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# SPORTS

**Best bet**  
NCAA Basketball:  
Georgia v. Texas  
6 p.m., ESPN2

Friday, November 15, 2002



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon's Andre Joseph battles with EA Sports All-Stars guard Brett McFall in the Ducks' 132-98 win Thursday night.

## Ridnour shines in Oregon win

The point guard has 31 points and 10 assists in Oregon's final exhibition tuneup, a 132-98 win over the EA Sports All-Stars

### Men's basketball

**Adam Jude**  
Senior Sports Reporter

Is it too early to send in nominations for national player of the year?

Luke Ridnour played nearly flawlessly — 31 points on 11-of-15 shooting, 10 assists, three steals, one turnover in 29 minutes — as the Oregon men's basketball team closed out its exhibition season Thursday night with a 132-98 win over the EA Sports All-Stars at McArthur Court.

Even though the season hasn't even officially started, the Luke-to-Luke show is in full throttle. Ridnour hit junior forward Luke Jackson with a half-court alley-oop pass early in the game, bringing the crowd of 8,412 to its feet.

Jackson, who finished with 25 points and eight rebounds, was again on the receiving end of a Ridnour alley-oop pass early in the second half, which put the Ducks ahead 83-61.

The Ridnour flurry didn't stop there. On a 2-on-1 fast break a couple minutes later, the junior point guard fed James Davis with a seemingly effortless between-the-legs pass for an easy lay-in.

Then, with about seven minutes remaining and the Ducks leading 107-81, Ridnour tipped a loose ball over two defenders, drove the length of the court and challenged Joe Vogel, a 6-foot-10 former Colorado State center, in the lane. Ridnour sank a lefty lay-in and was knocked to the ground, sending the crowd to its feet with chants of "Luke, Luke, Luke." He converted the three-point play from the free-throw line.

"When Luke's running the show like that ... he makes the game real easy," Davis said.

After putting up 135 points against an admittedly weak Australian traveling team in their first exhibition, the Ducks nearly matched that again against a group of well-traveled former college players. Oregon, ranked No. 11 in the preseason Associated Press poll, took 83 shots Thursday and connected on 48 of them — a 57.8 percent clip.

"I don't think there's a lot more I can ask for in an exhibition game. I couldn't

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## Rudy-mentary: A student steps on court with Oregon

Sure it was a gimmick, a promotion, a way to get people into the cheap seats. But the smile on Tex Arnold's face afterwards was real. The excitement in his eyes couldn't be denied.

Because Tex Arnold is now, perhaps, the only regular student in the entire University who knows what it feels like to play against the Ducks, at McArthur Court, in front of 8,412 screaming fans.

"Unbelievable, man," Arnold said afterwards, on playing against the Ducks.

Arnold, an Oregon senior majoring in biology and an ASUO student senator, won an EA Sports promotion earli-

er this week by scoring 116 points in a competition similar to the halftime Pepsi Shootout, where more than 45 competitors shot from spots around a court at the Rec Center, getting 45 seconds to score as many points as possible.

His prize was a chance to suit



**Peter Hockaday**  
Two minutes for crosschecking

up with the EA Sports All-Stars as they faced the Ducks in an exhibition contest. He didn't expect much more than a chance to warm up on the same court with the Oregon squad and maybe shake their hands afterward.

Arnold was there for the thrill. And when he was introduced by court announcer Don Essig, a huge roar went up from the crowd.

The Ducks had just come on to the court.

Midway through the second half, it didn't look good for Arnold, with a large Oregon lead and an All-Stars team that was obviously fatigued. Fans started

feebly cheering his name, chanting "we want Tex, we want Tex."

But with 1:42 remaining and Oregon ahead by a ton, All-Stars coach Pete Cassidy sat down next to Arnold, patted him on the shoulder, and asked if Arnold knew the students in the front row who were chanting "Tex, Tex, Tex."

"I said 'No,' and he said, 'Well, they're going to know you here in a bit,'" Arnold said.

Arnold checked into the game and, on the first possession, stole the ball and dished it off to an All-Stars teammate. He got the ball back, missed

an off-balance leaner.

No big deal.

"I was nervous, but after that first steal, it just started feeling right," Arnold said.

On the ensuing fast break, Arnold was just flat posterized by Brandon Lincoln, Oregon's freshman guard, who dunked over the 5-8 mop-top like he was playing with the low hoop in the back yard against his little brother.

No big deal. Arnold would get his.

While an Oregon player was shooting free-throws with 55.5 seconds left, All-Star Nick Bradford called

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## Seniors lead squads to regionals

Both Oregon harrier squads look to improve over last year's third- and 12th-place regional finishes

### Cross country

**Mindi Rice**  
Freelance Sports Reporter

Paced by seniors on each squad, the Oregon men's and women's cross country teams travel to Stanford on Saturday to take on the Western Regional Championships and try to earn a place in the national meet.

Redshirt senior Carrie Zografos and senior Jason Hartmann will lead the seven-member squads into the tough races, which feature Stanford, the top men's team and second-ranked women's team.

The Oregon men have been ranked fifth in the past five national polls. Led by Hartmann and redshirt sophomore Ryan Andrus, the men look to automatically qualify for the Nov. 25 NCAA Championships by finishing as one of the top two teams.

"Jason and Ryan need this type of competition to continue their preparation and maturation," men's head coach Martin Smith said. "Being able to physically and

mentally handle the challenges in this race is a good lead-in to the future, and for a national type of race if we qualify."

Joining Andrus and Hartmann on the course will be redshirt junior John Lucas, juniors Brett Holts and Noel Paulson, redshirt sophomore Eric Logsdon and freshman Shane Ahlers.

"The most important aspect is that we run extremely well as a team and advance to NCAAs," Smith said. "It's important we also have a good race and build some momentum and confidence going into nationals."

The men will automatically qualify for the national meet if they finish either first or second as a team. Last year they finished third.

On the women's side, Zografos and senior Erinn Gulbrandsen will run in what could be their last race if they don't qualify for the national meet either individually or as a team. The top four individuals not from the top two teams automatically advance to the NCAA Championships.

"We know what we have to do — fourth will get us into the NCAA meet, fifth will give us a chance, sixth will give us a trip home," women's head coach Tom Heinonen said. "We're going to show

that we're far better than last year."

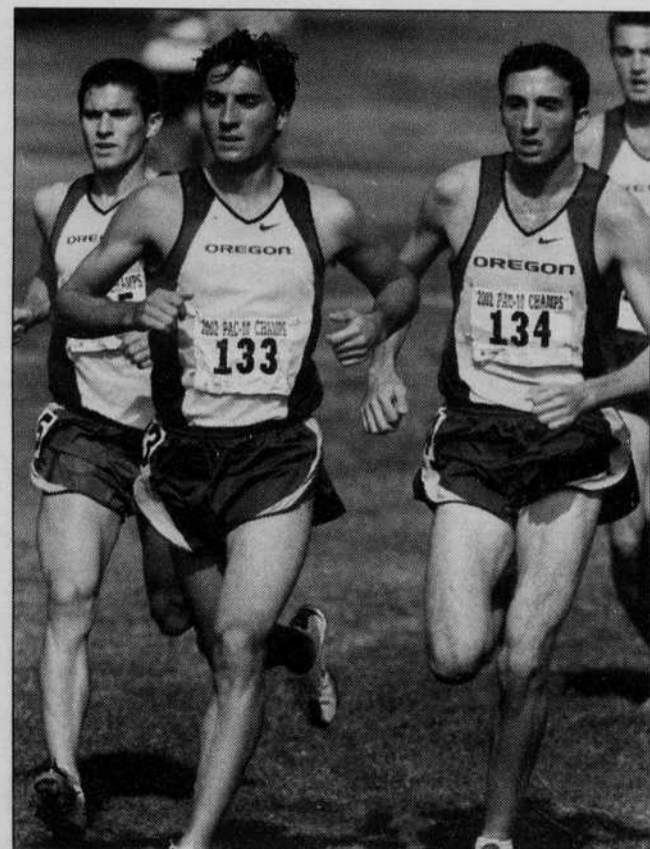
Five of the seven women who ran in last year's regional meet return to the race this year. Zografos, Gulbrandsen, redshirt junior Alicia Snyder-Carlson, and juniors Magdalena Sandoval and Laura Harmon were part of Oregon's 12th-place finish in Arizona. Redshirt junior Eri Macdonald and freshman Nicole Feest take the open spots ran by Sara Schaaf and Annette Mosey last year.

"Carrie and Laura know that they have a chance to get there individually, because the top four individuals not on a selected team make it to nationals," Heinonen said. "We want to get (to nationals) as a team — that's been our goal all season. It's going to be a difficult challenge, and a large share of the selection process is out of our hands."

After the automatic qualifiers from Saturday's nine regional championships, another 13 teams and two individuals will be selected from across the nation on Monday.

Stanford won both the men's and women's races as a team last year, as well as the men's individual title.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Geoff Turner Oregon Media Services

The Oregon men's cross country squad is looking to make nationals.