

SPORTS BRIEFS

**Lewis on Jim Thorpe
"watch list"**

Oregon safety Keith Lewis has been named as one of 37 leading candidates for the 2003 Jim Thorpe Award in a pre-season "watch list" released by the Jim Thorpe Association Friday.

Lewis was a second-team all Pacific-10 Conference pick from a year ago and tied for second in the conference in interceptions his junior season with five. Lewis, a senior, was Oregon's third-leading tackler with 80.

He is one of five players from the Pac-10 included on the list and is joined by Washington State's Jason David, UCLA junior Matt Ware, and juniors R.J. Oliver and Jason Shivers of Arizona State.

The Thorpe Award, one of college football's most sought after and prestigious awards, is presented annually to the nation's best college defensive back. The award is named after history's greatest all-around athlete, a man who excelled as a running back, passer and kicker on offense, but also was a great defensive back.

Thorpe, who is recognized in the Pro Football Hall of Fame simply as "The Legend," also played professional baseball and won Olympic gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon.

The watch list will be narrowed to 10 semi-finalists the first Monday in November and then to three finalists the Monday before Thanksgiving. The winner will be announced on ESPN's College Football Awards show, telecast from Disney World on December 11.

The "watch list" is derived through a point system based on All-American teams and Honorable Mentions published in at least six pre-season football magazines.

A candidate must be listed as third-team All-American in at least one publication or as fourth team or honorable mention in at least three of these publications.

**Wrestling team
signs recruits**

The Oregon wrestling team finished its recruiting class and announced Monday that six wrestlers

will be joining the Ducks for the 2003-04 season.

In addition to Stewart Bogart and Aaron Pedeferri, who both signed during Oregon's 2002-03 campaign, the Ducks bring Joey Bracamonte, Nate Gipson, Cyle Hartzell and Joey Lucas to the lineup.

"We are very excited about the addition of this All-American recruiting class to our program," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said. "To be able to continue to successfully recruit student-athletes of this caliber who have the work ethic, desire and toughness to compete at the highest levels both athletically and academically says a lot about what we are doing as a program."

Bracamonte, who spent his first year at Lassen Community College in California and sat out last season, earned a fifth-place finish at the national junior college championships in the 157-pound weight class. He also won three state championships in high school.

Gipson, who will likely wrestle at 141 pounds, placed three times at the state championships. Bogart should

also wrestle at 141 for the Ducks.

Hartzell, a two-time state champion from Redmond, Ore., will join Oregon at 149 pounds. He was scheduled to join last season but sat out the year and will begin this fall.

Lucas, a state champion from Hillsboro, and Pedeferri, a native of Cedarcrest, Wash., will both compete at either 125 or 133 pounds.

The six wrestlers combined earned 10 state championships in high school.

"All of these student-athletes will contribute immediately with several of them really making an impact as soon as this next season," Kearney said.

**Ganes selected
to Pan Am team**

Sophomore Carolyn Ganes was one of 12 Canadian women selected Friday to compete in the Pan Am Games Aug. 1 to 9 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. This is the first time in 24 years that a member of the Oregon women's basketball team has participated.

Current Oregon coach Bev Smith and teammate Alison Lang were the

last two Oregon players to represent Canada in 1979.

"Carolyn had a great camp," said Oregon associate head coach Allison McNeil, who also heads up the Pan Am team. "She is much improved from last summer after a year of collegiate basketball."

Ganes, a 6-foot 3-inch center, led the Ducks in scoring last season with a 10.9 points-per-game average. Ganes was also recognized by the Pacific-10 Conference as an All-Freshman Team honoree for the 2002-03 season.

"Carolyn's presence of the national team is a great reflection of our whole program here at Oregon and is exciting for our future," Smith said.

The Pan Am squad, also known as the Senior Women's National Team, will train in Toronto from July 20 to 26 before leaving for the Dominican Republic on July 27.

"The Pan Am games and the national team training camps will pay dividends for Carolyn and the Ducks next season," McNeil said.

-Jesse Thomas

Ridnour

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Seattle's selection of Ridnour was greeted by criticism from some of the ESPN draft analysts, including Dick Vitale, who felt the Sonics should have chosen point guard Reece Gaines. Gaines was selected as the No. 15 pick by the Orlando Magic.

On ESPN's Web site, Chad Ford — who had originally picked Ridnour to go No. 11 — said, "The Sonics had major needs to fill at the point and at power forward. While both of their choices were solid, I think they could've done better. Maybe Ridnour will be the next Steve Nash and Collision will be the next Austin Croshere. But right now, I just don't see it."

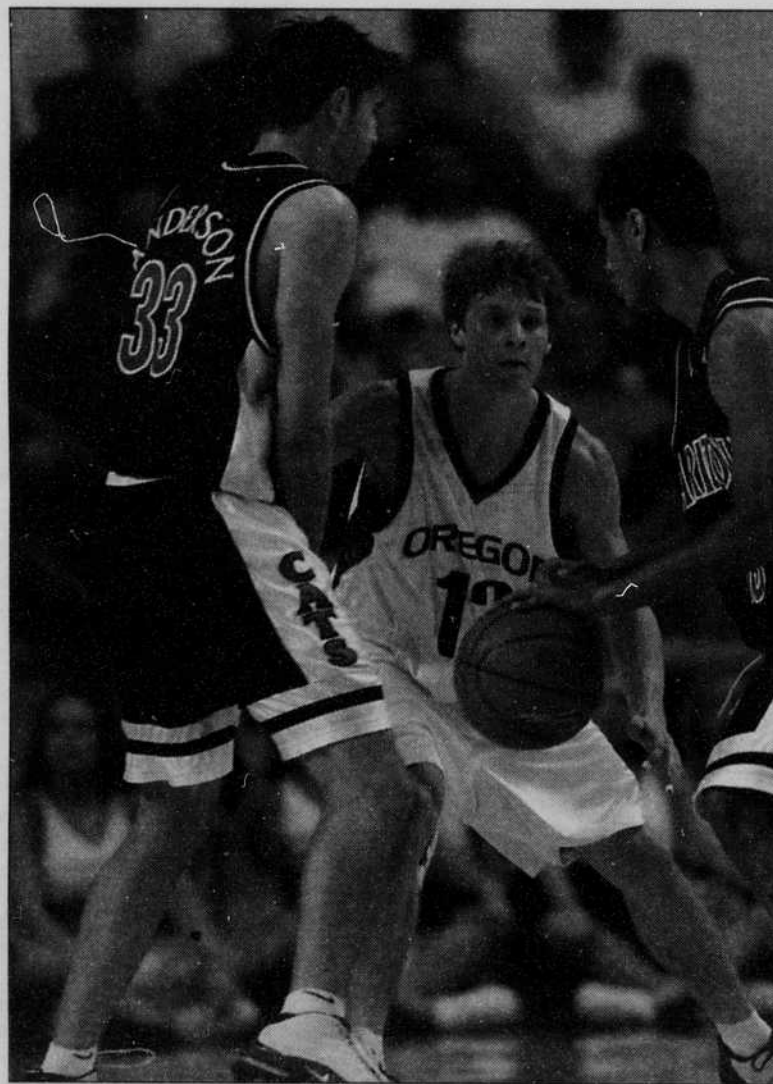
Ridnour said he has tried to ignore the criticism as much as possible.

"There's a lot of criticism that goes on, and they try to break players' games down," he said.

Despite an invitation, Ridnour did not attend the draft at Madison Square Garden due to an abdominal injury he sustained in a previous team workout.

The 6-foot 2-inch point guard was the only Pac-10 veteran chosen in the first round. Other names include UCLA's Jason Kapon and Arizona's Luke Walton, who went second and third to Cleveland and the Los Angeles Lakers in the second round.

Contact the sports editor at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.



Emerald

Former Duck Luke Ridnour will play for Seattle, just hours from his home in Blaine, Wash.

**Former basketballer
allegedly shot friend**

Former teammates Patrick Dennehy and Carlton Dotson allegedly fought before Dennehy's death

By Bill Hanna and Jeff Caplan
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WACO, Texas — A former teammate of Baylor University basketball player Patrick Dennehy allegedly shot Dennehy in the head while the two men were firing weapons somewhere in McLennan County, according to a search warrant affidavit released Monday.

The June 23 affidavit, which was obtained by the Waco Tribune Herald, said an informant told the Seaburg Police Department in Delaware that former Baylor basketball player Carlton Dotson confessed to his cousin that he shot Dennehy after they began arguing. Dennehy has been missing more than two weeks.

Dotson said his "roommate had pointed his gun at him as if to shoot him and that he had shot his roommate in the head with a 9-mm pistol," Waco police Detective Robert Fuller said in the affidavit.

Dotson told the cousin he drove to Hurlock, Md., and dumped the guns along the way.

Dennehy's 1996 Chevrolet Tahoe was found last week in a Virginia Beach, Va., shopping mall parking lot, about 150 miles from Hurlock. The license plates were missing.

Calls to Dotson's grandmother in Hurlock were not answered after news of the affidavit became public. The previous two days she said she did not know her grandson's whereabouts.

Before the affidavit became public, Waco police appeared to back off a Friday news release that said teammates were potential suspects.

"It just got misconstrued," Waco police spokesman Steve Anderson said. "... Some people interpreted it one way. Other people took it completely the other. At one point somebody called wanting to know if we thought the entire team was suspected."

Waco Police Chief Alberto Melis advised at a Monday afternoon news conference "not to assume that a person or persons that we have spoken with is deemed a suspect. If information is obtained from these interviews that positively identifies a person or persons as a suspect, we

would not release the identity until a warrant was obtained."

Reached by telephone in Carson City, Nev., Dennehy's stepfather, Brian Brabazon, was skeptical that his stepson had been shot.

"I can't believe it; I don't believe it. I won't believe it until they show me the body," Brabazon said.

"The Waco PD has been nothing but forthcoming to me and they never told me about him getting shot in the head or about this affidavit. I only know what I've been hearing tonight from the media."

Dennehy was reported missing on June 19. Initially, Brabazon was angry at Baylor University officials for failing to notify him of his stepson's disappearance. Baylor officials have said they have been in constant contact with his mother, Valorie.

Earlier reports said Dennehy was last seen on June 11, but police said he may have been spotted around Waco on June 12 or 13.

Baylor officials, while not commenting about the affidavit, issued a statement Monday intended to quell some reports about Dennehy's character. Before he transferred to Baylor, Dennehy was dismissed from the University of New Mexico basketball team after several flare-ups with players and coaches.

"At the moment, all the University can do is confirm that the individual named in the latest news reports (Dotson) is a former member of the men's basketball team," Baylor athletic director Tom Stanton said in prepared statement. "... I want to stop some of the speculation about Patrick as a team player. There has been incorrect information that made negative suggestions about his temperament."

"We saw a young man who got along well with his teammates and was extremely anxious to compete this year. Patrick has been a model student-athlete since coming to Baylor. That's why these incredible events have stunned and upset us all."

Melis said Dennehy's disappearance is still classified as a missing person's case but is being investigated as a homicide.

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Miami

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best way to ensure the future security of the athletic department.

The Big East counterproposal, which included supplemental money to defray the Hurricanes' travel expenses, was "much sweeter" than the ACC's in the short term, but "we're banking on the future" with the ACC, Shalala said.

ACC schools share revenue evenly, and each school made an estimated \$9.7 million each of the past two seasons. The Big East coffers are divided based on performance, so in a year Miami plays in a Bowl Championship Series football game, the Hurricanes would get approximately \$9 million. But other years, the payout could be in the \$7 million range.

Two years ago, UM won the football national championship and the basketball team played in the NCAA Tournament, but the athletic department lost more than \$1 million.

The Big East loses two of its football

powers and is left with just six football schools — Boston College, Syracuse, Connecticut, Rutgers, Pittsburgh and West Virginia. Boston College and Syracuse spearheaded the effort to keep Miami. The other four are embroiled in a lawsuit against Miami and the ACC, suing to block expansion and accusing Miami of conspiring to weaken the Big East.

"Although we are certainly disappointed with the actions taken this week by the ACC, we as a conference will now turn our attention to the future and the challenges that lie ahead," Big East Commissioner Mike Tranghese said.

Syracuse Athletic Director Jake Crouthamel, a close friend of Dee's, said Miami's decision "leaves the remaining Big East schools in a precarious situation. We're clearly weakened by this."

Shalala and Dee stressed how disappointed they were that the ACC decided against adding Syracuse and Boston College along with Miami, the original plan, and going with Virginia

Tech. Dee said that informing Crouthamel and Boston College Athletic Director Gene DiFilippo of UM's decision was one of the hardest things he has done. Shalala, who earned her Ph.D. from Syracuse, said those phone calls were "painful" and that UM "reluctantly" accepted the ACC offer without its original partners.

Meanwhile, ACC officials were celebrating at their Greensboro, N.C., offices.

"It's time to celebrate new friends," ACC Commissioner John Swofford said. "This certainly puts us on par football-wise with any conference in the country and gives us an extraordinary balance."

Shalala was thrilled to see the saga reach its end.

"I called Clemson president James Barker," Shalala said, "and said, 'Ready or not, here we come.'"

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