

Sports Editor:
Peter Hockaday
peterhockaday@dailymerald.com

SPORTS

Best bet
NBA: San Antonio at Portland
7 p.m., TNT

Thursday, January 9, 2003

'Rare' injury may end junior's season

Cathrine Kraayeveld, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, may miss the rest of the season because of a staph infection

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

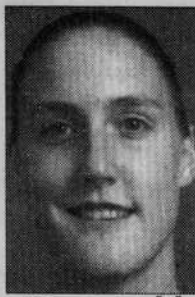
The seemingly ongoing saga of junior Cathrine Kraayeveld has hit another snag.

The 6-foot-4-inch forward, sidelined with a left knee injury since the start of Pacific-10 Conference play on Dec. 27, has received neither a favorable nor a poor diagno-

sis recently. But according to Oregon doctors, this could deal a definite blow to Kraayeveld's chances of returning to the court this season.

"The chances of her getting back to the fitness and stamina level of the Pac-10 is not very good," said Dr. Robert Crist, Oregon's director of athletic medicine.

Crist implied that if Kraayeveld had been sidelined because of an



Kraayeveld

injury such as a sprain, her recovery time would be lessened. However, because there is a staph infection involved, doctors must be much more careful.

This means that Kraayeveld may not participate in any traditional rehabilitative measures, such as workouts in a pool. Effectively, she can do nothing but rest until the bacteria that have caused the staph infection in her right knee subside.

"How Cathrine got the staph infection, we have no idea," Crist said.

Crist said that staph infections commonly result from boils and

floor burns. He said that Kraayeveld had an insect bite on her left arm when she was sidelined, but said there is no indication that it could have been the cause.

Crist added that he and Dr. Ken Singer, an Oregon team physician, have never seen an instance like Kraayeveld's and called it an unusual occurrence in a healthy athlete. He said staph infections normally result after surgery, or in older-aged patients.

"In a rare situation, one bacteria lodged in her knee and started growing," Crist said.

If Kraayeveld fails to come back — she was originally diagnosed to

be out for six weeks — she may have an option to file for a medical hardship waiver. If she were to be granted one, it would allow her to repeat her junior season next year.

But it's not going to be easy.

For an athlete to be eligible, he or she must have played less than 20 percent of the team's games in a season. Kraayeveld played nine, which amounts to 33 percent of Oregon's contests this season. Had she played in just six, she would be eligible.

Normally, the Pac-10 is responsible for granting medical hardship

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Men prepare for physical, hard-fought California trip

The Ducks return to San Francisco, the site of two close losses from last season

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

There's a lot of traffic in the Bay Area.

That's where the Ducks are headed this weekend, and traffic is exactly what they'll run into. Only it's not freeway traffic they're worried about, it's traffic in the paint.

As the Oregon men's basketball team heads into its second weekend of conference play, the Ducks will ready to play against a big, bruising California team that should try to out-physical Oregon in a rocking Haas Pavilion in Berkeley.

Physical play — especially on rebounds — is exactly how Arizona beat Oregon last week. And it's exactly how the Bears beat the Ducks in a thrilling overtime contest at almost the same point in the season last year.

"This team was devastated about not getting the two W's, but I thought they really bounced back and showed their character, and made a run at the conference championship," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent

said. "As we head back down there, circumstances are a little different."

The Ducks will also face Stanford in Palo Alto — where Oregon hasn't won since 1986, a streak of 16 straight losses — on Saturday, but for now their attention is focused squarely on Cal.

More specifically, the Ducks' focus is consumed by Amit Tamir, the sophomore forward who torched Oregon for 36 in the loss last year. Tamir is a 6-foot-10-inch, physical player, but he shoots 42 percent from 3-point land, making him a threat from anywhere on the court.

"Just like with any good player, we've got to try to limit his touches," Oregon forward Robert Johnson said. "Hopefully, we can do a better job with that. We didn't do such a good job last time, but this year is another year. We've got enough guys; we'll just keep throwing guys at him."

Johnson, a San Francisco native who will be returning home this weekend, will have the dubious job of guarding Tamir. He should also have the job of facing Bear forward Joe Shipp, who has finally found his stride this year as a senior. Shipp, who averaged 14.8 points per game last season but 10.8 points per contest over his ca-

reer, has averaged 19 points per game this season.

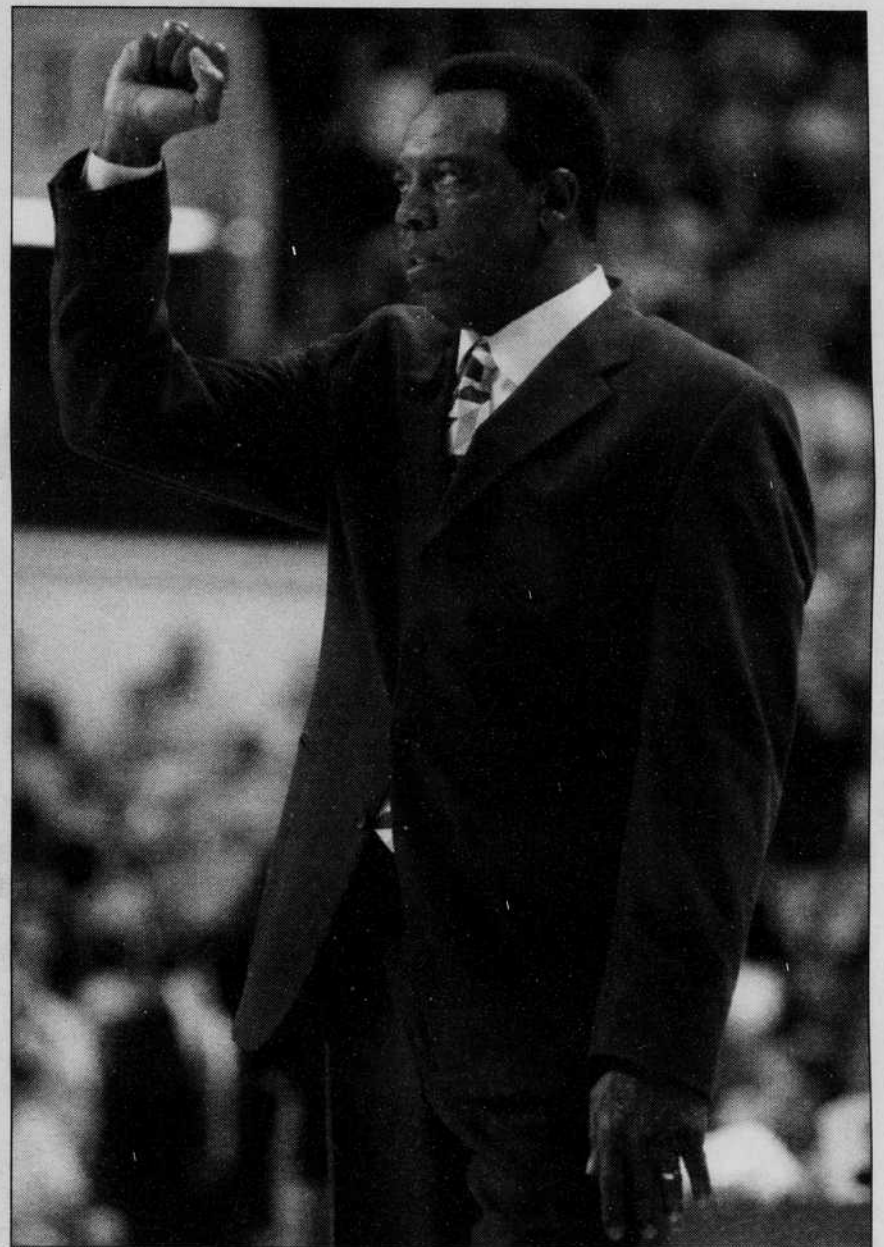
Shipp and Tamir have led the Bears to a 9-2 record. The Bears' losses came in two tournaments — to the Jim Harrick-led Georgia Bulldogs in the Wooden Classic, and to the Kansas Jayhawks in the Pete Newell Challenge.

Both those losses came away from the confines of Haas Pavilion, an environment that, despite being relatively new, rivals McArthur Court in its boisterous, loud atmosphere. Maples Pavilion at Stanford isn't much quieter. But Kent said he isn't worried about the two loud arenas.

"You don't want to look at them as tough environments. You think of them as great environments," Kent said. "We'd rather play there than an arena where nobody shows up to the games."

Like last year, the early, tough road trip could mold the Ducks for the rest of the season. The Ducks stand in a tie for fourth in the conference after splitting with the Arizona schools in the conference's opening weekend. California is third in the Pac-10 after toppling Stanford in the opening week, and the trip to the Bay Area provides the Ducks with a

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Adam Amato Emerald

Ernie Kent hasn't won at Stanford in his career as coach of the Ducks. He tries again Saturday.

Women look to steady teetering ship vs. Bears

Oregon looks to break out of its early Pac-10 doldrums when it returns to McArthur Court tonight

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

With perennial Pacific-10 Conference cellar dweller California coming to McArthur Court for a 7 p.m. contest tonight, the Oregon women's basketball team is looking to get better, real fast.

Supplanted in ninth place after two weeks of conference play, the Ducks (5-8 overall, 1-3 Pac-10) look to the Golden Bears as a means to right the ship that has teetered violently since the loss of junior Cathrine Kraayeveld, the team's leading

scorer and rebounder.

"I think we just need to play our game, just calm down and play some solid defense," freshman Carolyn Ganes said. "Get on the boards. The boards will be a big thing for us."

Since the announcement Dec. 26 that Kraayeveld would be sidelined, the Ducks have struggled mightily. Oregon has averaged just 68.8 points per game during Pac-10 play while allowing opponents 85 per contest. To make matters worse, the Ducks have been outrebounded on average 41-30.

But while Ganes speaks volumes about Oregon's need to improve its rebound, there is a consensus that if the Ducks can play at the top of their game, there is no need to worry about statistical categories.

With a nine-player roster, that task is becoming increasingly difficult with every game.

"The focus right now is our mental aggressiveness and our physical aggressiveness which follows into mental readiness and going from there," head coach Bev Smith said. "This team is ready and focused when it is mentally aggressive and not taking little timeouts, which allows critical and mental lapses to occur, which we cannot give to Pac-10 schools."

The Ducks have shown hints of quality play since conference play began, especially in a 79-73 victory over USC in Week 1. However, blowout losses to UCLA and Arizona have diminished Oregon's aggressiveness. Only against Arizona State have the Ducks shown progress in a loss.

"It's just basically what we've been doing in practice the last couple of days," sophomore Brandi Davis said when asked about what Oregon needs to do to win. "Usually, we like to pick and choose our games. We've been on and off

with our wins and stuff like that. It's just going to take what we've been doing in practice — going hard and giving it our all."

Davis said Oregon has had a tough time adjusting to the shortened bench. The Ducks, in their losses, have been out-of-sync, a possible attribution for the blowout losses. But when Oregon is able to gel together as a team, it can be an offensive powerhouse.

"We have to be ready to look after the basketball to make sure we are giving Cal our best effort, our best execution and our best defense," Smith said. "If we do that it, it doesn't matter who we play. We have a pretty good chance of winning the ball game."

Yet, California (5-6, 1-1) will not be the pushover it once was. After suffering a similar loss to Arizona as Oregon, the Golden Bears upset

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