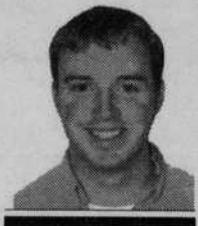


# Media needs to take a Luke-sized chill pill this week

Track 1: Don't worry, I'm not going to do what everybody thinks I'm going to do, which is just *flip out*.

The sports movie connoisseur immediately knows that line is from "Jerry Maguire." And this track isn't a memo, it's a mission statement.

Right now, the Eugene media is pulling a Jerry Maguire and just flipping out over the Luke Ridnour/Luke Jackson story. We all know the tale. Young basketball players declare early for draft. Town mourns loss. People jump off buildings.



**Peter Hockaday**  
Two minutes for crosschecking

KEZI sports anchor Mark Larson practically cried on Tuesday night's news. If you can call it news, because according to Larson, "We have confirmation tonight that Luke Ridnour is leaving Oregon early for the NBA, a decision he is expected to make public this Thursday or Friday."

Confirmation. Hmmm. Of course, that came after news anchor Rick Dancer's introduction, where he told us "I got a message on my answering machine about this at about 4 o'clock today. A friend of mine is friends with someone who's connected..." and then he trailed off. You know, I have a friend of a friend of a friend who's connected in at Kansas, and he says Kirk Heinrich missed that last shot of the title game because Heinrich's got mob connections and he didn't want KU to cover the spread. Can you believe that?

Larson and the rest of the Eugene media need to step off the window sill.

Even if Luke and Luke declare for the draft this week, neither is likely to hire an agent, which means both have the option to pull out of the draft at any time until seven days before the draft in late June. That's what Arizona's Jason Gardner did last year.

So the big story more like a bedtime tale, for sleeping only. It's going to be a long time before we actually know whether or not Luke and Luke are going. But if I might digress into an ombudsman moment here, you won't see a story in the Emerald (other than my random thoughts, which nobody cares about anyway) without a quote from a Luke. We don't have any "unconfirmed sources" at the Athletic Department, and we won't make 'em up.

Unless I hear something from the guy who hands me my towel at the Rec Center.

Kidding.  
So when you hear later this week

that Luke and Luke are declaring for the NBA Draft, stop before you put that rat poison in your Busch Light. Put it back under the sink, and save it for later. And go watch "Jerry Maguire," because as you know, the human head weighs eight pounds.

Track 2: He laughed, he cried, he swore, and now Roy Williams is back at North Carolina. I had the privilege of crowding around Coach Williams last year at the NCAA Tournament for quotes, and it's all true. He's a nice-as-apple-pie type guy.

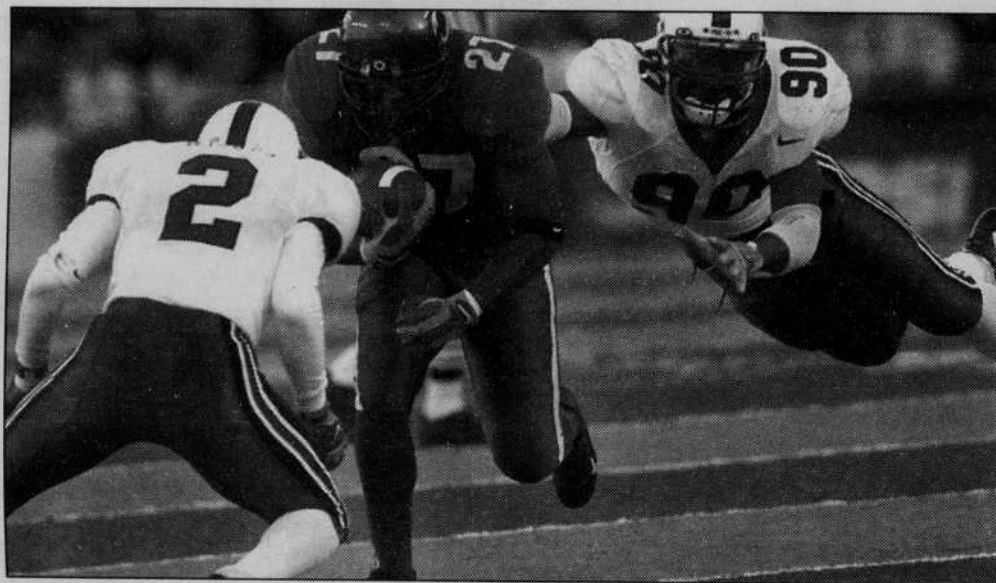
But if I'm a UNC fan right now, I don't want Roy Williams rolling into Chapel Hill. I mean, the man has been to four Final Fours, two title games and still doesn't have a ring fancier than a wedding band. Eeesh. Good luck Heels.

Track 3: Michael Jordan's retiring, and what I'll miss most are the commercials. Seriously. Early in his ca-

reer, there were the edgy Spike Lee joints. Then there were the Jordan-Bird "off the light, through the rafters, off the scorer's table, nothing but net" classics. Then there were the "Everybody wants to be like Mike" Gatorade commercials. And this year, we've gotten the "Gladiator"-like slow motion stuff capping his entire career and the Wizards MJ vs. Bulls MJ classic. Hopefully they'll start rolling out Jordan Viagra and Jordan denture cream commercials in the coming years.

And that's that. A measly three tracks. Oh well. I'm off to go picket at the Lukes' house for the next few months. Who's coming with me? Who's coming with me besides... Flipper... here?

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailymerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Ryan Shaw (27) is currently atop the running back depth chart, but that could change in the coming spring practice weeks.  
Adam Amato  
Emerald

## Football

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adjustment in studying is also in the works for the football players.

"I really haven't experienced college life too much because I've been too busy in meetings," DuRocher said. "I've just been keeping my nose in the books and stuff, but once football is over, I'll probably be able to see college life a little bit more."

"You've just got to put in more work than in high school. You do your reading, and you're good to go. You don't have Mom and Dad looking over your shoulder telling you to do homework."

### Scrimmage this, scrimmage that

There were no clear winners from Oregon's scrimmage Saturday.

day. Ryan Shaw, said head coach Mike Bellotti, is still the front-runner for the starting running back spot, although there is no official word.

The same goes for just about every unfilled spot, including the wide receiver position opposite Samie Parker.

"The running backs, I was pleased," Bellotti said. "Terrence Whitehead and Chris Vincent did some things, but I don't think it was enough. In my mind, Ryan Shaw is still a solid guy. We're going to look at more opportunities for each of them in full contact drills."

Bellotti said the Ducks will focus more on execution of plays this week leading up to the team's second scrimmage Friday. They will then have a third scrimmage the following Friday before the spring game on May 3.

### Meanwhile, in Beaver land...

Oregon State also held a scrimmage over the weekend, although it didn't have the same tone as Oregon's.

In head coach Mike Riley's first spring scrimmage of his second stint at the helm of the Beavers, the look was much different than the regular season. Starting quarterback Derek Anderson and starting running back Steven Jackson were both held out of the workout.

"I wanted to see our quarterbacks and how they reacted," Riley said. "We need another guy or two to step up at that position (behind Anderson). We need to find other running backs other than Steven Jackson."

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailymerald.com.



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Adam Kriz is Pac-10 Field Athlete of the Week, but said he won't let it get to his head.

## Track

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"I'm trying not to let it go to my head or anything," Kriz said. "Someone must have a really good sense of humor, that's what I'm guessing. I'd like to think that there are other people who are throwing farther."

### Girls just want to have fun

Senior Jenny Brogdon jumped 5-7 at the Pepsi Invitational on Saturday. That mark is more than two inches

shorter than her personal best, four inches short of where she feels she should be and six inches short of her ultimate goal.

But to Brogdon, it's just about having a good time.

"I had the most fun I have ever had at a meet ever this last weekend," Brogdon said. "Instead of going away from the meet saying 'I could have' or 'I should have,' I had so much fun, and that's all that matters in the long run."

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailymerald.com.

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