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CONFIDENT

continued from page 13
to (score) 20-plus all nights.
"They've got to do something. If they play him one-on-one, he's going to score. If they double-team him, we're going to knock down shots."

Come on over

Despite his physical presence and improved confidence, Crosswhite may be best known for his Australian roots. The 21-year-old came to the Ducks as a highly touted forward from down under.

In Australia, he was named the Junior (under 20) Player of the Year by Basketball Australia in 2001. He was a reserve for Australia's 22-and-Under National Team in the 2001 FIBA World Championship in Japan. That team took eighth.

All of that doesn't necessarily translate when making the trip from Australia to Oregon.

There were "adjustments, like I had to change the way I speak a little," Crosswhite said. "People couldn't understand what I was saying. I would use Australian slang words or I would talk too quickly. My accent was so

"(Crosswhite)'s played pretty consistently throughout the season. ... I'd like to see him be as aggressive as he was against Washington State in just about every game because he's really capable of being a great weapon."

Luke Jackson
Oregon forward

One of Crosswhite's sisters, Anna, plays for Virginia and is a part-time starter for the Cavaliers. He has family throughout the United States, such as in Kansas and Delaware. He's been treated like another part of the family by some of Oregon's players and even spent his first Thanksgiving in Oregon with Jackson and his parents, Steve and Kathy.

"The thing about this team is that everyone gets along and you can always go out and hang out with anybody," Ian Crosswhite said. "That helps a lot because you don't feel like an outcast at all. Everyone feels like they fit into a certain position or role."

That, in turn, feeds Crosswhite's confidence and play on the court.

"At this level, it's all about confidence," Davis said. "If your confidence is high, you're going to play well. His confidence is high right now."

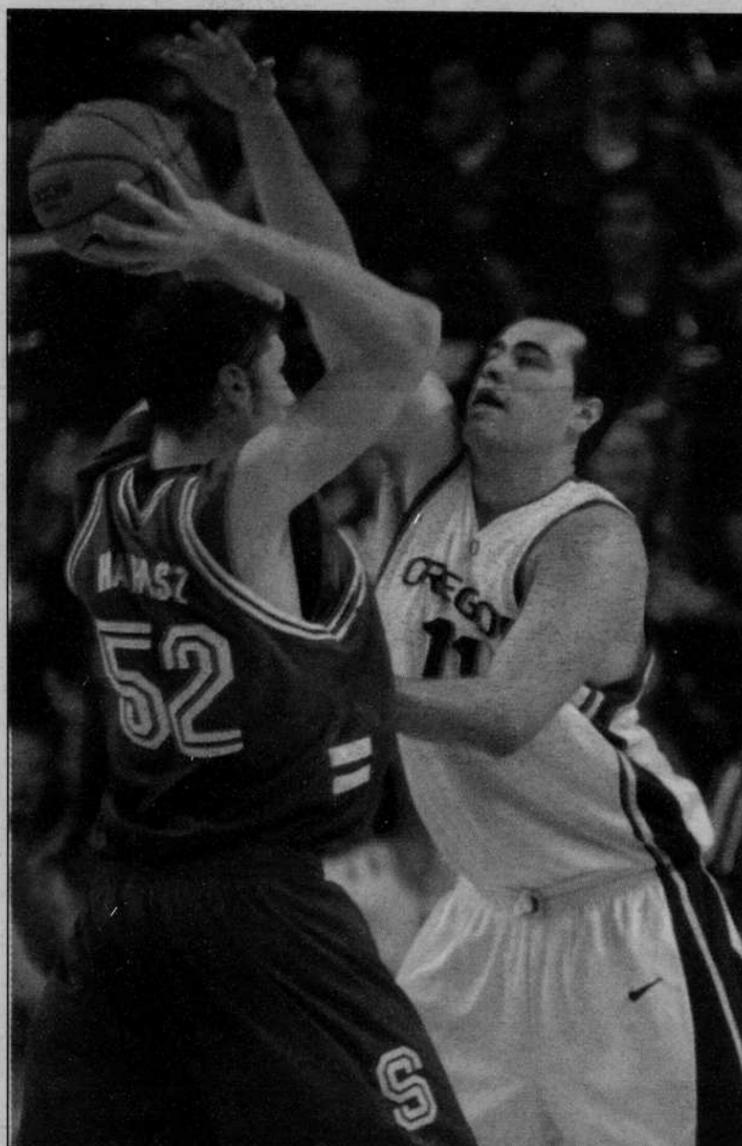
"He's played pretty consistently throughout the season," Jackson said. "In some games, he has a lot better mismatch inside and when we take advantage of that, he plays real well. I'd like to see him be as aggressive as he was against Washington State in just about every game because he's really capable of being a great weapon."

That's exactly what the Pac-10 is finding out, game by game.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailymerald.com.

strong at one point people would look at me with a confused look on their face.

"Now, anytime I talk to somebody back home, they say, 'You sound like an American.' Where I would've used Australian words, now I use American words."



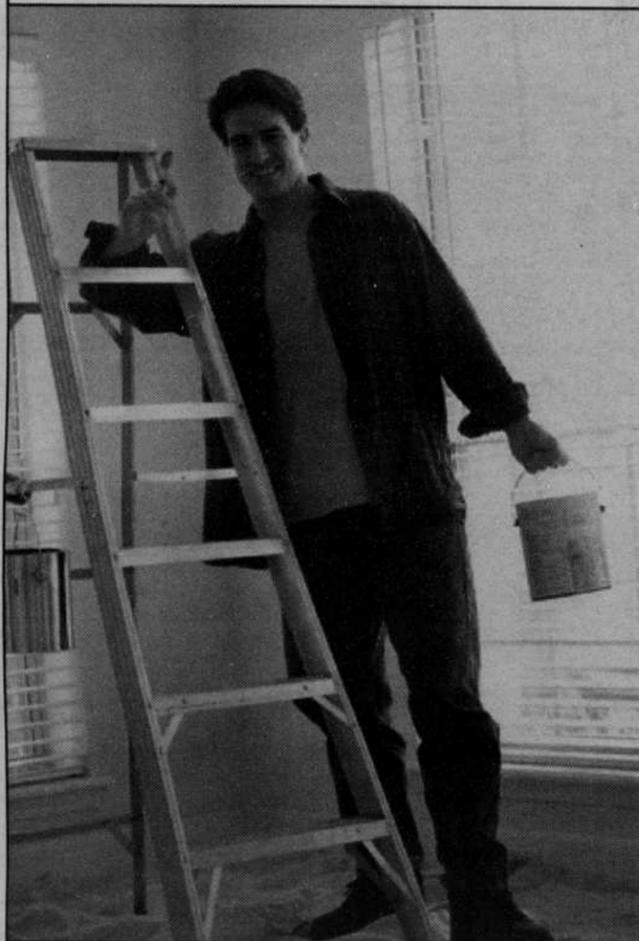
Erik Bishoff Photographer

Oregon forward Ian Crosswhite has scored in double figures in 17 of 19 games this season. He said he has played with more confidence this season than last.

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