

## SPORTS

Best bet  
NCAA basketball:  
Arizona at USC  
7:30 p.m., Fox Sports

Thursday, January 16, 2003

## Parker makes decision to stay for 2003

Samie Parker joins Keith Lewis as  
Ducks opting out of the NFL Draft

## Football

Mindi Rice  
Freelance Sports Reporter

Samie Parker, the Ducks' leading receiver last season, is passing up this year's NFL draft to stay at Oregon for his senior season.

Parker, a 2002 all-conference honorable mention, led the Ducks with 49 catches and eight touchdown receptions as a 13-game starter last year. Only five other Pacific-10 Conference players caught more touchdown

passes during the season than Parker.

Parker enters his final season sitting at 12th on Oregon's career touchdown receptions list, with 12 touchdowns. He also ranks 14th in receiving yards with 1,472, more than half of them — 742 — coming last season.

The California native is only 23 catches shy of breaking into the top 10 of Oregon's career receptions list as he currently stands at 21st with 90. It is very plausible that Parker could enter the top 10 by staying his final season, which Bellotti has nothing but good things to say about.

"Obviously, I'm very pleased that both Samie and Keith (Lewis) have decided to stay in school," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "They will both benefit from

their decisions in the long run as well as the short term."

The 5-10, 177-pound Parker joins junior free safety Keith Lewis as possible NFL draftees who have decided to stay in school for their final year of eligibility.

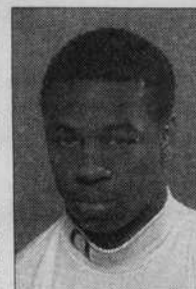
Lewis led the team with five interceptions last season, for a total of 16 yards. He also had a 33-yard punt return and forced one fumble during the season.

Lewis earned a Pac-10 Conference honorable mention award for a defensive back during the Ducks 2001 campaign, and was the Pac-10 defensive player of the week after the 2001 game against Wisconsin.

"They have already accomplished a lot of good things throughout their careers, but I

believe they have the potential to do some great things," Bellotti said. "I am excited they have decided to contribute to next year's success."

Two Ducks have already declared eligible for the draft. Running back Onterio Smith and tight end George Wrihster, both redshirt juniors, opted to give up their final year of eligibility and enter the draft.



Parker

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

## Ducks survive Portland, barely, ready for Beavers

The men escape Portland State with an ugly  
6-point win Wednesday night in the Rose City

## Men's basketball

Adam Jude  
Senior Sports Reporter

PORTLAND — Well, um, uh... at least no one was injured.

If there is such a thing as a bad win, this was it. In the end, though, it was a win and, apparently, that's all that matters.

But there's little to feel good about if you're the No. 22 Ducks, who needed a full 40 minutes to hold off lowly Portland State, 69-63, Wednesday night in front of 5,443 at Memorial Coliseum.

But... "A win is a win," Oregon forward Luke Jackson said. That doesn't mean it was easy to watch, unless you're a fan of the underdog. Oregon, simply, was colder than the ice rink sitting just below the Memorial Coliseum hardwood. The Ducks were again outmatched on the boards, 29-27, and their 69 points were the third-lowest total of the season, the most in a win.

And, as laughable as it seems, the Ducks made Portland State (3-13 overall) look like Duke at times.

"These games are always tough for us against Portland and Portland State," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "They do a good job of gearing up for us."

As hard as they try, the Ducks (11-4 overall, 1-3 Pacific-10 Conference) just can't seem to find the touch that led them to the Pac-10 title last season. After consecutive blowout losses to Cali-

fornia and Stanford last weekend, Oregon was hoping to gain some momentum against the Vikings on Wednesday in preparation for Oregon State on Saturday. But the Ducks left the Rose City not feeling any better about their effort.

"Every team goes through this, it's just a matter of when you bounce back," Oregon point guard Luke Ridnour said. "I couldn't tell you what we gotta do, but it's something. We just gotta get it done."

It may be hard for the average fan, but Kent remains positive about his team.

"We got Luke Jackson back on his game, and I was pleased with that," Kent said. "We got Ian Crosswhite back on his game, and I was really, really pleased with that. We got through the game with no injuries."

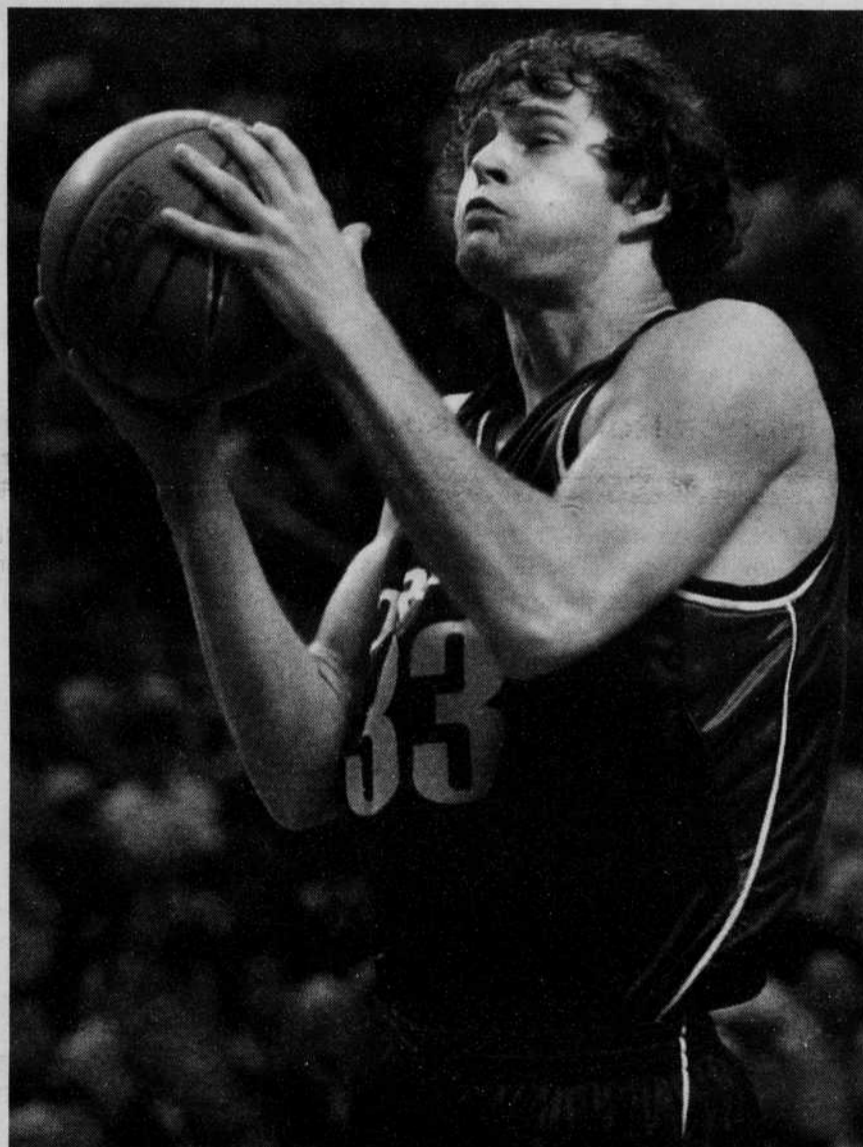
Anything else? "The key thing is we're 10-1 in the preseason and that ties the best record in the conference with Arizona for the best record in the preseason," Kent added. "We got 11 wins overall, and that's as many as anybody in the Pac-10. And that's all we need to look at right now."

"We need to move on, get home and regroup and get ready for just a ferocious Civil War game on Saturday."

Jackson, especially with the game on the line, did get over his Bay Area struggles. He led the Ducks with 21 points — 13 in the second half — and eight rebounds.

Crosswhite, after a horrid five-game slump, was near-perfect in the first half with 14 points on 6-of-7 shooting; he finished with 17 points. Ridnour added 15. No one else scored more than eight.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Jackson scored 21 points in Oregon's win to make up for a poor Bay Area trip.

## UCLA emerges as Pac contender

The Bruins are one of the Pac-10's  
early surprises of 2002-03,  
and have a 5-0 conference record

## Women's basketball

Hank Hager  
Sports Reporter

For the first time in more than a year, No. 6 Stanford has some quality competition at the top of the Pacific-10 Conference.

And you wouldn't believe who it is. UCLA, the Pac-10's No. 8 team last year, is 5-0 in conference play this season, including a 72-64 victory over UCLA Sunday.

"UCLA is a radically different type of team," USC head coach Chris Gobrecht told the Daily Bruin. "They have five guards running around on the basketball court. I don't know anyone else

who does that."

The Bruins are building on a streak that has claimed Oregon, Oregon State, Washington and Washington State.

Much of that success can be attributed to the reemergence of senior guard Michelle Greco. The 2001 Pac-10 scoring leader sat out last season because of a history of mild concussions.

This season, the La Crescenta, Calif., native has averaged 21 points per game in conference play.

"Greco brings their leadership and their intensity," USC forward Rachel Woodward said. "They're a totally different team from last year with her in the lineup."

The Bruins, who received votes in this week's Associated Press Top-25 ranking for the first time this season, will get a test this week when they travel south to Arizona.

Arizona State looms large Thursday, with No. 18 Arizona waiting for

UCLA Saturday.

"It's been a fun five games," UCLA head coach Kathy Olivier said. "Hopefully we can keep it up."

## Speaking of Arizona ...

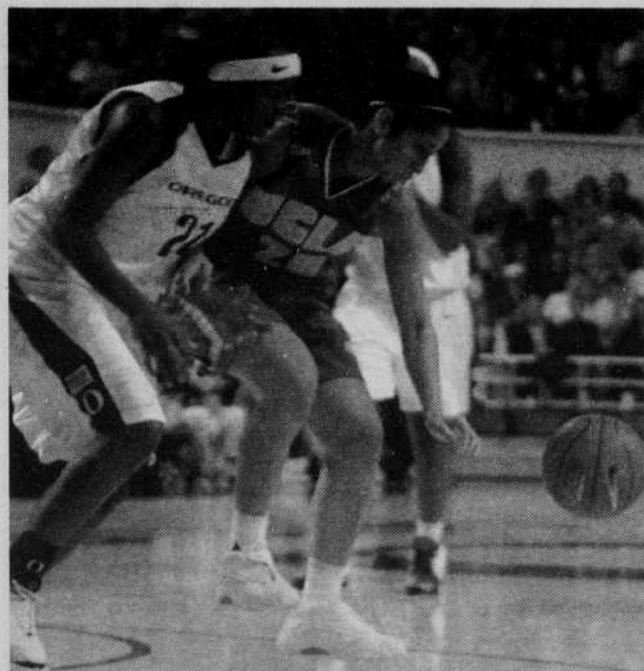
It sends shivers up the spine to hear of a Pac-10 team in any sport speak of playing defense.

But recently, two squads — California and Arizona — have specifically said defense has been key for victories and close losses.

For Cal, the defense hasn't translated to victories. But for No. 18 Arizona, it has helped fuel a turnaround from last season's 10-8 conference record.

At 4-2 in the conference, the Wildcats stand fourth. Statistically, Arizona is third in the Pac-10 in scoring defense per game at 61.5 points. Coupled with a Pac-10-leading 78.3 points per game, Arizona is making its case for a first-

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Jeremy Forrest Emerald

UCLA's Michelle Greco (24) has returned to form this season.