



Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Ridnour (13) and the hoops team aren't trying to steal any thunder from football.

Hoops ready for opener, still rooting for football

The Oregon men aren't trying to seize the limelight from the football team

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

The Oregon football team has lost four of its past five games, three of those at home and one in rainy, dismal conditions.

What a perfect time for the start of basketball season.

The Ducks men's basketball squad is coming off a Pacific-10 Conference title and plays all its home games in warm, friendly McArthur Court. The Ducks scored 135 points and 132 points in their first two exhibition games. There's a strong possibility that they'll score 100 in the two games of the season-opening John Thompson Challenge on Sunday and Monday at Mac Court.

But forward Luke Jackson said the hoops squad is in no way trying to steal football's November thunder.

"We don't compete with them, we root for our football team," Jackson said. "We know the fans will come out and watch us no matter what."

Still, the crowds at Oregon's two preseason games were noticeably larger than the crowds that witnessed the Ducks' exhibitions last season. Oregon is close to selling out

its season opener, and if it does, it will be the first non-conference sell-out since 1984.

"A lot of people are excited to watch us play," point guard Luke Ridnour said. "It's good for us. Every game is important."

Meanwhile, Jackson said he and the Ducks will support their football counterparts in Saturday's Civil War. He even had a few words of consolation for the football team.

"Hey, they have a winning record, that's really good," Jackson said. "You can't win the national title every year."

Jordan on track

One week removed from his decision to redshirt the 2002-03 basketball season, Jordan Kent is fine with the choice.

"It'll give me a chance to get to know the system, get in the weight room, get in training," Kent said.

For Kent, a two-sport athlete, the redshirt season will help him adjust to playing two sports at the Division I level. When the spring track and field season rolls around, Kent will start slowly focusing his attention on the activities at Hayward Field.

"That's fine for me," Kent said about splitting time between track and basketball. "It's the same thing as in four years in high school, once I was done with basketball I went straight to track."

One person, at least, will be trying to keep Kent in Mac Court: his father, Oregon head coach Ernie Kent.

"With Jordan and Adam (Zahn, also redshirting), our main focus will be to help them get better at basketball," Kent said. "They'll work on shooting skills, get in some weight room work and still work with us in practice."

Ticking ticket time

Three weeks ago, student tickets to the two basketball exhibition games went quicker than tickets to the Oregon-Washington football game.

Thursday, Pit Crew president Nate Jolly was mobbed outside of Mac Court when he announced he was going to sell student seats to next month's Papé Jam for \$5 each.

The next hot ticket is for the Dec. 4 home game against Portland — the date that Jolly will distribute Pit Crew shirts to the people who sit in the Pit that night. Those shirts will get wearers into Mac Court five minutes early for the season's remaining home games.

As for the regular people, only 150 tickets remain for Sunday's game against Grambling State. One hundred of those were returned by Grambling State. For Monday's John Thompson Challenge championship game, there are only 325 seats left.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

Sports briefs

All-Conference Weav-ing

Oregon junior center Dan Weaver was named a first-team academic Pacific-10 all-conference choice for the second year in a row, according to an announcement Wednesday by conference commissioner Tom Hansen.

Weaver, who has accumulated a 3.21 grade-point average in accounting, was joined by senior punter Jose Arroyo and sophomore linebacker Jerry Matson on the league's academic second unit, while quarterback Jason Fife and kicker Jared Siegel earned honorable mention all-conference honors.

Weaver and Siegel were previously named to the Verizon Academic All-District VIII first team in a vote of university and college sports pub-

licists throughout the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

Shaq has CLASS

Oregon women's basketball guard Shaquala Williams was nominated for the second annual Senior CLASS Award.

The Senior CLASS (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) Award is presented to the nation's senior player of the year for NCAA Division I men's and women's basketball. The award was developed in response to the recent trend of college basketball players leaving school early to turn professional.

The list of the women's "Players to Watch" include players — five of them AP All-Americans last year — from 15 conferences.

Selection criteria is based on a number of factors, the most important being that the recipient must have exhausted their four years of eligibility and have fulfilled their commitment to their respective schools. In addition, the recipient must be working toward their degree, be in good academic standing and be of sound moral character.

Softball recruits three

First year head coach Kathy Arendsen is quickly turning the Oregon softball program into her

own, announcing the signing of three players to join the Duck squad in 2004.

Andrea Nyhus (P, White Rock, BC), Kristi Leiter (IF/OF, Lake Stevens, Wash.), and Susanna Barnes (IF/OF, Lake Forest Park, Wash.) have all signed letters of intent to play for the Ducks.

"We are very proud that these outstanding student-athletes have chosen to be our first recruiting class at Oregon," Arendsen said. "They will make great Ducks. Each comes from a wonderful family, has excellent academic accomplishments and is regarded as among the top softball players in their age group."

— from staff and wire reports

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Sexual Revolution

Join the Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team!

Who are we? We are a group of students—women and men—committed to educating others about sexual assault, relationship violence and healthy sexual communication. We go a step beyond the traditional peer education model by combining elements of multimedia, theater and experiential learning.

What are the benefits? Earn 2 upper division credits per term, create positive social change in your community and gain assets valued by future employers.

How do I join SWAT? Pick up an application in the ASUO Women's Center or the Office of Student Life.

Meeting time for Winter term 2003: Tuesdays, 9-11 am (negotiable). For more information, call 346-4095

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