

SPORTS

Best bet

NBA:

San Antonio at New Jersey

4 p.m., ESPN

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Hey deejay,
mix me up
some sports

There are a lot of column ideas out there. There are also a lot of ideas that don't really deserve their own column, but deserve some column space.

And I need some fancy way to package these ideas. It's a smorgasbord of ideas. A melting pot.

A mix tape. And these are the liner notes.

Track 1. Pac-10 schools with football stadiums directly attached to campus: Washington State, Oregon State, Stanford, California, Arizona, USC.

Pac-10 schools with football stadiums separated from campus: Washington, Oregon, UCLA, Arizona State.

Psychological test: Name the first Pac-10 programs that come to mind when I list these adjectives. Ready? Brash, arrogant, confident.

Washington and Oregon for sure. Probably UCLA, too.

Coincidence? You decide.

Track 2. Something fishy: Don't you get a weird feeling studying or eating in "The Fishbowl"? Like you might, at any time, see a giant set of eyes peering in the windows? Maybe it's just me.

Track 3. Luke Jackson's 2002-03 season line: 21.3 ppg, leads Pac-10. But despite this, Jackson stays for his senior year, while Luke Ridnour enters the NBA draft. Why? Jackson has shone with more responsibility each year (this year he'll be an athletic dunker to make up for the absence of Freddie Jones), and he knows this. Next year, with Ridnour gone, he will be the man. Like, the man.

Why will Ridnour leave early? If you were a projected lottery pick, you'd go, too.

Track 4. Lyric of the century:

Guy: I smoke.

Girl: I smoke.

Guy: I drink.

Girl: Me too.

Both: Now we gonna get it on tonight. From "Hey Ma" by Cam'ron.

Track 5. Taking out the trash: So nobody on either team is really talking trash for Saturday's game, which brings out the trash-talker in me.

Hey, guys, you're pathetic at talking trash! Say what you will about Civil War or the "Hick Bowl" — Oregon at Washington State — Oregon-Washington is the rivalry. It's about big city versus little city, stuck-up versus outlandish, wine and cheese versus beer. Come on, Ducks! Let's see it, Huskies! Where's the trash?

Whew. That took a lot out of me.

Track 6. Best quote from Saturday's football game: "This is the only place in the whole conference where I've heard fans cheering an injury. Ever. In 14 years."

From Mike Bellotti, on fans cheering when Onterrio Smith had to be helped off the field in the second quarter with an eye injury. And he wasn't happy when he said that — he was spitting the words with venom.

Bellotti has a right to be angry. That

Turn to **Hockaday**, page 6



Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

Soccer reflects, sees potential

Five seniors are leaving the team, with the torch being passed to Oregon's younger generation

Soccer season wrap-up

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Fifteen seconds left. Oregon is down 2-1 to Oregon State.

Senior goalkeeper Sarah Peters makes the crucial save. Peters blasts the ball upfield to senior forward Amanda Orand. Orand splits the defense, and finds the back of the net to tie the game.

Overtime. Senior Robi Thayer makes a solid hit to one of the Beaver forwards. Senior Lindsey Peterson recovers the ball and brings it up past midfield to set up senior Sarah Denner. Denner makes a high line drive shot to the right side of the net. Oregon wins 3-2.

That's the way the five senior Ducks would have liked to see Friday's game — and their careers — end. But Oregon's final game was not the suspenseful thriller just described; it ended in a loss to Oregon State, 2-1.

It doesn't matter how it ended for the Ducks because it was a memorable season all around.

"We gave it our all and I don't have any regrets," Orand said. "I had a great season and I love the team."

Oregon walks away from the season 2-14-2 and 1-7-1 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

Injuries plagued the Ducks from the beginning and cost them in the end. Sophomore forward Nicole Garbin, the leading returning scorer from last year, suffered a severe knee injury before the season started.

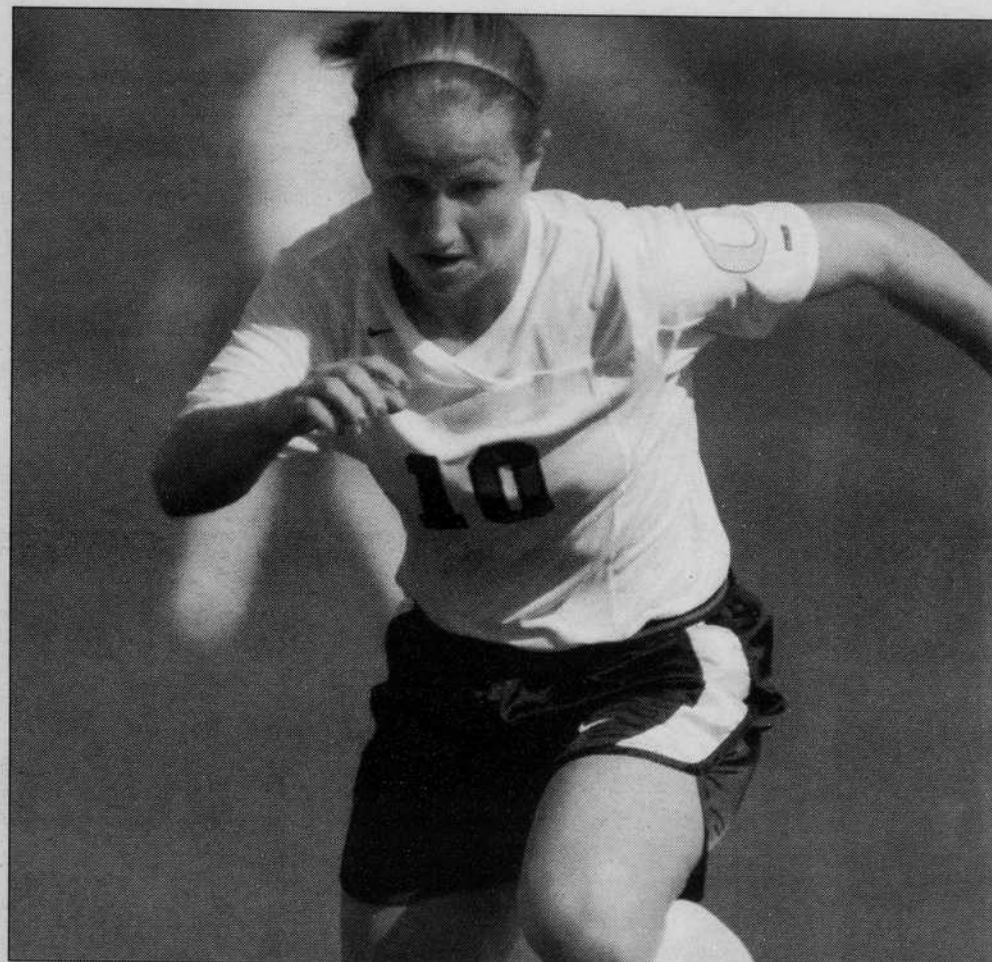
And backup keeper Dominique Lainez suffered a right ankle sprain at the beginning of September, which left her sidelined all season.

Oregon's record reflects the tough competition for the Ducks, as they faced the best in the country. The women played the likes of North Carolina, Portland, Stanford and UCLA along with other NCAA veterans from last year.

According to preseason polls, 10 Oregon opponents were picked among the top 25 by Soccer America.

"We learned to play with any team in the country," junior midfielder Lindsey Werdell said. "We were able to play through adversity and play as a team."

Werdell will return as a senior for Oregon next year, but for the five other veteran Ducks,



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Sarah Denner was one of five seniors to play in their last game for Oregon in Friday's Civil War.

they have had to come to the realization that Friday night was the last time they would wear an Oregon uniform.

"We learned to play with any team in the country. We were able to play through adversity and play as a team."

Lindsey Werdell
junior midfielder

"It hasn't quite hit me yet," Peterson said. "It's kind of sad but now I can look forward to

other things."

And for the seniors, it's time to pass the torch to a younger Duck generation.

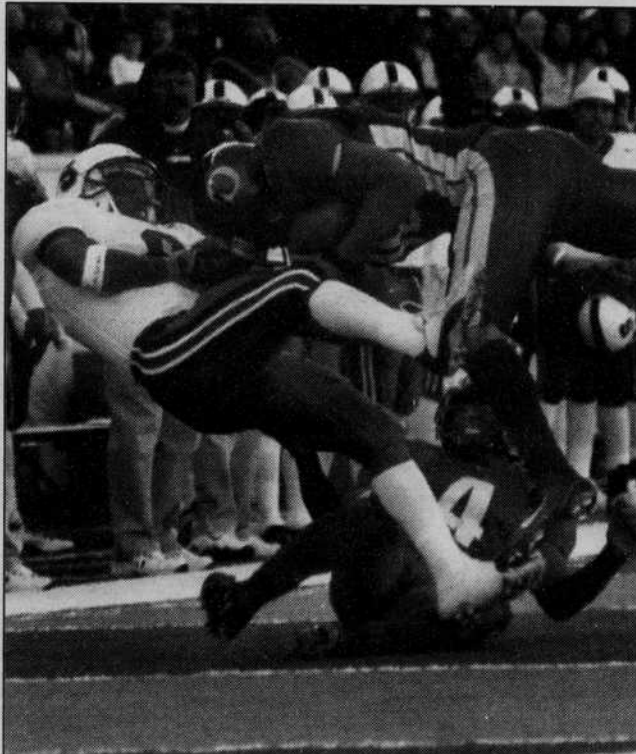
Oregon found itself blessed with 13 newcomers on the roster this year, including 10 freshmen. Of the new Ducks, four started more than five games for Oregon this season and all gained valuable college experience.

"All in all, this team has played some really good soccer, and they can be a really good team," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "It will take a little bit of time and a little bit of maturity, but they are very capable."

Steffen said if the Ducks can eliminate some

Turn to **Soccer**, page 6

Duck tails aren't between their legs



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Keith Lewis (with ball), Steven Moore (4) and the Ducks are keeping things light in practice this week despite losing three of four.

The Oregon football team is keeping practice fun this week

Oregon notes

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

This is a team that's lost three of its last four games?

This is a team that's dropped to 23rd in The Associated Press poll after being ranked as high as sixth? A team that won't contend for a Pacific-10 Conference title after winning two in a row?

At the end of practice Tuesday night, the players of the Oregon football team filled Autzen Stadium without joyous shouts as they ran a drill that pitted the scout team offense against the scout team defense. To score a point, the defense had to prevent the offense from gaining four yards, or the offense would score a point.

Best of seven downs won the contest, and that "team" avoided conditioning drills.

The defense won the first three downs, and the defensive starters let the offense know it, chanting "de-fense,

de-fense." But the offense stormed back, winning the next two, and now the offensive starters started their own "o-fense, o-fense" cheer. The defense came up with a huge stop, and the defensive starters rushed the field as the offense trudged toward the goal line for running drills.

"We made the offense run, but we didn't have to, which was good for me," linebacker Kevin Mitchell said with a grin.

Quarterback Jason Fife said that drill epitomized the Ducks' attitudes this week.

"I'm glad coach did that," Fife said. "A lot of times we forget why we play this game. Of course you want to win, but above all we want to compete and we want to have fun."

No comment

For such a bitter rivalry, the players of the Oregon and Washington teams have been keeping relatively mum this week. Both coaches are attempting to avoid the controversial comments that came out last week before the Oregon-Washington State and Oregon State-Washington games last week.

Turn to **Oregon**, page 8