# SOCCER

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"Lindsey is very stable and consistent," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "She's quiet and controlled."

Werdell is one of just two seniors on the soccer team this year, along with goalkeeper Mary Etter who joined the team last season.

As a four-year veteran, Werdell has seen her play develop dramatically in terms of speed and taking more responsibility on offense.

"I noticed that she is more determined and her game is more important to her," former high school teammate and Oregon freshman Kaily Winther said.

Werdell's abilities, when it comes to ball handling, resemble Magic Johnson, an NBA Hall of Famer.

"I've always had pretty good vision on the field," she said. "So like I'll get the ball at my feet and I'll be able to notice the open person even if (they're) really not straight ahead in my sight of vision."

# Leading by example

Werdell has taken more responsibility than just leading by example as an upperclassman. She is also the Oregon team captain after her teammates voted her into the position earlier this year.

Thus far, it seems to be going well. It isn't the first time Werdell has held the captain position. During her junior and senior seasons at Churchill

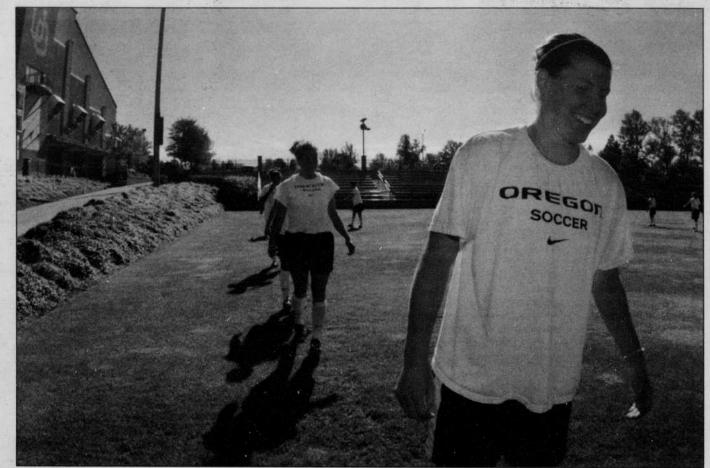
High, Werdell was team captain. She's a really good leader on the team," Winther said.

Steffen is also confident about Werdell being in charge of the Ducks. He remarked that although Werdell is "very quiet," she needs only prove herself by her actions.

"She's very good about leading by example," the eighth-year head coach said. "She's a doer versus a talker."

# **Before the Ducks**

Werdell, a Eugene native, spent her prep days as a four-year starter at



Churchill High. While she was there she was the recipient of the Dean's Scholarship and the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award.

When it came to graduation, Werdell's hardest decision was where to attend college. In high school, she was listed as "Who's Who" among the nation's high school students in her junior and senior years.

"To tell you the truth, I wanted to go to OSU as a little kid," she said. "Oregon State actually ended up offering me more money than Oregon did, and I had a really good friend that was going to Oregon State, so I was really considering it. But when it came down to it, I kind of wanted to

stay home in my own town, and I couldn't imagine myself living in Corvallis because it's so small.

And to Oregon she came, where in her first season in 2000 she played 13 games and recorded two shots. Now, as a senior, Werdell holds the longest starting streak for the Ducks at 45 games. She has started every game since the start of her sophomore year.

#### **Bring on the Pilots**

After returning home from a difficult three-week road trip where the Ducks finished 2-4, Oregon (5-4) has its work cut out in facing defending national champion Portland on Friday and Weber State on Sunday afternoon.

"It's good coming back home even though we are playing last year's na-tional champion," Werdell said. "It's going to be a tough game. I mean, we are obviously not expected to win, but we should have a really good game against them. And then we should beat Weber (State).

Oregon finishes its final nonconference weekend against the Pilots, who defeated the Ducks 3-0 last year in Portland. It will be ideal for Oregon to capitalize on the opportunities it creates. In the last four games, the Ducks have taken a combined 38 shots but did not score a goal.

"We're excited to be home and excited to be playing the defending na-

Lindsey Werdell gets ready for Friday's opponent, Portland, at a recent Oregon practice. The Ducks are 5-4 this season after starting 4-0. Adam Amato Photo Editor

tional champions," Steffen said. "We have to put forward our best effort."

Redshirt sophomore Nicole Garbin continues to lead the offense with four goals, 37 shots and 14 shots on goal this season.

The Pilots are currently ranked in the top seven of all four major soccer polls.

Werdell will have to lead her Ducks against one of their toughest opponents all season. And in order for Oregon to succeed, Werdell and the Ducks need to make some noise and put a few in the back of the net.

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