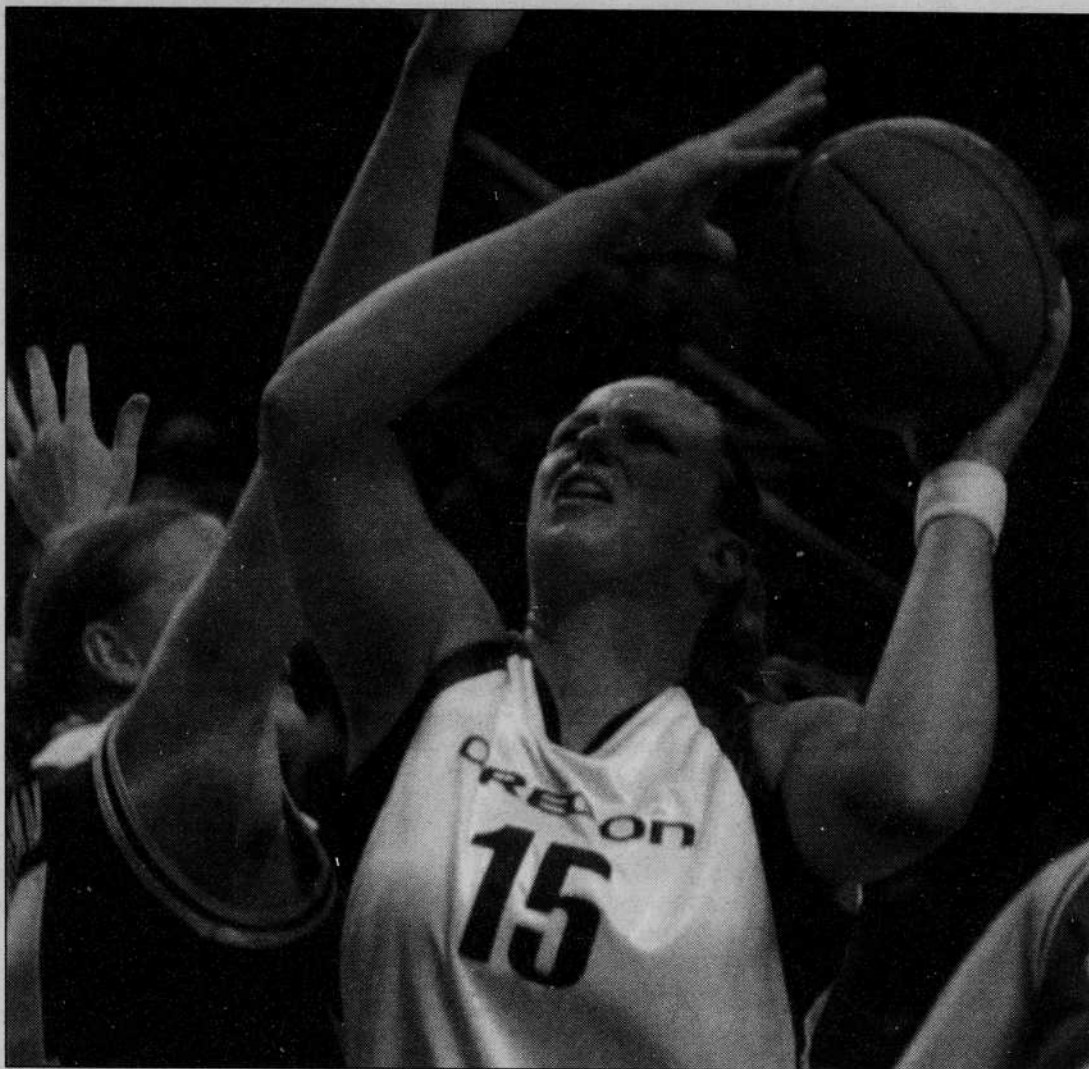


Sports Editor:  
Peter Hockaday  
peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com

# SPORTS

**Best bet**  
NCCA men's basketball:  
Oregon at UCLA  
7:30 p.m., Fox Sports

Thursday, January 30, 2003



Adam Amato Emerald

Carolyn Ganes (15) has been a force at center for the Ducks this season, averaging almost 12 points per contest.

## Big Games

Carolyn Ganes has made quite the impact in her freshman season, and has enjoyed it along the way

### Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

The time had finally arrived. Freshman Carolyn Ganes was about to step onto McArthur Court in front of thousands of screaming fans for the first time.

Her nervousness had reached a climax, but she was ready. All the anticipation had led up to this point.

But something was wrong. "I was like, 'oh my gosh, my dad is not here to give me the talk,'" Ganes said. "I had to borrow Dan's (assistant coach Dan Muscatell) cell phone. I had to call my dad before the game."

It's a ritual for the Ganes family. Through all her years of playing, since the fourth grade, Ganes needed that comfort from her father, Roger Ganes, and her usual pep talk.

Even though Ganes knows the exact words, she said it's just not the same without hearing them from her father.

"Carolyn, just go out and play hard, 'cause that is all you can do," Ganes said, imitating her father. "Make sure you play defense and rebound the ball."

And that is how it all began. For Ganes, her first experience in The Pit was an unforgettable moment.

"The fans were all cheering and the band

was playing," Ganes said. "I was like 'oh my gosh, this is amazing,' because I had never experienced anything like that — where people are so into the games."

These are praises coming from someone who has quite the track record, considering she's only 18 years old. Ganes played two years for the Canadian junior national team, where she met fellow Oregon

teammate Yadili Okwumabua, also a freshman. Ganes was the youngest member of the Canadian national team in summer 2001.

And now she brings her 6-foot-3-inch presence to the post for Oregon. Through her beginning months as a Duck, Ganes has made her presence known and is continuing to become a dominating force.

The Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, native continues to put up solid numbers for the Ducks, and, through the team's adversity, holds a starting position.

Ganes leads Oregon in scoring, averaging 11.6 points per game, ranking her 12th in the Pac-10, and she is bringing down four rebounds per game.

She also shows her poise from the charity line, as Ganes ranks third in the conference with a .833 percentage from the free-throw line.

"More than anything, it is her

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## Softball set to kick off season in Lone Star state

Oregon softball begins play over the weekend at a tournament in San Marcos, Texas

Arkansas — in the Southwest Texas-hosted CenturyTel Classic. The tournament pits all six schools against one another once, over three days.

"We have all the teams back from last season's tournament, plus we've added a really good Arkansas team," Southwest Texas head coach Ricci Woodard said. "It should be better than last season's tournament."

The tournament features a mix of team experience. Southwest Texas is the two-time defending Southland Conference champion, while Houston's softball program enters only its third season at the school.

After the weekend in San Marcos, Texas, Oregon returns home to practice before heading to Tallahassee, Fla., for its second

tournament of the season.

The Ducks made only a few changes during the offseason, mostly at the coaching positions.

After an audit in October 2001 found a \$5,700 discrepancy in the team's travel fund, former head coach Rick Gamez resigned. Brent Rincon was named interim head coach for the 2001-02 season, when the team finished with a 24-30 record, but went only 2-19 in Pacific-10 Conference play.

In July, the Athletic Department announced its move to hire Kathy Arendsen as the new head coach for the softball program.

Arendsen has 13 years of coaching experience, and her teams had only one losing season during those 13 years. During her six-year tenure at Mississippi State, her last

coaching position before Oregon, she rebuilt the Bulldogs' program from a team on a 10-year hiatus to a squad that had two NCAA tournament berths within a six-year span.

"Obviously, the postseason is our primary goal," Arendsen said. "The biggest difference here at Oregon is that we're not starting from scratch. We have inherited a program that has had success, and I'm trying to restore that, not build something new."

Last season, seven of the eight Pac-10 schools with softball programs were selected for the NCAA tournament. Oregon was the only conference team not selected. Washing-

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## Men head to Los Angeles with plans of stepping up

The Ducks face UCLA and USC without the services of star Luke Jackson

### Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday  
Sports Editor

Welcome back to "Who Wants to Step Up for the Oregon Men's Basketball Team?"

Our next contestant is straight out of Houston, he's a 6-foot-3-inch guard, his major is undeclared — it's ... Andre Joseph!

"I feel like I've got to step it up a lot more than I've been doing," Joseph said. "With Luke (Jackson) out, coach said somebody's got to step up, and I think I'm the guy to do it."

Our next contestant is ... everybody else on the Oregon team!

"Everyone on the team has to step up," guard Luke Ridnour said. "We need to try to each do a little more to make up for (Jackson's) spot."

The Ducks will, indeed, need someone to step up as they take their second Pacific-10 Conference

road trip of the season to Los Angeles, where they will face UCLA tonight and USC on Sunday.

The Oregon men need someone to step up for two reasons. For one, the Ducks were slaughtered on their last road trip to the Bay Area. For another, star forward Jackson will likely sit out the games because of a severe finger cut he suffered Thursday against Washington.

And the person to step up for Jackson could be ... Jackson himself? He has said he's ready to play at least a little bit, but head coach Ernie Kent and the Oregon medical staff are apprehensive about Jackson possibly re-injuring the finger.

"He knows I want to get back and want to play," Jackson said of Kent.

Until Jackson can make a full recovery, Kent will stick with Andre Joseph in the starting lineup tonight. Joseph, a junior transfer from Lee Junior College, has made his impression by averaging 9.1 points and almost four rebounds per game this year.

"Andre's really starting to learn the system," Ridnour said. "He brings a lot of energy; he's another guy that can score."

Tonight, the Ducks will face a team which, currently, has nobody stepping up. The Bruins aren't

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Mark McCambridge Emerald

Luke Ridnour (13) said that every Duck player will need to step up a little bit if the team is going to make up for the absence of injured star Luke Jackson as Oregon faces UCLA tonight.