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A	T	O	M	E	L	A	L	A	P	R	O	N
D	E	M	I	A	P	S	E	M	O	U	R	N
S	M	A	L	L	C	H	A	N	G	E	S	T
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R	E	L	I	C	E	R	O	S	T	H	E	N
T	R	Y	S	T	S	O	R	T	E	O	N	S

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Title IX needs serious revision

Title IX has undergone quite a bit of scrutiny lately.

The section of the Education Amendments of 1972, which outlaws sex discrimination at schools receiving federal funds, could undergo some drastic changes.

And change it should.

I applaud the Bush Commission for recognizing the need for review of the law, which has made great strides for women in athletics over the past 31 years.

The purpose of the Commission was to review the current standings of Title IX and decide whether it needed to be revised.

A minority opinion was recently released by Donna de Varona and Julie Foudy of the Commission, which outlines the findings and recommendations of the committee.

I do not agree with some of the findings, including that the three-part test of Title IX does not issue a quota system because it does, and that Title IX does not cause cuts to men's teams because it does.

Title IX needs to be revised and there are certain issues of the law which have been under scrutiny that need clarification.

First, Title IX contains what is known as the three-part test. It came about in 1979 and serves the purpose to show whether universities

are in compliance with the law.

The most important of the three, and the one that endures the most examination, is the first prong. It states that a school's male-to-female ratio of athletes be in line with its ratio of male-to-female students.

So, for example, if Oregon's student body is 48 percent female, then its participants in athletics should also be 48 percent female.

The first problem is that less than 20 percent of universities across the nation comply. And those that make an attempt end up cutting non-revenue men's sports, such as wrestling or swimming, in order to add women's teams.

Oregon, for example, dropped men's baseball and gymnastics in 1981 because of a budget crunch. And recently, Oregon added a women's lacrosse team. All in effort to move toward compliance of Title IX.

Luckily, Oregon was nice enough to cut baseball rather than wrestling. The National Wrestling Association has received the bad end of Title IX from the start, considering 171 teams have been cut in the past two decades.

The reason for wrestling cuts along with other small men's sports?

Well, everybody loves to point the finger at football. And why not?

In Texas, all 10 of the schools that play Division I-A football spent more money on football alone than on all women's programs combined in the 2001 school year.

Is the large amount of money allotted to football programs the reason that small men's sports get cut and universities don't comply?

Yes.

Do I blame football?

No.

You can't blame football because the budgeting of schools is all at the discretion of each university. Also, football is the only other sport besides basketball which even makes a profit, allowing other sports to exist.

I have another bone to pick, and it is with the Office of Civil Rights. The OCR is in charge of enforcing the standards of Title IX. And, according to the minority opinion, "OCR has never imposed a financial penalty on a school for failing to comply with the three-part test."

So we have this great law, which does great things, which nobody abides by and nobody enforces. Why? Because America has too many other things to worry about and quite frankly nobody wants to talk about Title IX. Everybody is afraid of saying the wrong thing.

Title IX has done great things over the past 30 years. There is no denying that. But everybody just wants to sit around and hope that it will do even better over the next three decades all by itself.

Title IX needs to be revised in a way that still benefits women in their opportunities, but does not cause cuts to men's programs. It needs to be revised in a way that can allow universities to comply so it can be enforced.

Let's hope the next 30 years go over better than the first.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



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Men's

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be 6-4 over their last 10. If they can get to the Pac-10 Tournament title game or sweep the Arizona schools, they'll be 7-3.

"It would be huge for our team to get on a roll here going into March Madness," Oregon guard Luke Ridnour said. "This is something we just need to get done and try to get on a roll."

In an ironic twist, the Ducks could very well repeat their Arizona weekend in the Pac-10 Tournament. Oregon knows it will face Arizona State in the first round, and Arizona is a lock at No. 1, meaning it will face the winner of the Duck-Sun Devil game.

But Kent and the Ducks are more focused on the bigger tournament — the one with 65 teams. The NCAA Tournament.

"If we can get into the tournament, we're a very dangerous team," Kent said. "We don't have much control (over the seeding)."

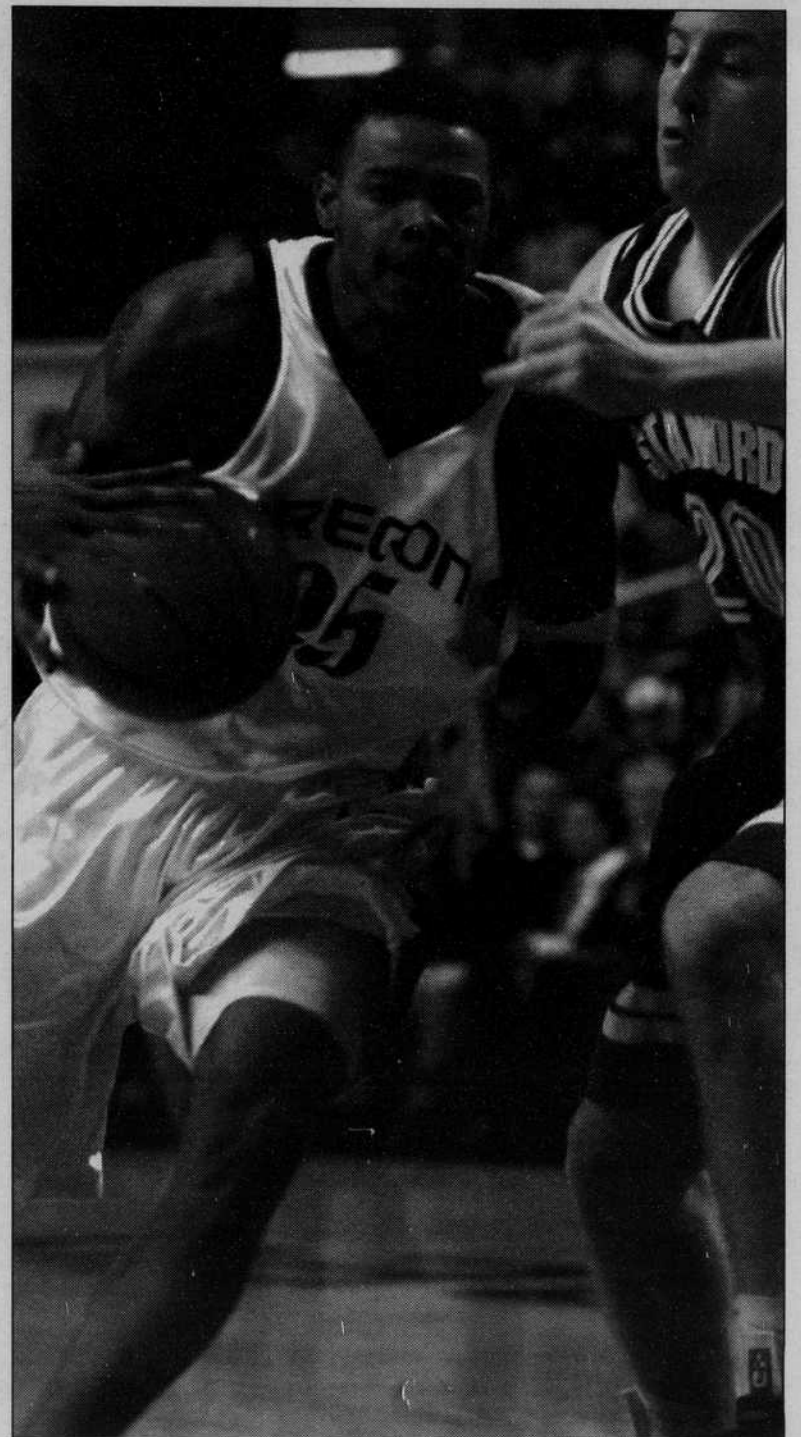
It's been a while since Oregon has met the Arizona schools, and a lot has happened since those first meetings. The Ducks faced the desert squads on the season's first weekend, back in early January. Oregon lost a thriller to Arizona before blowing out Arizona State, 93-74.

The Ducks were largely able to contain Diogu in their first contest against Arizona State, and will hope to do so again tonight. Diogu had 27 points, but most of those points came toward the end of the game with the outcome long since decided.

Diogu has led the Devils in 14 of their 27 games this season. The Ducks are hoping it isn't 17, because ASU is 9-5 in those games.

And after containing the Devilish freshman, Oregon will try to contain the Wildcat seniors in Tucson. And maybe then the game won't be so ugly.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Amato Emerald

Andre Joseph was named the Pac-10's Newcomer of the Year on Wednesday.