

## SPORTS

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**Best bet**  
NBA: Minnesota  
at Golden State  
TNT, 7 p.m.

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# Women's hoops star suspended indefinitely

Coach Bev Smith announces that point guard Shaquala Williams will be suspended from action starting tonight

**Hank Hager**  
Sports Reporter

Oregon women's basketball head coach Bev Smith announced Wednesday that senior point guard Shaquala Williams will not play tonight against Portland, and is suspended indefinitely because of disciplinary reasons.

"It is what it is," Smith said about the situation, declining to go into detail about the reasons for Williams' suspension.

Williams, Oregon's leader in points per game last season at 18.4, has struggled this season as the Ducks have started slow and are currently 1-3. Williams has averaged 10.9

points, one assist, and 0.8 rebounds per game for Oregon this season.

Most recently, Williams shot 5-of-12 from the field for 11 points in the Ducks' 64-47 loss to No. 18 Boston College last week as Oregon went 0-2 at the Paradise Jam in the Virgin Islands.

"I respect coach Smith's decision, although I'm very saddened by it," Williams said in a release Wednesday afternoon. "I apologize if I have disappointed my teammates, my coaches or the University in any way. I will do anything it takes to be a member of this team again."



Williams

"If given the opportunity to return, I'm going to do everything I can to try to make this team the best it can be."

This is not the first time Williams has been disciplined by Smith.

As Oregon faced off against California last season at McArthur Court on Feb. 9, Williams was absent from the starting lineup because she violated a team rule.

Senior Alissa Edwards is expected to take over the point guard spot from Williams until her return. Although no replacement has been named yet, sophomore Brandi Davis could come off the bench and start, though Smith hasn't named a fifth starter yet.

Davis has battled sophomore Kedzie Gunderson for a starting spot since the season began, and against the Pilots, the two could see significant playing time, possibly on the floor

**"I respect coach Smith's decision, although I'm very saddened by it."**

**Shaquala Williams**  
Oregon guard

at the same time.

Davis has averaged more minutes per game than Gunderson, but has yet to start.

Junior transfer Kayla Steen, who has averaged two points and 18 minutes of playing time per game, should also see more action.

Contact the sports reporter  
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## Men blow out Pilots in final Kansas warmup

The Ducks focus their attention on the Jayhawks after a 96-66 win Wednesday

### Men's basketball

**Peter Hockaday**  
Sports Editor

Toward the end of Wednesday's contest between Oregon and Portland, students at McArthur Court started chanting "We want Kansas."

"We want Kansas."

"We want Kansas."

And on the Oregon bench, the Ducks were thinking exactly the same thing.

No. 7 Oregon rolled to another preseason victory Wednesday night, moving to 4-0 on the season with a 96-66 victory over Portland in front of 8,378 Mac Court fans. It was a win that avenged one of Oregon's nine losses from last season, but it was a different revenge game that was on the Ducks' minds — their rematch with No. 14 Kansas in Saturday's Papé Jam in Portland.

"Right now, it's time for this team to step on center stage and see how we perform," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "Saturday's game with Kansas, which we can all talk about now, made it extremely difficult to get through this game because it seems like the whole community, the media, and everybody just wants to talk about Kansas. It made the hype of this game a little bit bigger for us."

But Oregon responded well to the pressure of a game that the Ducks easily could have overlooked. They jumped out to an early lead and accomplished several smaller goals along the path to the blowout.

With the Pit Crew filled and the students wearing brand-new — if not eerily familiar — yellow T-shirts, Oregon started the game by hitting eight of its first 11 shots to jump out to a 16-3 lead.

"We feel like we can beat any team if we can get out early like that and start setting the tempo," Oregon forward Luke Jackson said.

The Pilots chipped away at the Duck lead, eventually getting it to six at 25-19, but Oregon outscored Portland 25-11 over the rest of the half to put the game out of reach, with the score 50-30 at halftime.

"Our hope was to just stay in the game, and I thought we did that," Pilot coach Michael Holton said. "But we just melted down at that point."

Jackson led all scorers with 21 points and notched 12 rebounds for the second-straight contest. Five Ducks were in double figures by the end of the night, including Ian Crosswhite, who set a career high for the second game in a row, this time with 16 points.

Jackson's rebounding effort typified that of the Ducks, who dominated the rebounding category for the first time this season. They grabbed 45 rebounds to the Pilots' 29.

The Oregon players said that would be key as they prepare for — yes — Kansas. The Jayhawks outrebounded the Ducks 63-34 in the Elite Eight contest, a 104-86 Kansas win, last March.

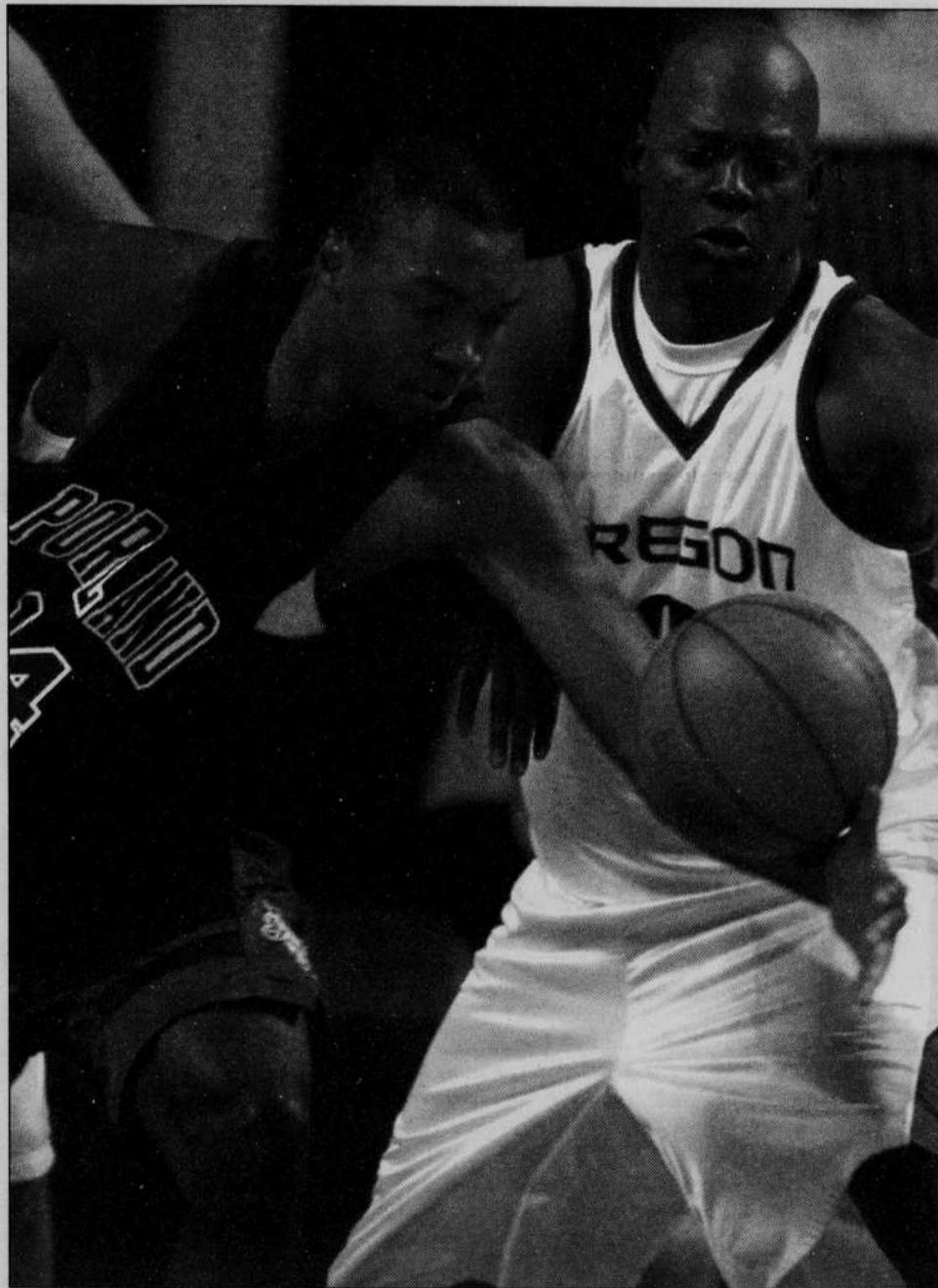
"We didn't start off well tonight rebounding, but it's been getting better," Crosswhite said.

Crosswhite started the game in place of Brian Helquist, who injured his shoulder in practice Monday. Kent said Helquist was doing "much better" Wednesday and will likely start against Kansas. But Kent will still keep Helquist's practice time to a minimum.

"If he's going to re-injure something, I'd much rather have him do it live, against Kansas, than against (redshirting freshman center) Adam Zahn in practice," Kent said.

Kansas will provide a challenge that the Ducks haven't yet seen this season. The Jayhawks have lost their last two games — to No. 12 North Carolina and No. 8 Florida — but

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Adam Amato Emerald

Robert Johnson (right) and the Ducks prepared for Saturday's game with Kansas by blowing out Portland.

## Boozin' it up: The proper drinks for your sporting occasions

Hi. You probably have no idea who I am because this is the sports page, where sports-related information is found.

I am an A&E writer, generally found on the Pulse page, which has nothing to do with sports.

This begs the question: What the hell am I doing here?

Well, Peter Hockaday was turning greener than the new "Mandrake" with jealousy over my way-cooler-than-his job, and I decided to do him the favor of a trade.



**Mason West**  
Selling out

What seemed like bit of good fun has turned into deep searching of soul to find what common bond I share with the sports enthusiast. My idea of sports is Ice Hockey for the original Nintendo — on which I took the sports staff to school after the 2001 staff party.

Other than that, the only thing I really enjoy about sports is the drinking that goes along with it. Nothing beats an illegally spiked soda at Autzen, or a beer at home on the couch while yelling at a TV screen that couldn't care less whether or not "that guy" is a f@#%ing idiot.

While it's safe to say that beer is a sports staple, I like to suit my drinking to the occasion, letting the subtle flavors add to my viewing experience. There are some easy ones such as

bullfighting and sangria, and sumo wrestling and sake, but here begins an examination into more complex cases.

Football = beer. It's natural drinking order. While Budweiser has a tight grasp on the market (God bless the Bud Bowl), it seems silly to embrace a global beer when we are so loyal to our local teams. If you've got money to blow on Oregon micros, buy something from the Deschutes or Rogue breweries. As for me, a half-case of Henry's Private Reserve for \$7 is tough to beat, proving that beer does indeed mean more here.

Beer takes care of basketball too, but a darker variety is preferred. With 10 guys running to and fro on that small court, you're not lacking for action. A thick, full bodied brew that resists chugging will be a calm constant as your

head cranes from side to side. Throw in a cigar and you can act like you're the coach!

What about boxing? While the football viewer enjoys getting rowdy, to enjoy ass-kicking on the intimate scale boxing provides, you really need to rile up the blood. Allow me to introduce my friend Jack Daniel's. It's the Yosemite Sam of the distilled world. I had a roommate who couldn't touch the stuff without punching someone. Just steer clear of that pre-bottled hard cola crap. Lazy bastards.

I don't know who actually watches golf, but if they have anything other than gin and tonics in their hands while doing so, they're no friends of mine. Any liquor mixed with tonic is the

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