting in the stands, Kent is finally wearing the green-and-yellow of the Ducks.

"I'm just counting the days until that first game," Kent said.

Kent said he isn't exactly sure where he fits into Oregon's extensive lineup of guards, but is enjoying his first few practices all the same.

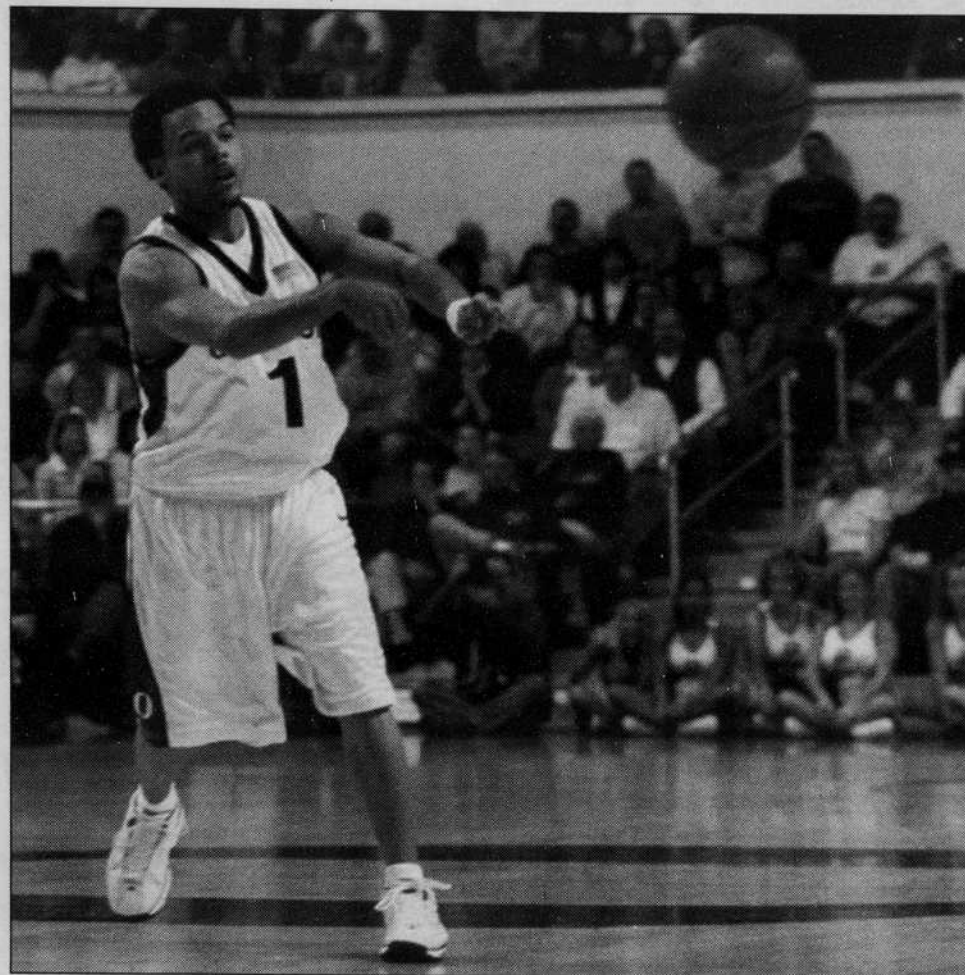
"We've got great chemistry," Kent said.

#### Ian Crosswhite

"I'm going hard every practice, trying to show coach what I'm all about," Ian Crosswhite said in his Australian accent. "I want to make it an easy decision for him on whether or not to play me."

Crosswhite is from Down Under — Australia — and hopes to see some time down under the basket as the season progresses. But in the meantime, the redshirt freshman, who spent most of last season in his warm-ups, just wants to soak up the knowledge of the guys playing in front of him.

"Robert (Johnson) makes you be alert all



Adam Amato Emerald

Junior guard James Davis is suddenly a leader on the young Oregon men's basketball team.

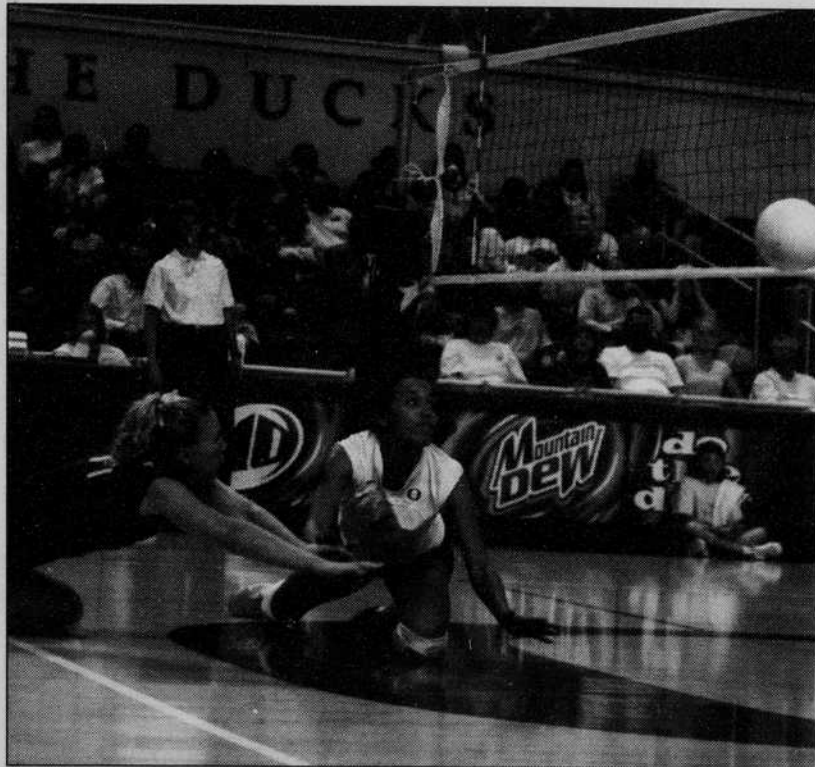
the time, he doesn't ever stop working," Crosswhite said of veteran forward Johnson. "Brian (Helquist) is the same way."

Crosswhite fits into the new mold of quick

Oregon big men. Helquist has lost weight from the 275-pound frame he sported last year, and Johnson has always been an athletic forward.

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## Arizona comes to McArthur Court for showdown



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Junior Lindsay Murphy (11) and freshman Dariam Acevedo will face the Wildcats tonight.

The Ducks and Wildcats match up well on paper, but that won't matter until they take the court

### Volleyball

**Hank Hager**  
Sports Reporter

The same old stories seem to be keep popping up for the Oregon volleyball team.

First, there's the 28-match Pacific-10 Conference losing streak. Secondly, the team's mantra of playing "Oregon volleyball" never changes, although in the long run, that's all it should take to get that victory.

Against No. 19 Arizona (8-7 overall, 3-4 Pac-10) tonight at McArthur Court, that could be the case.

"We're really just, day in and day out, working hard, and we know we are an amazing team with amazing potential," sophomore Lauren Westendorf said. "We're really optimistic and are really keeping our eyes on a win and playing hard and playing Oregon volleyball."

The Ducks (10-11, 0-7) have seen an improvement in team defense this season, which, according to Westendorf, leads to a more potent offense.

Against the Wildcats, it will be important to keep Arizona on its toes. Even though Arizona is nationally ranked, it is a program that is sixth in the conference, having come off a surprising loss to California last weekend.

"The goal is to put yourself in position to win, and then you've got to make plays when the game is on the line," head coach Carl Ferreira said.

Ferreira likened the match against UCLA to the team's mentality against Arizona. The Ducks were close to taking Game 1 from the Bruins, but a late stand by UCLA forced a loss on Oregon. From then on, it was all UCLA.

Still, the Ducks are a much improved team from last season, and although they may not have shown it of recent, Oregon has shown a level of consistency.

"I think we're significantly closer to succeeding, and our program is in place to give us a chance," Ferreira said. "It's just the experience level, little by little, of the athletes, to finalize and seal the deal."

Ferreira pointed out that 70 percent of the offense has come from five Ducks — Westendorf and freshmen Jodi Bell, Kelly Russell, Dariam Acevedo and Jaclyn Jones. That offense is definitely young, but for the Ducks to get the much-awaited win, these five will have to make their presence known early and often.

"Our freshmen are playing as well as any freshmen in the Pac-10," Ferreira said. "So, I like what we've done. The commitment level of the kids is staggering."

"I think these kids need to be applauded. If you don't look just in terms of what society likes to look at, you'd be in awe of what these kids have done."

Ferreira was dead on in his observation of Arizona and Oregon. The two programs match up closely in kills and assists, although both teams are at or near the bottom of the conference in each category.

Nevertheless, it is an even matchup, one that begins at 7 p.m. at The Pit.

Contact the sports reporter at [hankhager@dailyemerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailyemerald.com).

## Etter walks on, now holds backup keeper spot

All it took was a job at Safeway and an open mind for the senior track All-American to walk on to the women's soccer team

### Soccer

**Jesse Thomas**  
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's soccer team never recruited her.

The Ducks never came banging on her door to try and beg her to join the team.

It all happened at Safeway.

When assistant head coach Jon Keister would stroll through senior Mary Etter's line she would jokingly mention that if the Ducks needed a keeper, to give her a call.

After offering a few times, Etter walked into the soccer office and the next thing she knew, she was signing eligibility forms. Etter, who

played soccer throughout high school, has walked on to the women's soccer team and now backs up senior Sarah Peters at goalkeeper.

"It's kind of funny how it just all happened," Etter said. "Next thing I know I'm just standing here and I don't know what my purpose is, but I'm loving it. The team is awesome."

It has been quite an experience for Etter, her first time touching a soccer ball in almost three years.

But Etter has kept busy before taking up soccer again.

The Washington native has been throwing the discus for the Oregon women's track team for the past three years, and has done well, to say the least. Etter is a two-time All-American discus thrower for the Ducks the last two seasons and placed strongly in the NCAA Championship last year.

Etter set personal bests in track last year in the shot put, discus and

hammer throw. She said will always have a love for track, but enjoys the team aspect of soccer.

"Track is more of an individual sport and (soccer) is more like a family," Etter said. "It's more of a real team and everybody knows your name and you could be on the track team for two years and not even know somebody."

As a two-sport athlete for Oregon,

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