

## SPORTS

Sports Editor:  
Hank Hager  
hankhager@dailyemerald.com

Best bet  
NCAA Basketball:  
Washington at Arizona  
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Kedzie Gunderson had to put her desire to score on hold after realizing she was best suited as a defensive player in the Pacific-10 Conference.  
Adam Amato  
Senior photographer

## Getting defensive

*Kedzie Gunderson has successfully moved from scorer to defensive-minded player*

By Jon Roetman  
Sports Reporter

Kedzie Gunderson had decisions to make. When the Seattle-area native arrived at Oregon as a freshman in 2001, she found herself in a situation different from what she envisioned when she signed a letter of intent before her senior year at Bellevue High School.

Jody Runge, the former Oregon head coach who recruited Gunderson, had resigned in the spring after months of

turmoil surrounded the program. Bev Smith was named head coach of the Ducks during the summer, leaving Gunderson unsure of what her role would be on the team.

But the decision to stay at Oregon, despite having to build a bond with a different head coach, was an easy one for Gunderson, who was too fond of Eugene to consider transferring.

Her decision became even easier after she discovered the talent level of the Pacific-10 Conference players.

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## Tennis learns from on-court experiences

The Oregon men's tennis team sorts out individual differences that stem from variations in culture and personality

By Alex Tam  
Freelance Reporter

Despite jumping out to a great start, the Oregon men not only face a difficult schedule ahead, but also have dealt with some off-court issues recently.

The mixing of different personalities and cultural backgrounds on a squad featuring five Europeans and three Americans is becoming a learning experience for each player.

Oregon men's head coach Chris Russell said players are becoming more accepting of who they are and are now bonding well together.

### DUCK TENNIS

"They're definitely more of a team than we ever had," he said. "They really seem to like each other."

"I think they've had to learn and respect individual differences of each guy on the team because we're not all the same and we all come from different places. So that's been a challenge. We got a great understanding of teammates and coaches in general."

Russell said he is encouraged by the cohesiveness that his team is demonstrating off the court and hopes it translates back to the court.

On the court, the coaching staff has encouraged its players all year to develop a style of play that best suits their respective games and utilize a game plan for every match.

"We've got a long ways to go," Russell said. "I think you're seeing some of the guys having some of the best results consequently having probably made the most progress of their game styles and their belief in their game styles."

Those players include juniors Manuel Kost and Sven Swinnen. Combined, the duo has only lost one singles match. Swinnen holds a 6-1 dual singles record and Kost is still undefeated at 6-0.

Throughout the year, the trio of Kost, Swinnen and sophomore Thomas Bieri has shifted between the top three positions in the lineup. That element has allowed each to have an opportunity to earn success by playing his opponents' top players. The three are a combined 16-4 in

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## Oregon aims to improve its California success rate

The Ducks head to the Bay Area where they have had little success in recent seasons

By Hank Hager  
Sports Editor

Someday, the Ducks are going to have to figure out a way to beat those guys.

If Oregon wants to get a top 5 seed in the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament — and it does — today would be a good game to start.

Oregon heads to California for a 7:30 tip tonight in hopes of ending a three-game losing streak at Haas Pavilion. The Ducks haven't won in Berkeley since the 1999-2000 season.

There's just something about playing the Golden Bears in California that gives the Ducks fits.

"They're hostile environments, Cal and Stanford," Oregon forward Ian Crosswhite said. "The crowds are loud there and in a way, they are similar to us because they play well at home. The last two years I've

been here, we've been beaten pretty well down there, except in one case. We'll have to be ready to go."

Crosswhite mentioned Oregon's game against Stanford on Saturday in Palo Alto, but team members say need to take each game one at a time — yes, that's a cliché. But it's a cliché that stands true if Oregon wants to get a postseason bid to the NCAA Tournament.

**"If we go in there with the mindset we're going to defend people, everything else will take care of itself in these ball games."**

Ernie Kent  
Oregon Head Coach

Aside from a 107-103 overtime loss in 2002, the Ducks have given in to the Golden Bears, and in a big way. The Ducks lost by 16 in each of the other two losses. Oregon's last win came by four points in 2000.

The game could be a preview of things

to come in the Pac-10 Tournament. Both teams sport 7-7 records in conference play, placing them in the No. 4 and 5 seeds for the tournament if it started today. Technically, Oregon would be the fourth seed by virtue of defeating the Bears in February at McArthur Court.

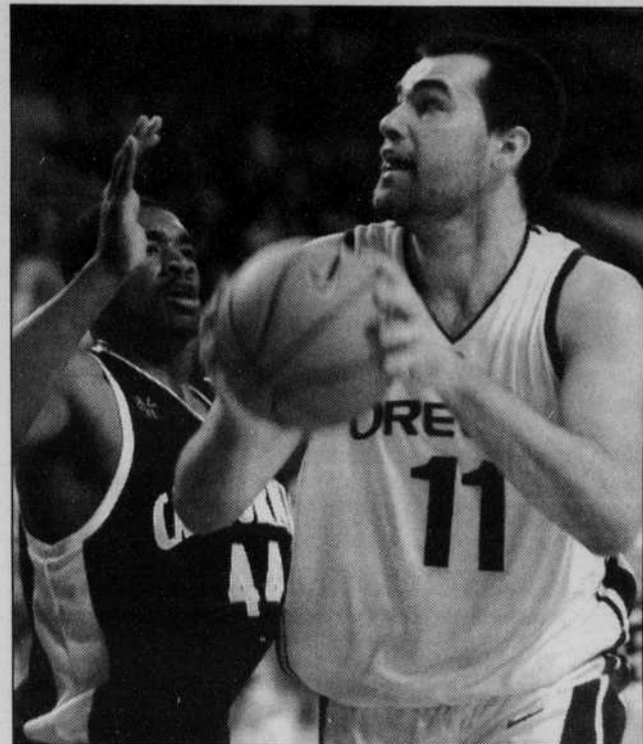
Not as though that would matter.

"If we go in there with the mindset we're going to defend people, everything else will take care of itself in these ball games," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We are a team, I feel, that can play with anybody in the conference. We've shown that. We just haven't been able to sustain that."

The Ducks and Golden Bears match up well. California's Amit Tamir is a lesser-known version of Oregon forward Luke Jackson. California's Leon Powe and Oregon forward Mitch Platt are two of the league's more high-profile freshmen.

The Ducks (12-9 overall) will be buoyed Aaron Brooks's return to the lineup. Oregon was without the point guard earlier in the season when the teams met. He will be a key component in stopping a Golden Bear (11-12) offense that averages

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Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Forward Ian Crosswhite said the Ducks will face tough crowds and facilities at California's Haas Pavilion and at Stanford's Maples Pavilion.