

# In the mix with Ducks, LeBron, Niners and Yoplait

So it's that time again. Time to bust out the semi-annual notes column.

We need a title for this mix tape. How about "Winter Blues"?

You'll see why.

Track 1: Say what? So how do you respond when your friend asks you, "What happened to the Ducks this weekend?" Pretty much like I did.

"Well ... see ... it's like this ... well ... what I mean to say is ... ummm ... they can't rebound ... but ... yeah ... can you repeat the question?"

And how do you respond when another friend asks, "The same thing that happened to the football team isn't going to happen to the basketball team, is it?"

"Don't bet on it."

Track 2: Tampon thoughts. One of the worst

feelings in the world, if you're a guy, is watching a television show, thinking that it's a perfectly normal show, and then you see Tampax and Yoplait commercials ... *back to back*. Nothing worse than that right there.

This happened to me while I was watching "Joe Millionaire" on Monday. So it brought up a dilemma. Do I continue watching the show, or preserve my manhood and flip to ESPN?

The decision wasn't that hard. I found out who got the sapphire necklaces, and that wasn't on Sportscenter.

Track 3: Bron Bron my baby. So LeBron James, high school hoops phenom, is driving around in a Hummer H2, supposedly bought by his mother for his birthday.

Please. Give us a little respect. We're not that stupid, are we? It's a Hummer, for crying out loud! The gas bills alone are going to run him about \$200 per month.

And do you know how long I've wanted a Hummer? Did any sports agents come knocking down my door when I was a senior in high school, offering me the keys to a big, beautiful

car? Heck no. And let me tell you, I was a highly-touted sportswriting prospect in high school. I could've pulled a Bron and gone pro early. But I chose education.

Kids these days.

Track 4: Pavilion pushing. The Oregon men, in their trip to the Bay Area last weekend, saw two arenas that they should seriously consider modeling the new McArthur Court after: Haas Pavilion in Berkeley and Maples Pavilion in Palo Alto.

Haas is a classic court with all the amenities of a new stadium. The student section is as close as it is at the Pit, and the bleachers are more severely sloped so the students actually feel more on top of the court than at Mac.

Maples is another in the mold of not-a-bad-seat-in-the-house arenas, but there is one particular feature that Oregon officials need to consider when building a new Mac. The student section stretches the entire length of the sideline, it's not broken up at all. Talk about intimidating.

Track 5: 49er (scarlet) fever. Many of you

know I'm a big Niner fan after I wrote about the near-heart attack I suffered during The Comeback last Sunday. So what do I think about Sunday's debacle in Tampa Bay?

I think it never happened.

The Niners of 2002-03 gave us The Comeback, which ranks right up there with The Catch and The Drive as great moments in Niner history. Cheers to that.

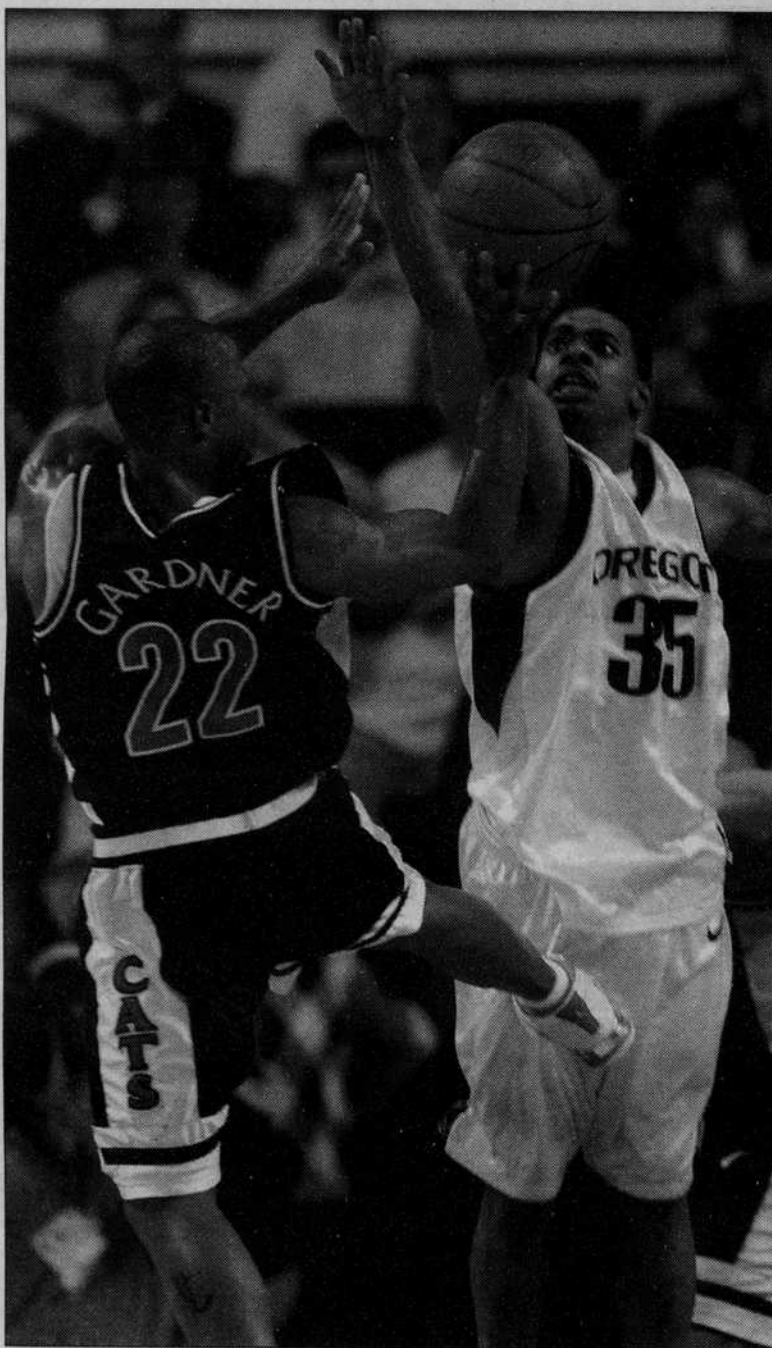
And on another Niner note: See ya, Mariucci. Good-bye, good luck, don't send a postcard. Mooch has always been of the Packer/Holmgren mold, not the 49er/Walsh mold, and there's always been something just a little bit off about him. If the Niners want a real crimson-and-gold product, they should pry Mike Shanahan (offensive coordinator for the Niners '94 Super Bowl win) away from the Broncos and keep him as far away from GM duties as possible. Just a thought.

Track 6: Close. That's it, kids. Keep on sporting.

Contact the sports editor at [peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com](mailto:peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com). His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



**Peter Hockaday**  
Two minutes for crosschecking



Adam Amato Emerald

Andre Joseph (35) started for the first time on Saturday, thanks in large part to his performance against Jason Gardner (22) and the Arizona Wildcats.

## Women's

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ailment in her left foot. Although it is a painful matter, Bills is not expected to miss any games because of the injury.

Junior Kayla Steen has been nursing a chronic back problem and received an injection Tuesday, which caused her to miss practice, yet she is expected to play this weekend.

### Post representing for Oregon

Oregon's post players have been

doing more than their part in helping keep Oregon in the running, as both starters rank in the top-10 in individual statistics categories for the Pacific-10 Conference.

Bills has the strongest influence, as she is tied for ninth in the rebounding standings. She has brought down 95 rebounds in her 15 games, averaging 6.3 per game.

She has hit 65-of-130 for exactly .500, good enough to place her in 10th place in the field goal percentage category. And Bills currently holds fifth place in the blocks category, totaling 15 thus far this season.

Ganes has had a strong influence from the free-throw line. She has gone 31-of-37 in her 15 games to lead all Oregon players. Ganes, who hits 83 percent of her shots, is in second place in the Pac-10 in shooting.

Senior Alissa Edwards has made her mark, as she is in fourth place in both the steals category, accounting for 32 in her 15 games, and in 3-point field goal percentage, where she has gone 19-of-43 for 44 percent.

Contact the sports reporter at [jessethomas@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jessethomas@dailyemerald.com).

## Pac-10

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at Stanford, but came back to win the Pacific-10 Conference Championship and go to the Elite Eight. Three years later, in 2000, UCLA went 4-8 to start the Pac-10 season but came back to win two NCAA Tournament games and advance to the Sweet 16.

Two seasons ago, rumors about Rick Pitino taking over Lavin's job swirled as the Bruins started 4-4, but Lavin again led UCLA to the Sweet 16. Last year, UCLA lost in the opening round of the Pac-10 tournament to California, but advanced, once again, to the Sweet 16.

"I've never advocated changing coaching in the middle of the year," Guerrero said. "I've been consistent on letting coaches do their job, then I evaluate at the end of the season."

But Bruin fans don't lie. The 12,819-capacity Pauley Pavilion was filled with 8,503 people for Saturday's loss to St. John's. And many of those fans may not come back until Lavin stops roaming the court.

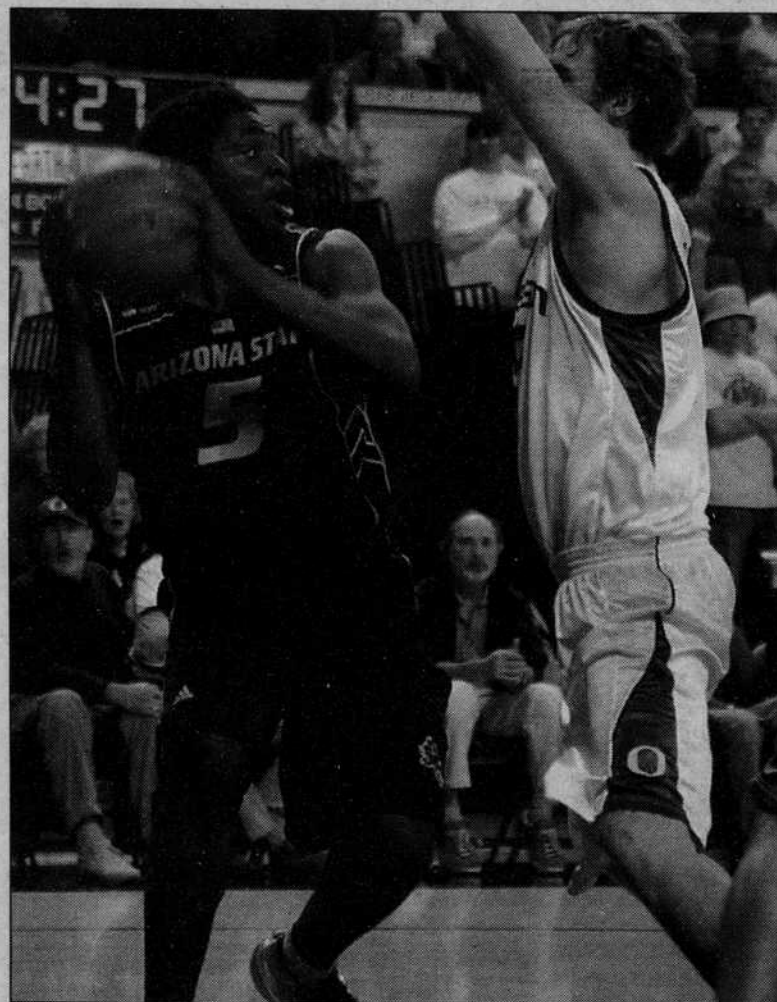
### Wazzu woes

If we're comparing empty arenas, then Washington State's Friel Court has Pauley Pavilion beat in every way.

The Cougars drew just 2,772 fans — total — for their Pac-10 opening games against USC and UCLA Jan. 2 and 4. Friel Court has a capacity of 12,058.

Want a ticket for this weekend's games against Stanford and California? The nicest seats in the Friel house will run you \$12 each. General admission tickets are half that price, and student tickets are a mere \$3.

Washington State doesn't just have basketball ticket problems. The Cougars have gotten some heat in recent weeks for not selling enough tickets to the Rose Bowl, which had its lowest attendance figure since 1944. The



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Ike Diogu (5), a freshman forward for Arizona State, has scored in double figures in every game this season, one of the main reasons the Sun Devils are on a 7-1 tear.

Washington State Athletic Department sold 26,000 of its allotted 32,000 tickets.

And the game wasn't even that good.

### Arizona heat wave

Both Arizona schools are hotter than a fire poker, and they won't be able to burn each other until they meet next weekend; They travel to Los Angeles this weekend.

Arizona State is 7-1 in its last eight games, and 3-1 in the Pac-10. The Devils are led by their star freshman, Ike Diogu, who has scored in double digits in every

game this season.

Arizona's story is typical in Wildcat country. Arizona started the season at No. 1 in the nation, lost one game, then started the Pac-10 season 4-0 and moved back into the nation's No. 2 slot.

Watch out, Pac-10, here's a daunting statistic: The Wildcats have started the Pac-10 at 4-0 five times under Lute Olson, and every time they've gone on to win the conference.

Things certainly are hot in Arizona.

Contact the sports editor at [peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com](mailto:peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com).

## Men's

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"some stuff out," redshirt freshman center Matt Short said. "And I think we're going to come out with a lot more intensity."

Kent said individuals have been "trying to do too much" instead of getting in the flow of the game and opening up Oregon's transition offense.

"They're a little antsy with each other, and they need to be because we know we let some things get away from us in the Bay Area," Kent said.

Kent said he has not made a decision on tonight's starting lineup. Short and guard Andre Joseph made their first career starts against Stanford, supplanting

Brian Helquist and James Davis.

"It doesn't matter who starts," Kent said. "It matters how we're going to play and if we can get back in our rhythm."

The Ducks, traditionally, have a good rhythm against Portland State. In their last meeting on Nov. 25, 2000, Oregon defeated the Vikings, 84-66, at McArthur Court. Guard Jeb Ivey leads the Vikings with 14.5 points per game this season.

Even though Oregon State comes to Mac Court on Saturday, the Vikings will have the Ducks' attention tonight.

"Portland State becomes a very dangerous team if we start looking ahead to Oregon State," Kent said. "They're going to get our best effort."

Contact the senior sports reporter at [adamjude@dailyemerald.com](mailto:adamjude@dailyemerald.com).