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**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Open minds. Open doors:

Registration starts April 13. Schedule available online: [oregonstate.edu/summer](http://oregonstate.edu/summer)  
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**Faith**

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team last season.

"It's helped me because I've been able to take care of my body and make sure that I have the energy and strength I need to get through practice," Fife said. "But I also think that emotionally it's helped, too, because there's been some rough times."

Fife is one of a handful of Mormons on the religiously diverse football team. The makeup of the team reflects the religious diversity of the Athletic Department. Many different faiths are represented, but nothing is more telling than the sheer number of religious athletes.

Danny O'Neil, a former Oregon quarterback and current pastor at Eugene's Calvary Church, said he has run chapel services for several teams. He also speaks at a weekly Bible study run out of senior wrestler Tony Overstake's house and routinely attended by 20 to 25 athletes. He said that the study's attendees represent a wide variety of teams, everything from football to volleyball to men's tennis.

"I'd say the number of Christian athletes around college campuses are all the same," O'Neil said. "What happens is, you get some good leaders that start a Bible study or start hanging out, and then they all start to enjoy that camaraderie. Something unites them."

Santiago Lorenzo, a star decathlete on the University's track and field team, said many college athletes are still growing into their faith, as he is. Lorenzo, who is Catholic, regularly attends mass but said it hasn't always been so important in his life.

"It's something you don't gain overnight; it's been marinating

**A 3-part series**

**Wednesday:** Men's basketball

**Today:** Football and other UO sports

**Friday:** Pastors to the athletes

since you were a kid," Lorenzo said. "The more you marinate it, the better it tastes."

Lorenzo needed his faith last year when he injured a quadricep, forcing him to redshirt the season and leaving him unable to defend his 2001 national decathlon championship.

"When I got injured last year, being able to pray and feel God close to me was important," Lorenzo said. "It helps to connect with God. (Mass is) one hour you forget about problems, grades, injuries, that kind of thing."

Lorenzo talks about his faith only if you ask him directly. When he was injured last year, he never mentioned anything about "God getting me through," or "I'll just put my faith in God," even if he might have been thinking those things. That's representative of most Oregon athletes, who won't invoke their religion unless you ask them to open those doors.

"I'm not that kind of person who wears Jesus shirts, that kind of thing," Lorenzo said. "Not that there's anything wrong with that — I'm not ashamed of it. I just leave it for myself."

Both Lorenzo's and Fife's coaches keep their own faith off their teams. Football's roster is usually about 100 players, while the track and field team hovers around 45 members. That makes for some diversity. Football coach Mike Bellotti runs separate chapels for Catholics and non-Catholic Christians before games, and O'Neil runs an optional prayer session after football's Thursday practices.

The religious diversity is a shock for Lorenzo, who comes from Argentina, where almost 95 percent of the population is Catholic. The Eugene phone book lists 73 different categories of churches in the area.

"Here, there's a different church on every block," Lorenzo said. "You have to find what's right for you."

Within Oregon's Athletic Department, the same mantra applies: Find what's right for you.

Even if it means passing up drinking every now and then.

Contact the sports editor at [peterhockaday@dailymerald.com](mailto:peterhockaday@dailymerald.com).

**Men's**

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week, but the Sun Devils didn't give him many open looks in the decisive second half.

"We gotta be more aggressive offensively, and defensively we gotta get stops," Ridnour said. "We know what they're going to run; it's going to be who wants it more."

And who wants to dance the big

dance more.

"We're going to play with absolute intensity — that's our mindset," junior forward Luke Jackson said.

"We're going into this tournament trying to win it," Ridnour said. "This time of year is when you gotta step up."

Or hit the road.

Contact the senior sports reporter at [adamjude@dailymerald.com](mailto:adamjude@dailymerald.com)

**CLASSIFIEDS**

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**Horoscope by Linda C. Black**

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (March 13). You're lucky this year with love, games and children. It doesn't get much better than that. There's plenty of work, too, but the money stays about the same. The work is most likely the kind you've done before, with a few new complications. Nothing you can't handle. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging. **ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Today is a 6. If plans haven't gone quite as well as you'd hoped, get a transfusion of love. It's OK to let somebody know you have a soft side. Ask for a hug if you need one. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Today is an 8. Stick to the rules you've set, regardless of temptations. You're favored to make a big score in a game you delight in winning. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) Today is a 5. You can be a healer as well as an analyst. Shift your focus to nurturing instead of being critical. You'll be more effective. **CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Today is an 8. There is something in between you and your objective, but it might not be anything more than time. You're good at deferring gratification, and you're getting better with practice. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 5. Today is about taking care of loose odds and ends, and putting your things back in order. You might also want to balance the checkbook and find out exactly what you have. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is an 8. If someone you love is being withdrawn and analytical, don't despair. It's a temporary

condition. If you stay busy, it won't even bother you. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 6. Don't complain if you get a new assignment. It could turn into a good thing, although it's a real challenge initially. It'll make you stronger. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 10. If you manage your resources carefully, you can try something new. Don't let yourself be rushed or stressed. The delicate nuances must be savored. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 6. A kind and gentle person can teach you a thing or two. Be willing to admit that you could use some help with something that hurts. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 6. The job may be quite demanding, but the money should be good. Stick with it a little while longer, and acquire many benefits. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 9. Schedule some personal time for tonight with somebody you love. If you don't want to clean up your place, here's an excuse to go out.

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**205 HELP WANTED**

**John Henry's:** We're looking for people interested in performing at the club...Theater, singer-songwriters, art and beyond. Please contact Keith Martin at 345-9315 or [keith@johnhenrysclub.com](mailto:keith@johnhenrysclub.com) for more info. (21 and over please).

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**205 HELP WANTED**

**D.D.S is hiring** Drivers, Navigators & Dispatchers for spring term. Pick up applications at the ASUO office, Suite #4 EMU. Applications due by Mar. 17th. D.D.S is an EOE/ADA/AA employer.

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