

POSTSEASON

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Lucas helped lead the Beavers to a home sweep of Arizona and Arizona State for the first time since 1999. He recorded his third double-double of the season when he put up 20 points and 12 rebounds against Arizona State on Thursday.

Lucas had 22 points against Arizona. It is the first weekly honor for Lucas.

Still the best

No. 1 Stanford remains the best team in the country and has improved to 23-0 overall and 14-0 in conference play while maintaining its undefeated record.

Stanford has already clinched a share of the Pac-10 title, its fourth in six years.


Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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WOMEN

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The Ducks close out the regular season with home games against No. 10 Stanford (20-5, 13-3) Thursday and California (10-15, 3-13) Saturday. There is a chance Oregon could face both teams a week later in the Pac-10 Tournament.

If the tournament started today, Stanford would enter as the No. 1 seed, Oregon as the No. 8 seed and California as the No. 9 seed.

The 8 and 9 seeds play Mar. 5 at HP Pavilion in San Jose, Calif., with the winner facing the No. 1 seed — likely Stanford — March 6.

Saying goodbye

Senior point guard Kayla Steen will play her final game at McArthur Court Saturday against California.

The Hillsboro native will be honored on senior night as the only player on the Oregon roster not returning for the 2004-05 season.

Steen has battled through pain in her left knee all year after never fully recovering from an injury sustained last season. The 5-foot-8 ball handler tore the anterior cruciate ligament and partially tore the medial collateral ligament in her left knee as she went up for a fast-break layup in the season finale against UCLA.

After spending playing two seasons at Clackamas Community

College, Steen has averaged 3.8 points and 1.9 assists per game in two seasons at Oregon.

"She's been a great senior," Smith said. "Given her season-ending injury last year, her ability to play 100 percent this year was really negated by that. Kayla didn't wait until she was 100 percent to come back and try to help us. She helped us when she was 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 percent and did all that she could to be a part of this team and fill in at times."

"It should be a big senior night to appreciate her and what she's done the last two years."

Looking to the future

Three little-used freshmen — Jessica Shetters, Ashley Allen and Cicely Oaks — received extended playing time Saturday after Arizona built a large lead.

Allen scored a career-high six points on 3 of 4 shooting in 19 minutes. The 5-foot-10 guard has shown promise during her limited playing time this season.

Shetters scored six points — all in the second half. The 6-foot-6 forward played 18 minutes and also grabbed two rebounds.

Oaks dropped in a career-high four points in eight minutes. The 5-foot-7 guard has shown the ability to score during practice but hasn't seen many minutes on the court.

Contact the sports reporter at jonroetman@dailyemerald.com.


CONGRATULATIONS

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HAGER

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becoming blurred.

Recruiting visits, as documented by players in recent months, are getting dangerously close to acting as singles clubs.

"Well, you're single, we'll hook you up," player hosts are saying. That's the way it seemed to go at Colorado.

That led to sexual harassment, rape and eventual shame for the Colorado program.

Here's the catch: As long as Colorado wants to have a successful program — meaning lots of wins — these parties will happen. That, for the most part, will be the case for most programs, whether it involves alcohol, or in extreme cases, sex.

Whatever a recruit wants, especially if he's a big-time catch, the recruit will get.

According to NCAA bylaw, under article 13, section recruitment (13.01.2): "A member institution may provide entertainment (per Bylaw 13.5), at a scale comparable to that of normal student life and not excessive in nature, to a prospect and his or her parents (or legal guardians) or spouse only at the institution's campus (or, on an official visit, within 30 miles of the institution's campus). Entertainment of other relatives or friends of a prospect at any site is prohibited."

That's a tad bit ambiguous, a statement that makes "entertainment" in the eye of the beholder.

No wonder this is becoming a curious situation — the NCAA is involved.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

SPORTS BRIEF

Next up for Feeley: starting Miami job

INDIANAPOLIS — The Miami Dolphins are hoping quarterback A.J. Feeley is proof of the adage that one man's trash is another man's treasure.

Quite literally.

As a small boy in Ontario, Ore., Feeley occasionally found himself a victim of older kids' pranks. The 3-year-old Feeley would be running around practice, distracting the players on his dad's high school football and basketball teams.

"He'd be whining or bothering us, so we just kind of took care of him," said Ed Garland, 41, an Ontario native who later was reunited with Feeley at the University of Oregon. Garland is the assistant equipment manager for the football team.

"We'd stick him in the garbage can. He could barely see over the top. His dad would eventually say, 'Where's A.J.?' and we'd point over to the garbage can," said Garland, who also put Feeley in a locker once.

"It's OK, it was a good-sized locker," William Feeley said with a hearty chuckle.

At Oregon, Feeley was sandwiched between high-profile quarterbacks Akili Smith and Joey Harrington, both of whom eventually were No. 3 overall picks the year each was drafted.

Now, as both Smith and Harrington struggle through their careers, it's Feeley who's emerging as the hope for a team that has struggled to live up to its talent.

— Jason Cole
Knight Ridder Newspapers

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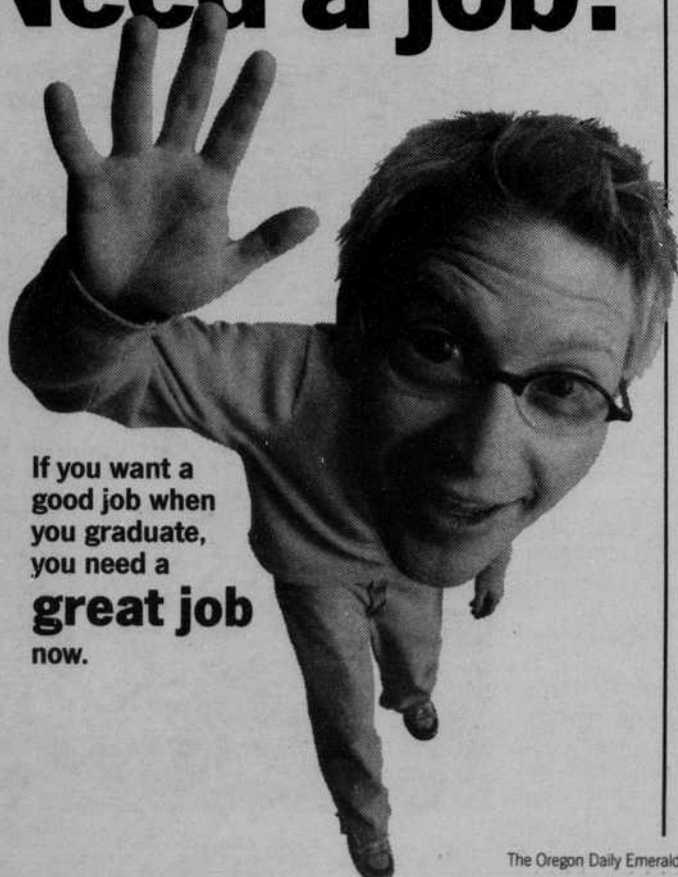
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