

Ganes

continued from page 11

determination and ambition that I think are very important," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "Her basketball-playing ability is very good and it is because of those two qualities."

Fellow teammate and roommate Okwumabua has had the chance to become good friends with Ganes and watch her game grow over time.

"She has a really beautiful shot," Okwumabua said. "She is getting better every day and she just has the ability to pound people on the inside. She has only good stuff to come and her whole game has been developing."

Ganes knows that there is still room for improvement, and, despite her success thus far, it hasn't been an easy road to travel.

She finished her high school career as a four-year letterwinner and helped lead her team to a 30-0 record and the Saskatchewan Class 4A provincial championship.

Ganes' move from Canada to Oregon has required adjustments, but has been enjoyable and interesting for her, from culture to basketball.

"Americans are so outspoken and they will just tell you exactly what is

Carolyn Ganes file

Born: Carolyn Joyce Ganes, April 10, 1984 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

High School: Averaged 25 points and 10 rebounds per game as a four-year letterwinner at Aden Bowman High School in Saskatoon. Led team to 30-0 record in senior season. Youngest member of Canadian National Team in 2001.

Oregon: Has assumed starting center role with Cathrine Kraayeveld out because of injury. Averaging almost 12 points per game, she should set the highest freshman points-average since the 1997-98 season.



Ganes

on their mind," Ganes said. "I love it down here, and of all the places I have been in the States, (Oregon) is the most like Canada."

Yet despite being from out of town, Ganes brings a familiar presence to the team. She fits in well, and her style and attitude resemble Oregon's center from the 2000-01 season.

"Everybody says I remind them of Jenny Mowe," Ganes said.

Ganes has her own individual characteristics, though, and her own nickname. Around the dorms and the locker room, Ganes is known as "Big Red," because on occasions of nervousness or embarrassment, her face turns beet red.

Through all the experiences, and

the redness, Ganes says she is having a blast and feels very much at home here at Oregon. If Ganes can continue her scoring spree, she will set the highest average for an Oregon freshman since the 1997-98 season.

And Ganes is well on her way, given that she has scored in double figures in five straight games, and eight of the past nine. But she has quite the distance to set Oregon's all-time average for a freshman, 15.2 points per game, held by head coach Smith.

Ganes' quest continues tonight, as Oregon faces off with Arizona State (12-6, 4-5 Pac-10). Even though the Sun Devils have won the last four of the series, the Ducks have confidence being at home tonight.



Adam Amato Emerald

Ganes has been a rebounding force for the Ducks this season, leading some to compare her to former Oregon center Jenny Mowe, who went on to the WNBA.

"They have controlled us over the past couple of years, but now is our opportunity to make a difference," Smith said. "If we play better defensively, we have a very good chance.

Arizona State says they love playing here, and we are going to have to change that statement a little bit."

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Men's

continued from page 11

even trying to step up. They're not even stepping sideways.

UCLA started the Pac-10 season with wins over Washington State and Washington, but has lost six straight games by an average of 13 points per contest. The Bruins are 4-11 overall on the season, including a 2-7 record at the hallowed Pauley Pavilion gym.

Of course, the Ducks won't take lightly a team that is one of the most successful in college basketball history.

"I went through it my freshman year; it's not fun," Ridnour said of losing. "But they're a dangerous team, they've got the capability to turn it around."

USC, as well, has struggled this season, though not to the extent that UCLA has stumbled. USC is 3-4 in Pac-10 play and 7-8 overall.

"SC has been in every ballgame, they could easily be 7-0 right now," Kent said. "With UCLA, something's

going to happen down there.

"You don't look at these as struggling programs. It's more about us and how we handle ourselves in that environment."

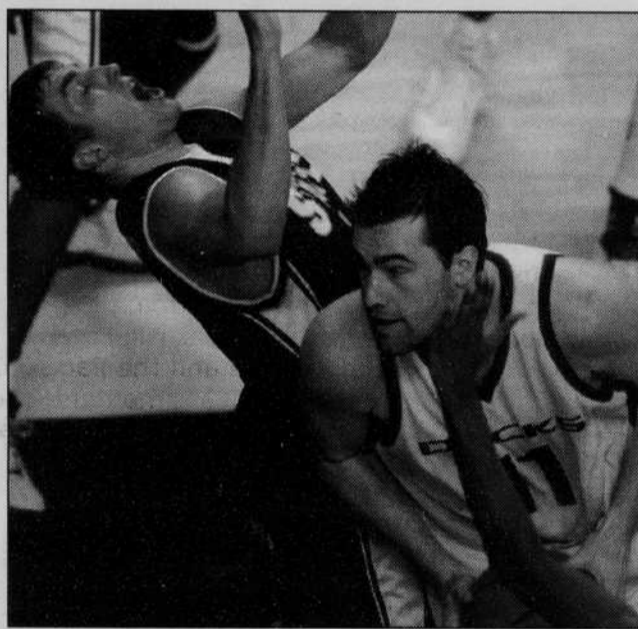
And then there's the revenge thing. Oregon sealed its Pac-10 title by sweeping the Los Angeles schools in Los Angeles last season, and the two squads are likely to have their Duck-hunting gear on.

"Both of these games, these teams, are going to be fired up to play us," Kent said. "When we go down there, it's going to be the same thing. We're the team that won the championship down there last season — we're the ranked team coming in."

But the Ducks know they have a golden opportunity to win their first two road games of the Pac-10 season, which would likely move them into second in the conference at the midseason point. But, according to Kent, they need to do it themselves.

And they need someone to step up.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Amato Emerald

Ian Crosswhite (11) and the Ducks will face a seemingly down-trodden UCLA team tonight, but won't take the Bruins lightly.

Softball

continued from page 11

ton State and USC do not field teams.

For the fourth consecutive season, four of the Pac-10 schools that went to the NCAA tournament went on to the College World Series, including 2002 National Champion California. At the end of last season, seven Pac-10 programs were ranked in the USA Today/NFCA Top 25.

After the Ducks finish their six pre-season tournaments, they host Portland State in Oregon's home opener March 13. Four weeks later, the Ducks host their first Pac-10 games against Washington and UCLA.

Oregon returns seven starters and 11 letterwinners from last year's squad, while only losing three players, including a four-year starting pitcher.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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