

## ■ Women's basketball

# Oregon introduces Southern to Mac Court

The Ducks will focus on spreading their offense as they take on the Jaguars for the first time in school history

BY STEPHEN MILLER  
SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon women's basketball team hosts Southern University today for the first ever matchup between the two programs.

In a preseason poll, the Jaguars were selected to finish first in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Southern finished with a 17-13 overall record for the 2003-04 season and got knocked out in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Junior Rolanda Monroe and sophomore Fredrika Lewis were picked as preseason first-team All-SWAC players.

Monroe was Southern's leading scorer with 17.6 points per game, and she led the SWAC in steals last season.

Oregon head coach Bev Smith said that Monroe is "good one-on-one and handles the ball well." Smith expects Monroe to be very aggressive with her perimeter shooting.

"She's their go-to player, and it looks like she has the green light," Smith said. "She is very dangerous and very quick."

Southern will not hesitate to move the ball to other players as the team's other two top scorers have returned.

"Last season Rolanda took about 17 or 18 shots a game, but this year she will look at 14 to 15 shots a game," Southern head coach Sandy Pugh said. "Ashley (Blake) will also score for us, and we still have Fred (Lewis) in the middle that we can dish the ball to."

Blake ranked sixth in the conference

in scoring and third in rebounding last season as a freshman. The 5-foot-10 small forward was Southern's second-leading shooter and point scorer.

Lewis was first for the Jaguars in field goal percentage and third in the conference.

The Jaguars (0-1 overall) lost their season opener last week against Northwestern State. Monroe scored 28 points in the loss.

Coach Smith said that her team's size advantage will be beneficial once again as the Ducks have not been able to extensively scout Southern.

"With the little we know about them, we've just got to focus on ourselves," Smith said. "We just want to maintain our defensive rebounding, execution and patience on offensive end and reverse ball to establish both the inside and outside game."

"Defensively, we all have contributions to make," Smith said. "We have

a number of weapons including Andrea (Bills) low and Cathrine (Kraayeveld) inside and out."

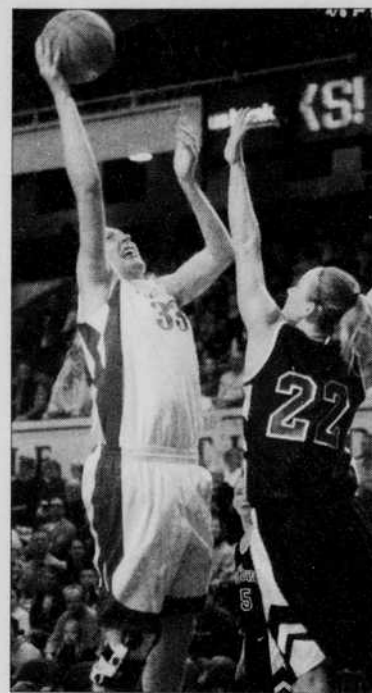
Oregon (1-0) has held its opponents to an average field goal percentage of 26.9 in two exhibition games and last week's non-conference contest against Portland.

Kraayeveld collected 14 points against the Pilots and has scored double-digits in each of the first three games.

Smith emphasized that the Ducks will need to aggressively spread their offense in order to create opportunities in the key.

"Our go-to players inside are Cat (Kraayeveld), 'Dre (Bills) and (Gabrielle Richards) off the bench," Smith said. "We have a very talented group at post. The game is won in the paint — on a pass or with penetration."

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DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Cathrine Kraayeveld scored 14 points against Portland Friday at McArthur Court.

## Kent: Work on basketball skills paid off

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After excelling for the Oregon track and field team in 2003, Kent is still playing catch-up to the rest of his basketball teammates in terms of technique and offensive capability. The Eugene native redshirted from track in 2004 to focus on basketball. After shooting just 30 percent from the floor as a freshman, Kent said things are coming easier to him after months of hard work.

"I'm a lot more comfortable,"

Kent said. "Things just seem to be really slowing down for me. I'm having a lot more fun out there, but that's due to all the work I put in during the spring and summer. It's still not there yet, but tonight definitely helped."

Kent's father, Oregon head coach Ernie Kent, said he was impressed with his son's ability to shoot the basketball while maintaining his signature defensive pressure.

"I thought Jordan brought tremendous energy to the floor,"

Ernie Kent said. "Maybe this is an opportunity for him to gain some confidence and move forward."

After eclipsing his previous career high of nine points, Kent said he knows he's more than just an athlete.

"I don't mind being a basketball player that is an athlete," Kent said. "Hopefully, I can get that label as a basketball player, but it's not important to me. I know what I bring to the game."

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## Harmon: Muddy course proves adventurous

Continued from page 9A

Harmon and the other runners were forced to clomp through a sloppy trail, as the all-grass course received a downpour Sunday night.

Harmon, who described the mud-laden course as "fun and swampy," didn't see any negatives about the damp grounds.

"I never had any major problems with the footing," she said. "Everybody had to deal with the weather,

and I tried to look at the course early to see where the messy parts were so I could try and avoid the problem areas." Mason said Harmon took advantage of the muddy conditions.

"Beforehand, we had targeted certain parts of the course," said Mason. "She made (the mud) into a positive."

Harmon and Mason's trip started off a bit rocky as their flight from Eugene was canceled Saturday morning due to fog. Instead of landing in Indianapolis

in the evening, the duo didn't get there until almost 1 a.m. Sunday.

Overall, Colorado pulled off the upset of the day, easily winning the women's team title over favorites Duke and Stanford. The Buffaloes scored 63 points, placing all five of their scoring runners in the top-22.

Colorado swept the competition, winning the men's 8K as well. The male squad won a thriller, knocking off No. 1 ranked Wisconsin 90-94.

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