

Davis

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she is missing, according to Smith, is a better understanding of the collegiate game.

"I think Brandi is one of our most athletic guards, and very talented in terms of her offensive weapons," Smith said. "She will play a role in our up-tempo game. I think once she understands the game, she'll be an intricate part of our success."

Flashing back to Saturday's game, Davis entered the contest around the 16-minute mark of the first half. She admitted to being nervous, although that wasn't new as she always was excited before games at Sonora High School as well.

Yet, this nervous was special. This nervous meant playing in front of a big-time college atmosphere, at a school that she knew she wanted to attend since the beginning of her recruiting process at Sonora.

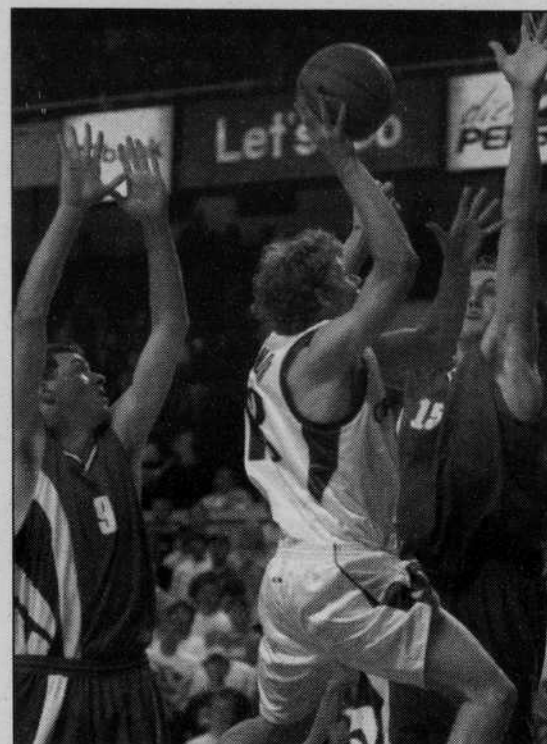
"Oh my gosh, she's putting me in.' That's the first thing that came into my head," Davis said. "I was so scared, so nervous, and then once I went in there and the crowd was rooting for me, it was exciting."

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Amato Emerald

Sophomore Brandi Davis (21) has meshed with the Ducks despite having to sit out last season because of academic reasons. She should be an offensive force this year.



Luke Ridnour and the Ducks will face the EA Sports All-Stars tonight at McArthur Court. Adam Amato Emerald

Basketball

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No. 1 Arizona, 115-92 on Tuesday.

"This team's better than the (Australians)," Ridnour said. "They're going to try to run with us. We just gotta focus on the defense and the offense will take care of itself."

"People should not come and expect to see another Australian team," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said.

Two 7-footers named to recruiting class

Aaron Brooks, a point guard from Seattle, highlighted Kent's recruiting class, which became official Wednesday.

Kent also signed two 7-footers — Mitch Platt of Henderson, Nev., and Ray Schafer of Wasilla, Alaska. Oregon's recruiting class was rated the 15th-best in the country by ESPN.com.

Brooks was a member of Kent's USA Basketball Junior National Team this summer, which the coach said gave him "a great leg up in recruiting him."

"He's a pure point guard who totally understands the game," Kent said of Brooks, who averaged 18.7 points and 7.5 assists as a junior at Franklin

High School. "He's the point guard for the future."

Platt averaged 12.5 points and 8 rebounds as a junior at Green Valley High School, leading the Gators to a 25-8 record.

Schafer is rated one of the top three centers on the West Coast by most recruiting services.

Kent said those post players, along with redshirt freshmen Ian Crosswhite and Matt Short, will make Oregon one of the biggest teams in the Pac-10 in years to come.

"We feel very good about what's coming in," Kent said. "We feel like we've gotten the program to a level now where we can be selective (about recruits)."

Zahn, Kent to sit out season

Adam Zahn, a 6-foot-8-inch freshman from Redondo Beach, Calif., and Kent's son, Jordan, a 6-foot-4-inch guard, will redshirt this season.

"Unless something out of the ordinary happens, both of those guys will be redshirting," Kent said Wednesday.

That leaves Oregon with 11 active players for the season, including walk-on guard Tyler York.

Contact the senior sports reporter at adamjude@dailyemerald.com.

Cross country

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first season in Eugene, then lowered the school record in the steeplechase during the 2001 track and field season.

During the 2001 cross country season, Zografos paced the Ducks in the Pacific-10 Conference Championship, finishing 35th. She led the squad in three of the other four meets she raced in, and finished fifth for Oregon in the other despite an illness. Zografos redshirted the 2002 track season.

After regionals on Saturday, Zografos may run in the NCAA Championships if either she or her team qualifies. After that, track and field starts its indoor season in mid-January.

Playing the Polls

In the weekly national cross country poll, the Oregon men have been ranked fifth for the past five polls. The only Pac-10 or West region team ranked ahead

of the Ducks is Stanford, who has been ranked No. 1 nationally for the entire season.

The Oregon women have been pushing the edges of the rankings all season, after an improved finish at the Sept. 28 Roy Griak Invitational. In the last poll, released Nov. 4, the Ducks received four votes, putting them at 37th nationally.

Season scorecard

If a team doesn't finish as one of the top two at their regional championship, they can still be one of the 13 teams to qualify for an at-large berth into the national meet.

The 13 teams are selected based on their regional finish and regular season wins against teams that did qualify.

Between three meets, the Oregon women have finished above 17 different teams that are potential automatic qualifiers.

On the men's side, the Ducks have placed above 21 potential qualifiers in two meets, including

No. 4 Wisconsin at the Griak Invitational.

Young Blood

Redshirt freshman Will Viviani finished as the seventh runner for the Oregon men at the Griak Invitational, as he and freshman Nicole Feest were the only freshmen runners to make the trek to Minn. for the meet.

Viviani also finished seventh for the Ducks at the Pac-10 Championships.

Feest and freshman Eleanor Gordon have run close to each other in their past two meets. The pair finished first and second overall at the Beaver Classic, and sixth and seventh for the Ducks at the Pac-10 Championship.

With these three, plus the many other freshmen runners waiting in the wings, Oregon's strong running tradition will stay in the national fray — at least for the near future.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Sports briefs

Smith Camp-ing out

Oregon running back Onterrio Smith was one of 10 players named as a finalist Wednesday for the 2002

Walter Camp Award, given annually to the nation's best player.

The award will be given out at a banquet on Feb. 8.

Smith was one of five running backs included among the finalists. The other five finalists were quarterbacks, including the Pac-10's Jason Gesser and Carson Palmer.

—Peter Hockaday

Women sign two

Oregon women's basketball head coach Bev Smith announced the signing of two high school players Wednesday.

Jessica Shettlers, a 6-foot-6-inch center from Wilson High School in Portland, and Ashley Allen, a 5-foot-10-inch guard from Clovis West in Fresno, Calif., signed letters of intent to join the Ducks for the 2003-04 season.

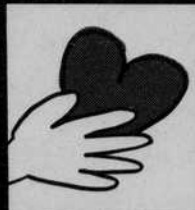
Shettlers is set to become the second-tallest Duck in program history, while Allen follows former Oregon player Lindsey Dion in coming to the Ducks from Clovis West.

"These two women are tremendous young women," Smith said. "They're both very good students. They are very outgoing and have a great personality and they can play the game of basketball. They fit into our team."

Smith added that the Ducks are looking to sign another high school player — a point guard who will be visiting Oregon during the weekend — but due to NCAA regulations, she could not discuss any further details about the player.

—Hank Hager

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