

Kraayeveld receives injury scare at practice

The senior forward goes down at Oregon's practice on Tuesday after 'cutting'

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

Oregon forward Cathrine Kraayeveld injured a knee during practice Tuesday at the Morse Event Center, home to Northwest Christian College.

The 6-foot-4 senior had an MRI after practice and results were not immediately available. Kraayeveld missed 13 games last season with a staph infection in the same knee.

"I was just cutting, I don't even really remember what happened,"

Kraayeveld said. "I just kind of cut and it kind of gave out."

The All-America candidate is averaging 17.2 points, 8.6 rebounds and 3.2 blocks per game, while leading Oregon to a 5-0 record and the No. 20 ranking in the latest ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll.

Road trip

After playing four of its first five games at home, Oregon will spend most of December on the road. The Ducks play six of their next seven games away from McArthur Court, with a lone home appearance on the 12th against Montana. Oregon won its only road game to date, 73-57, over Gonzaga on Nov. 25.

The Ducks' next contest is Thursday against Portland at the Chiles Center. Oregon defeated the Pilots 85-63 last season at McArthur Court behind 19 points

from Brandi Davis.

"Going to Portland (to play the Pilots) will be a good test," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "It gets very intense because of the in-state rivalry. We're being careful not to overlook them."

Oregon will stay in the Rose City until Saturday when the Ducks battle Colorado State in the Papé Jam. Smith said the Ducks are familiar and comfortable with playing in the Rose Garden after defeating BYU 80-77 in last season's Papé Jam.

East coast exposure

When Oregon faces George Washington on Dec. 18 in Washington, D.C., the Ducks will have a chance to show East Coast voters that their top 25 ranking is legit. It will be the only time during the regular season that Oregon ventures further east than Arizona.

"It's a great opportunity to go back east, which is considered the mecca of college basketball," Smith said. "It will also be a great educational experience, getting to visit the nation's capital."

Kraayeveld said Oregon also has a chance to show the East Coast that the Pacific-10 Conference belongs with the nation's elite.

"It's not just important for Oregon, but for the Pac-10 also," Kraayeveld said. "Just showing that we have a really good conference over here and hopefully that will establish that on the East Coast. They have a lot of good teams down there so it will be fun for us to go down there."

Valuable return

Senior Kayla Steen returned from a knee injury Saturday to score 11 points against North Carolina State.

The 5-foot-8 guard was 3 of 4 points from the field in 14 minutes.

Smith said the return of Steen was a big boost to the Ducks. After sophomore guard Chelsea Wagner and freshman forward Jessica Shetters recently returned from injuries, Oregon now has tremendous depth at every position.

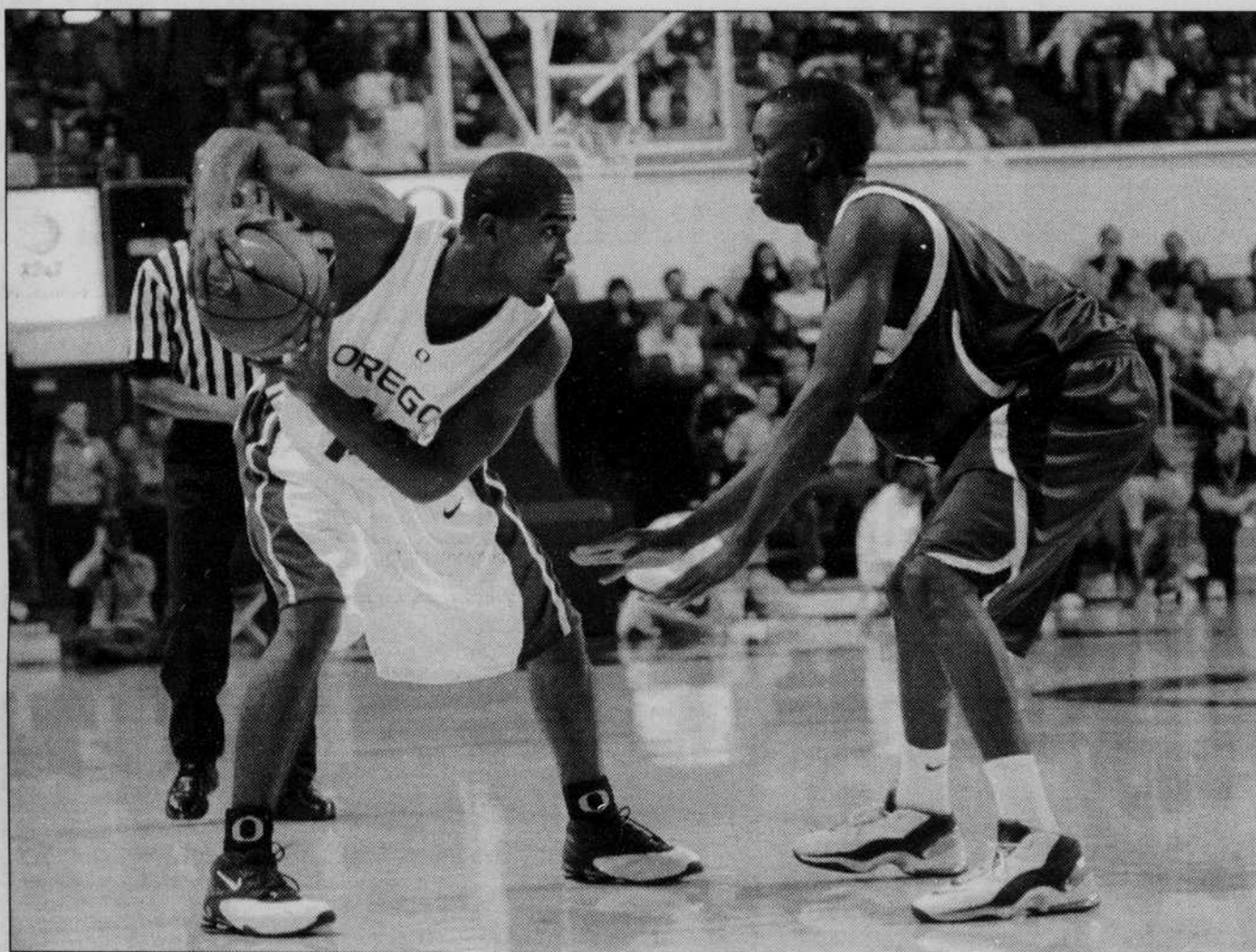
"The way Kayla came in and performed was tremendous," Smith said.

Players returning from injury "round us out very well," she added.

Pac-10 rankings

Along with Oregon, two other Pac-10 teams were ranked in this week's top-25. Stanford (5-0) was ranked No. 6 and Arizona (3-2) was No. 25. Washington (4-0) and California (3-2) received votes.

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Tim Bobosky Photographer

Oregon guard Brandon Lincoln played against former Jefferson High School teammate Antone Jarrell when the Ducks hosted Portland State.

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Portland State was successful in all three aspects, limiting the Ducks to just 14 assists and four three-pointers.

It just wasn't enough to come out on top over their intra-state rivals.

"I think they're better this year than last year," Schroyer said. "I think the world of coach Kent and his staff. I think they do a great job."

Oregon was without the services of shooting guard James Davis, who was suspended for the game due to what Kent said was for "failing to meet the academic responsibilities that are expected of each player within the University of Oregon basketball program."

Davis, a Vancouver, Wash., native, scored nine points on the strength of three three-pointers in Oregon's season-opening win over Fresno State.

The Ducks return to action Saturday when they play in the annual Papé Jam at the Rose Garden in Portland. They host Mid-American Conference member Marshall at 6 p.m.

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teammates on one of the nation's elite high school teams. The duo used to play for Jefferson High School in Portland.

When Jarrell was a senior and Lincoln was a sophomore, the Democrats won a state title, finishing with a 28-0 record and the nation's No. 4 ranking.

"It kind of took me back to my sophomore year of high school when we used to go at it in practice," Lincoln said. "He came out there and competed hard, we came out and competed hard and (Portland State) gave us a good fight."

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off for final examinations.

"For guys like Scott Vossmeier that have been out for awhile, it will give them a chance, especially with these practices where we have a faceless opponent, to just get back in the groove," quarterback Kellen Clemens said of the workouts this week. "We've got guys like Igor (Olshansky) who have been playing banged up for three or four weeks. It gives them a

chance to sit out and get healthy."

Sun Bowl tickets can be purchased starting today. Reserved seats are being sold at \$35, and a \$15 per-order processing fee will also be assessed.

Tickets can be bought at the South Ticket Building at Autzen Stadium, at www.goducks.com or by calling 1-800-WEBFOOT. Beginning on Thursday, they can be purchased at the Casanova Center.

For the record

The Ducks have seen some recent

success against the Big Ten, going 3-2 against the conference's members since 1998.

That includes the four-point win over Michigan earlier this season, a defeat of Wisconsin at Autzen Stadium in 2001 and a win over Michigan State three years before. Oregon also lost to the Badgers and Spartans in that time span.

The Ducks really don't have much of a preference on who they play, instead suggesting that they can match up well against any opponent.

However, at least one Oregon player would prefer to play Michigan State.

"They like to throw the ball more," defensive tackle Robby Valenzuela said. "We like getting after quarterbacks, so we'd rather have a throwing team."

All-conference

On Monday, the Pacific-10 Conference announced its all-league teams. Oregon was well represented, placing 12 players on the squad.

Safety Keith Lewis, offensive lineman

Adam Snyder and kick returner Kenny Washington were all named to the Pac-10's first team.

Olshansky and Mitchell were both named to the second team. Honorable mention nominations went to tight end Tim Day, defensive linemen Devan Long and Junior Siavii, punt returner Steven Moore, Parker and offensive lineman Dan Weaver.

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