

# HOOOPS 2003

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Emerald's annual Oregon basketball preview

## Surfing toward Madness



**MEN:** A successful preseason has given way to a rocky regular season for the Ducks

**Peter Hockaday**  
Sports Editor

Right here, right now, the Oregon men's basketball team is a head-scratcher.

So many Duck fans are scratching so many heads that bald spots are opening up all around Eugene.

Who knows which Oregon team will show up next? Will it be the Duck team that upended Kansas in spectacular fashion in November, or will it be the Duck team that tripped and fell flat on its face in two Bay Area games in early January? Will it be the team that faded down the stretch against Arizona or the team that recovered from an

early deficit to crush Arizona State?

Let's return to that Arizona game for a moment, because that's when this head-scratching really started. For the better part of 35 minutes on Jan. 2, the Ducks had the Wildcats cowering. McArthur Court was rocking, the Ducks were hitting everything and then... well, then it fell apart. Veteran Arizona players like Jason Gardner and Rick Anderson took over and took a win back to the desert.

It was the first time all season that the Ducks maybe, just maybe, missed the presence of a true finisher. They missed

Turn to **Men**, page 2B

**WOMEN:** Life after Shaq could be bleak, but the Ducks are learning to cope

**Jesse Thomas**  
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team has become the epitome of adaptation throughout the beginning of the 2002-03 season.

Oregon (6-9, 2-4 Pac-10) has hit its share of bumps along the road since it all began in late November. From losses to injuries to last-second thrillers, the Ducks have seen it all.

"This team has had many opportunities, not only in certain games but in certain situations, to give up," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "But they are winners and you don't necessarily have to win a champi-

onship to be a champion, and that is what they are proving here."

After losing three players, Oregon's bench has dwindled to only four players with a total of nine on the team altogether.

Senior Shaquala Williams was suspended from the team, sophomore Amy Parrish left the team because of medical reasons, and junior

Cathrine Kraayeveld suffered a rare staph infection in her right knee, which could cause her to miss the rest of the season.

After finishing the 2001-02 season 22-13 overall with a Women's National Invitation Turn to **Women**, page 6B

### MEN

### WOMEN

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#### Suddenly Alissa

Senior Alissa Edwards has taken over the point guard spot with Shaquala Williams absent from the roster.

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#### Home-fried Luke

Luke Ridnour may turn into a big-time NBA star, but he'll never forget his roots in the border town of Blaine, Wash.

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