

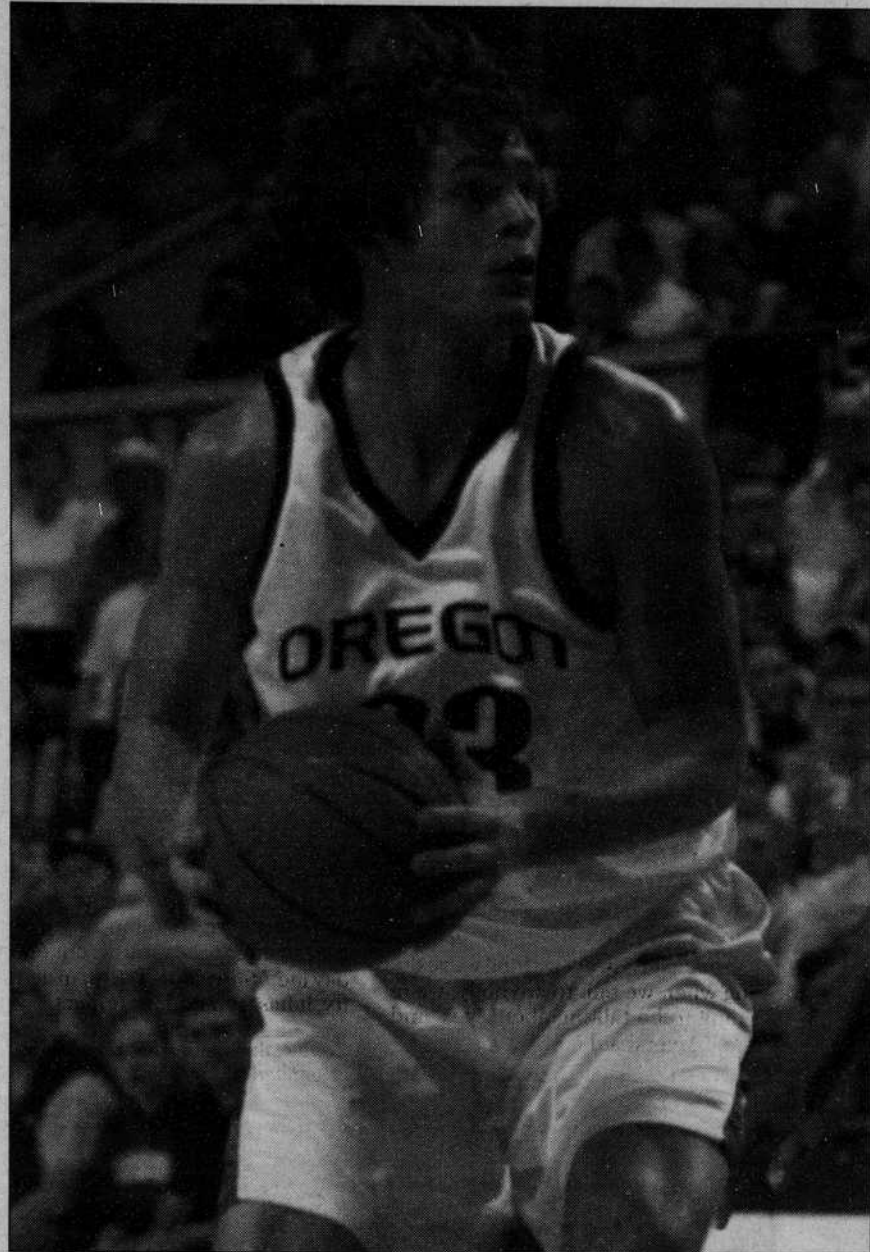
## SPORTS

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**Best bet**  
NCAA basketball:  
Virginia at Duke  
4 p.m., ESPN

Wednesday, January 15, 2003

# UO looks to basketball basics vs. PSU



Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Jackson, who struggled to seven points against Stanford on Saturday, looks to rebound along with the Ducks at Portland State tonight. Jackson has been averaging 16.7 points per game.

After a forgettable weekend in the Bay Area, Oregon focuses on fundamentals — and Portland State — tonight

## Men's basketball

**Adam Jude**  
Senior Sports Reporter

It may not solve all of Oregon's recent problems, but Luke Jackson has figured it's time for a little change. "I gotta get this (hair) cut," Jackson said Tuesday. "It's getting out of control."

So, too, is Oregon's Pacific-10 Conference season, which is off to a 1-3 start after consecutive losses to California and Stanford last weekend.

But there aren't any drastic changes in store — for either the team or Jackson. The Oregon junior forward has no plans to cut off his patent mop top; just a quick, \$5 trim to keep the bangs out of his face.

Meanwhile, the No. 22 Ducks (10-4 overall) look to grow from a rough Pac-10 beginning as they break today from conference play with a bout at Portland State. Tipoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Memorial Coliseum in Portland. The game will be televised on the Oregon Sports Network (KEZI).

"We need this game right now," Oregon head

coach Ernie Kent said. "It gives us a chance to get back in our rhythm before another Pac-10 (game)."

While Portland State (3-12 overall), on paper, does not pose a serious threat, the Ducks aren't taking tonight's game lightly. In fact, in their two practices this week, the Ducks stressed fundamentals, including Boxing Out 101 to counter Oregon's 45-26 rebounding deficit in a loss to Stanford on Saturday.

"Everyone needs to get back to some fundamentals," Jackson said. "That's what's made this a good team."

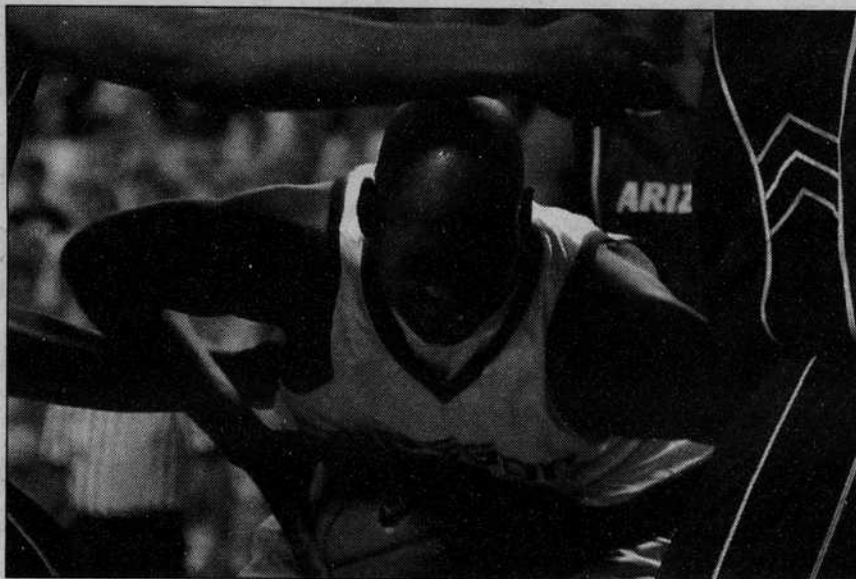
Jackson, in particular, is looking to get back on track after a 5-for-16 shooting performance in the Ducks' two losses in the Bay Area, which dropped Oregon 10 spots in The Associated Press poll this week.

"He needs to get back into his rhythm," Kent said. "Sometimes you need to blow some things out of your system to get there, you even need to fail a little bit to get there. And in our case, we have failed as a basketball team in our last couple of outings."

"We need to bounce back from some major adversity and get rolling again."

The players had a meeting this week to get

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Robert Johnson and the Duck big men will need to step up over the rest of the season, starting at Portland State tonight.

Jeremy Forrest Emerald

# Lavin may not be living at UCLA much longer

The Bruins have struggled to a 4-7 record, and this year the firing rumors could be true

## Pac-10 notes

**Peter Hockaday**  
Sports Editor

Steve Lavin, UCLA head coach, has long been a target of opposing fans. Now, it seems, not even Bruin fans support him.

UCLA attendance is at an all-time low as Lavin has led his team to a 4-7 record this season, including a 2-5 record at Pauley Pavilion. Now, Lavin is under fire from the media and fans, but this is nothing new for the seventh-year coach. In fact, Lavin criticism is almost an annual event, like Christmas or the Super Bowl.

"His job has always been in jeopardy," UCLA forward T.J. Cummings told the Los Angeles Times. "That's why there is so much pressure on him all the time."

According to the Times, Lavin told Bruin Athletic Director

Dan Guerrero on Monday that he will not resign, at least not this week, with the red-hot Arizona schools coming to Los Angeles. And Guerrero told reporters this weekend that he won't fire Lavin during the regular season.

But with things looking bleaker than ever in Westwood, it can only be a matter of time before something happens to Lavin or his staff. This year's predicament is even more drastic than past Lavin situations.

In his first year, Lavin's Bruins suffered their worst-ever loss, Turn to **Pac-10**, page 10

# Women won't let near-comeback set them back for rest of season

For the Ducks, 3.3 seconds was a lot longer in their loss to Stanford

## Women's basketball

**Jesse Thomas**  
Sports Reporter

Three seconds is just a short amount of time to most.

For the Oregon women's basketball team, it was an eternity.

But then again, it's just 3.3 seconds. Right? "We can't let those last 3.3 seconds define our game," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "We need to learn from those last 3.3 seconds, and there is a lot of emotion with people out on the floor who did that for the first time."

But despite losing to No. 6 Stanford on

Nicole Powell's last-second free throws Saturday, the Ducks have coped well, and, in hindsight, it appears more of a confidence-builder than anything.

"We just gelled together and proved to ourselves that we can play with the best," senior Kourtney Shreve said. "We don't give up with the team that we are; that was huge for us. And we know it was a positive experience."

It was an emotional experience for the team as well.

"Afterward, I was real upset," freshman Carolyn Ganes said. "And you just think of a million things you could have done differently."

Through the aftermath of the experience, there was initial heartbreak, but the Ducks don't stay down for long. Oregon said it feels the experience taught

that the team is now capable and is finally realizing its true potential.

## Injury updates

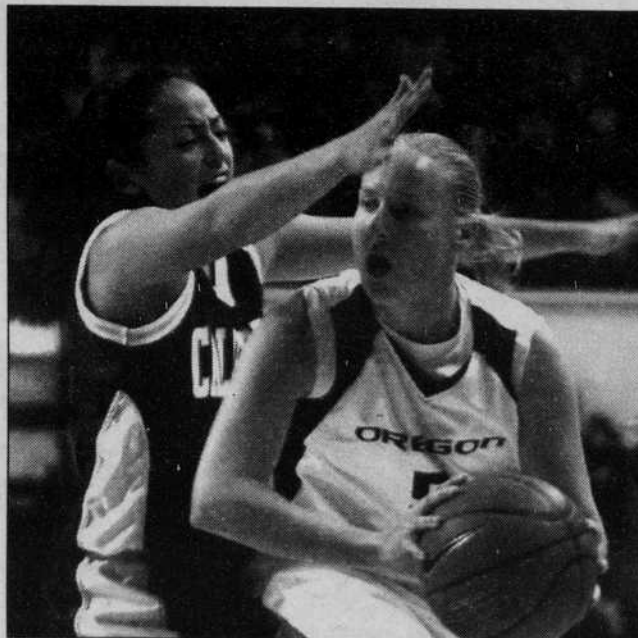
Sophomore Kedzie Gunderson was without her protective face mask Saturday night in the Stanford game.

Gunderson has worn the mask in every game because of the broken nose she suffered at Montana on Dec. 19. Ironically, since beginning to wear the mask on Dec. 22, she has gone 7-of-12 (58.3 percent) from 3-point land. Prior to wearing the mask, she was 3-of-13 for 23 percent.

"She's ready to go," Smith said. "She feels free and loose, and she can play like that. Let's take the mask and get rid of it."

Sophomore Andrea Bills also is injured and is suffering from plantar fasciitis, an

Turn to **Women's**, page 10



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Oregon guard Kourtney Shreve (with ball) and the Ducks suffered a last-second loss to Stanford, but say they will learn from the game.