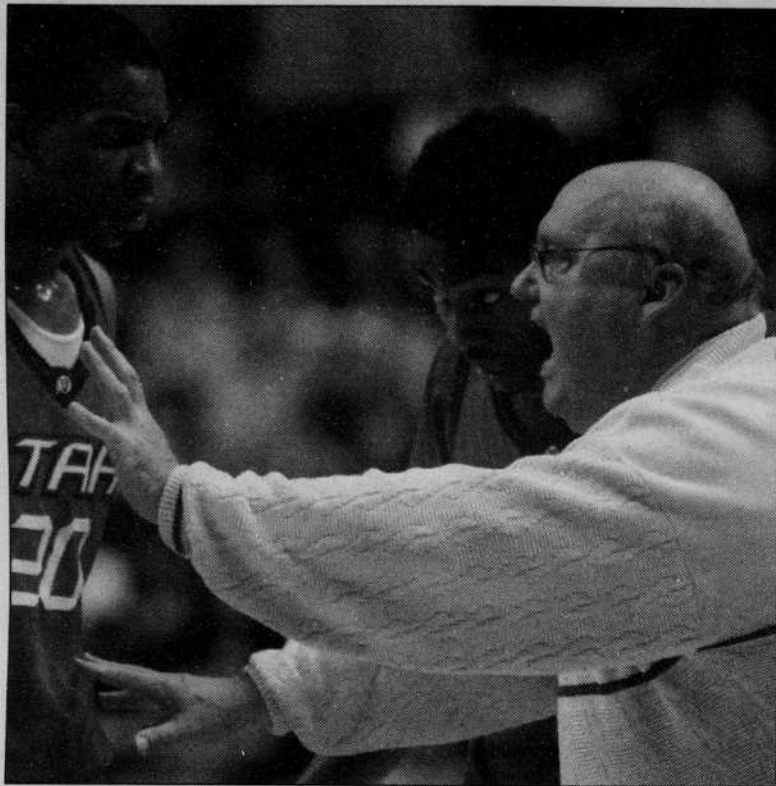


Majerus urges Ridnour to rethink NBA



David Stephenson Lexington Herald-Leader (KRT)

Rick Majerus (right) counsels his players in the waning moments of Utah's win over Oregon. After the game, he gave a little free counseling to the Ducks' Luke Ridnour.

The Utah coach offers his hand to the junior point guard after the Utes' first-round win

Men's basketball

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — This could become more than just a devastating end to a season that began with such promise.

This is, possibly, the end of the Luke Era in Oregon basketball.

And, of all people, Utah head coach Rick Majerus doesn't want to see Luke Ridnour leave school early for the NBA.

After Oregon's 60-58 first-round loss to the Utes in the NCAA Tournament, Majerus, one of the most respected college coaches in the country, stopped Ridnour in the hallway of the Gaylord Entertainment Center to offer his advice on the star point guard's highly anticipated decision.

"I told him that he's a hell of a player and that he should stay," Majerus said. "I believe all kids should

stay in school. I haven't had anybody (at Utah) leave early."

You can't argue with results. Majerus has led the Utes to 10 NCAA Tournaments, including four Sweet 16 appearances and a trip to the 1998 National Championship game when Keith Van Horn (now of the Philadelphia 76ers) was a senior. The Los Angeles Clippers' Andre Miller also stuck around for his senior year at Utah.

Majerus tried to convince Jared Jeffries to stay at Indiana last year, but Jeffries left after his freshman season and was the 11th overall draft pick by the Washington Wizards.

Many scouting services have projected Ridnour to be a lottery pick in the June draft, and his parents have reportedly met with prospective agents.

Throughout the season, Ridnour has deflected questions about his future — instead focusing on the team — and was visibly upset after the Ducks' season-ending loss, preferring not to discuss the issue.

"I can't even think about that right now (because) I'm so disappointed; I can't even think straight," said Ridnour, the Pacific-10 Conference

Player of the Year who set the school's single-season assist record with 218.

Junior forward Luke Jackson has also hinted that he may go pro this year. Underclassmen have until May 11 to declare for the draft.

"For those two guys, they have to do what's best for them and their families when that time comes, and it's not here yet," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "I don't speculate at all. I go on reality. I haven't even thought about that yet."

"Anything I can give you right now would just be adding to the speculation, and I don't want to do that."

Majerus didn't speculate, either, but made his point clear. He said there is little reason for Ridnour to worry about hurting his chances at a pro career with an injury next season.

"Nobody has ever gotten hurt when they came back for their senior year," Majerus said. "He'll be fine. He can get an insurance policy (through the NCAA). I'll help him do it. He can call me."

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Men's

continued from page 9

"I ran into him, and the refs are going to call that if put in that position," Ridnour said. "That's basketball. Unfortunately, it had to happen right now."

Jacobson missed his first attempt, but sank the next two. Without calling a timeout, Ridnour took the ball the other way before giving way to Davis.

Oregon's up-and-down season had reached its pinnacle last week when

the Ducks won the first two games of the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament on last-second shots, and then claimed the tournament title. The Ducks hoped the Pac-10 Tournament experience, coupled with a trip to the Elite Eight last year, would help them in the Big Dance this year.

"It was a great run for this basketball team and a great season," Kent said.

The Ducks met their match with Utah's yawn-you-to-death offense — a deliberate attempt to slow the

game by eating up the clock — which forced the impatient Ducks to hurry their offensive sets in the first half. The Ducks committed 13 turnovers in the first half and trailed 30-27 at the break.

"They run a very disciplined offense that just takes the air out of the ball," Jackson said. "We played right into their hands."

That's basketball. And that's a wrap.

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Hockaday

continued from page 9

Harrington, one of those unlucky 21. Nope, he's no relation to the former Oregon golden-boy quarterback, he's just a prototypical guard/forward who spent three years at Auburn.

Turns out he should've spent a fourth.

The similarities between Harrington and Jackson are like the similarities between Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. Harrington is 6-foot-5, 200 pounds. Jackson is 6-foot-7, 215. Both are slashers who can hit the three, both play or played at decent schools in power conferences. They even look like each other.

Harrington's tale is wrapped in yellow cautionary tape. He came out early last season, but his phone didn't ring on draft day. He signed with the Dallas Mavericks in October last year, and played 13 games before he was released in January. After some time in the developmental United States Basketball League, he's currently in the middle of a 10-day contract with the Denver

Nuggets. Those are the 16-57 Denver Nuggets, for whom he's played all of 17 minutes in two games.

Harrington is the poster boy for NBA abstinence. And that's the fate for not-so-action Jackson if he follows Harrington's path.

Jackson is hardly fresh meat for many of the carnivorous Internet draft debates. Even Ridnour's buzz is fading as the stock of senior Kansas guard Kirk Hinrich is rising like Microsoft in the 90s. Ridnour out-played Hinrich in December, but the Kansas guard is getting the attention now as his team delves further into March Madness (see: Hinrich lighting up Arizona like the Wildcats were Christmas lights on Saturday). Yeah, Oregon exited the NCAA Tournament kinda early.

But back to Jackson. NBADraft.net, which is one of the few media outlets to predict both rounds of the draft, doesn't list Jackson among the 58 choices. He's ranked 17th nationally among juniors by the site. He's certainly not ranked as a first-round choice by ESPN, The Chicago Tribune or oth-

er pontificators who don't dare to venture into second-round territory.

The experts agree, you and me agree, but does the Super Curly-Haired Duo agree? With each other?

This could very well be a package deal. Two Lukes for the price of one. Buy one Luke, get the second one half price. It shouldn't be, but they've stuck so close together up to now, it wouldn't be a shocker if they got agents together, bought yachts together, that sort of thing.

The NBA doesn't know what it's getting, evidenced by the silence on Jackson and the slipping hype on Ridnour. Oregon fans, of course, know exactly what they're giving up. Two may go. One may go. Does it matter? It won't be the same unless both come back.

So throw another sandbag on the wall, dig another trench. We might need two.

One for each square.

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Women's

continued from page 9

offensively. They had five players score in double figures and shot 49 percent from the field as a team. They also committed just nine turnovers against the Huskies.

Giuliana Mendiola had 22 points for Washington in the loss.

"I am extremely disappointed to lose this game," Washington head coach June Daugherty said. "At times we battled hard, but we just couldn't get it done."

The game ended the collegiate careers of five Washington seniors. Leading the way was Loree Payne, who decimated Oregon in her career. In her

final game against the Ducks earlier this season, she posted 24 points for the Huskies in a 75-59 victory.

"This is a great group of five and they are leaving an unbelievable legacy," Daugherty said. "They worked really hard in the off-season and every year they have improved."

No. 1 LSU 86, No. 16 SW Texas 50

The Lady Tigers showed why they were the top-ranked team in the West and why the Bobcats were No. 16. Roneeka Hodges scored 16 points for LSU as the Lady Tigers shot 58.8 percent from the field.

Tori Talbert led Southwest Texas with 18 points on 8-of-15 shooting,

but LSU was just too much to handle. The Lady Tigers entered the locker room at halftime with a 47-25 lead.

The game was a far cry from the 91-40 LSU victory earlier in the season, but still, it was a convincing win for the Lady Tigers. LSU won the rebounding battle (31-29), and had 12 assists to SW Texas' nine. The Lady Tigers did commit 15 turnovers, but the Bobcats were credited with 20.

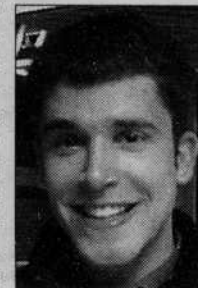
"For the first 10 minutes of the game, I think we stayed within our game plan," SW Texas head coach Suzanne Fox said. "Then LSU began to change the tempo and we didn't play the kind of basketball that got us here."

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ASUO

continued from page 1

sophomore and journalism major, as his vice president. Drake is a member of Chi Psi and vice president for event planning in the Interfraternity Council.



Drake

He's also an intern for the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group and helps coordinate the University Hunger Clean-Up. Boyd is president of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Q: What are your campus initiatives?

Drake: Three primary things that we're going to focus on is student voice, community building and diversity. If I'm elected, I would immediately have a position on the OSA, which is the student voice of the University. With that I would just want to represent everyone and be a means for the students to project their needs, desires.

(With) the community building, I just want to strengthen ties between students, professors, faculty, as well as the neighboring community outside of the University. Also, part of the community is involvement in organizations. I'd like to see more students become involved in organizations, and part of the diversity thing is allowing or just helping facilitate the different student groups working together — which I think makes every student group more effective.

Q: How will you interact with the community?

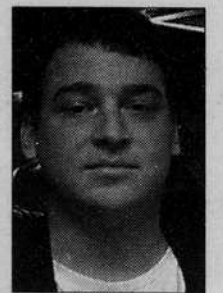
Drake: I think the most effective way to do that is using already established groups who have contact and ties with the community.

Q: How would you make the ASUO relevant to students?

Drake: My goal is to allow each individual student to have their voice heard — the collaborative effort makes them feel like they can actually approach our student government with concerns or any ideas that they have.

Jeremy L. Jones, a junior ma-

joring in journalism, is campaigning for executive office without a vice president. Jones said he is running for president under the title "Emperor of Destiny, Hope for Mankind."



Jones

Jones is a staff writer for the Oregon Commentator and has grand designs on how to reshape student government at the University.

Q: What are your campus initiatives?

Jones: Well, my biggest plan, and this is the most exciting — you might not know this, but (Oregon State University) is historically part of the University. It's been taken from us, and so I think we should expand to our natural borders, and the first thing we're going to do is declare war on them and take them over.

Q: How will you interact with the community?

Jones: Being an emperor, you know, being in my position that I will be in, interaction will be mostly through parades, and I will be seen everywhere. But I'll also be very visible to the campus in other ways. For example, I promise not only drug problems, I promise sex scandals, I promise the whole nine yards. You'll have to even hire a reporter just to tag along just to make sure they don't miss anything.

Q: How would you make the ASUO relevant to students?

Jones: Well, I'll be expanding it of course, so therefore it's already better. It'll finally be a part of their lives, and not only a part of their lives, it will be their lives.

You know, there's a lot of problems around here because there's no control. I'm talking about control, I'm talking about control of their dressing — I mean, they're going to have to have a book on them at all times, just to tell them what to think. This is the kind of control. It's going to be a major part of their lives. And they will respect me for that, I think.

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