

■ In my opinion



CLAYTON JONES  
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

## NFL games fail to meet Turkey Day expectations

I used to love to watch Turkey Day football.

I used to love watching the Dallas Cowboys and Detroit Lions play against other teams in what were usually good ball games to at least get my mind off eating way too much turkey, stuffing and having to mingle with distant relatives.

I sat in my apartment (this year was a stay-at-home Thanksgiving for me), eager to view some spectacular football with our own Joey Harrington playing against the touchdown-passing machine that is Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts.

Even the Cowboys playing the Chicago Bears interested me with two brothers, Julius and Thomas Jones, each running backs, playing against each other on this day of thanks.

Well thanks for nothing, NFL.

The most excitement I got was from seeing whether Manning was going to throw for 10 touchdowns in one game against the Lions' terrible defense.

The Lions got torched all game and Manning looked as though he could tell what the defense was going to do before the defense knew.

My train of thought as a defensive coach after a quarterback has tossed four first-half touchdown passes: Maybe they're going to keep throwing the ball in the second half. I guess that didn't cross the mind of the Detroit defense.

Something looked all too familiar during this game as well. An Oregon quarterback not being able to succeed due to bad protection, with the weapons around him being injured most of the season.

Hmmm... where have I seen this before?

Oh right, this year's Oregon football team and Kellen Clemens.

Harrington has battled through the injuries of wide receiver Demetrius ... uh I mean Roy Williams and was without the services of running back Kevin Jones most of this season. He also lost Charles Rogers (again) for the season.

It's something Clemens dealt with all season — something Harrington never had to deal with in such a dramatic fashion while at Oregon — with nagging injuries to Demetrius Williams and Tim Day that crippled the passing attack.

Enough grumbling about Oregon football; back to bashing the Thanksgiving football that was shoved on my plate like an overcooked turkey with burned stuffing, heels of bread and lumpy mashed potatoes.

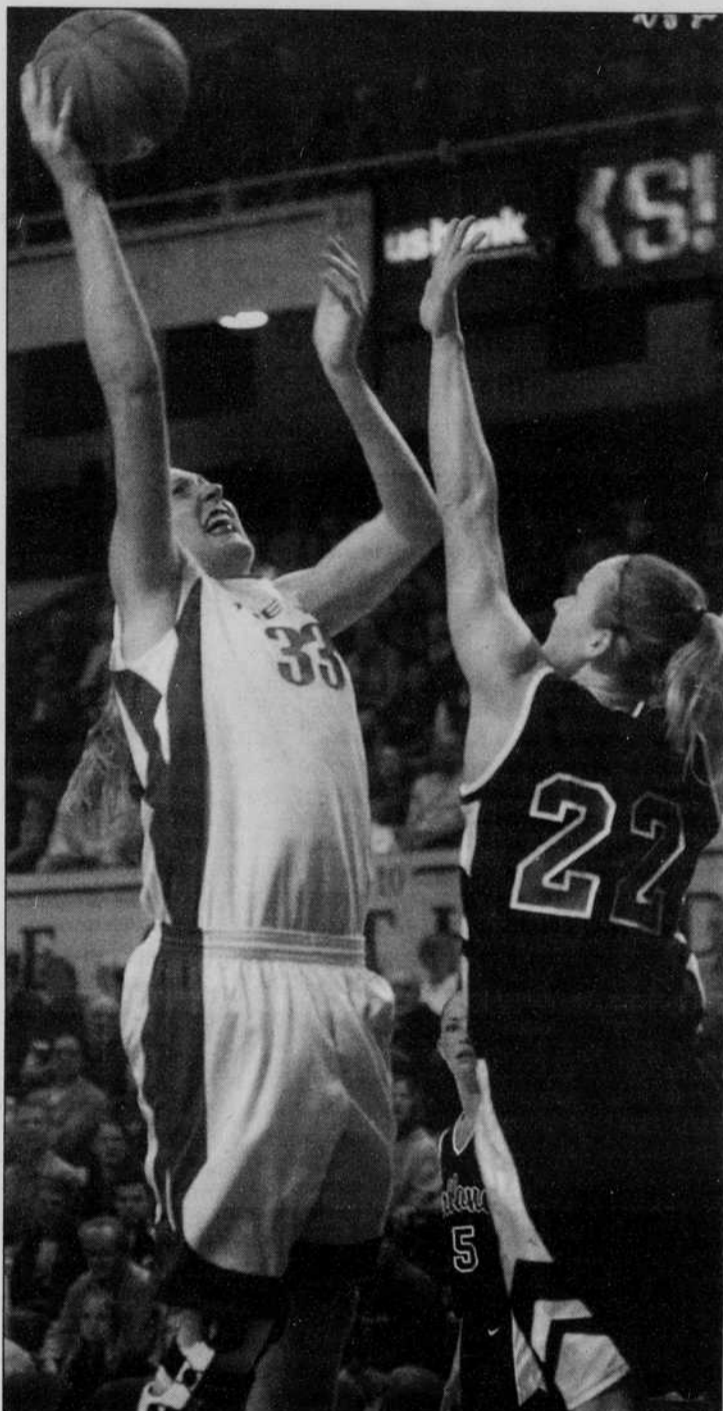
While the first game at least gave me something to watch with Manning and Harrington (before he got pulled), the second game quite honestly might have been the most boring NFL contest I have ever seen.

Dallas and Chicago were both offensively challenged, and that's being nice about it. Watching Dallas quarterback Drew Henson, who hadn't played in a game for about four years, was terrible. The Chicago offense

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■ Women's basketball

## Oregon wins tourney in Brooklyn



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon senior forward Cathrine Kraayeveld, seen here earlier this season, scored 28 points during two games in the Long Island University Turkey Classic.

The Ducks edged Miami and routed hosting LIU to win the Long Island University Turkey Classic

BY BRIAN SMITH  
SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon women's basketball team made its first-ever trip to New York during the weekend and came away with two victories and a tournament title to show for the journey.

Oregon outlasted Miami 79-73 on Friday and dominated Long Island 68-50 on Saturday to claim the trophy at the Long Island University Turkey Classic, held at the Schwartz Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Ducks remain unbeaten early in the 2004-05 season, improving their record to 4-0.

More importantly, Oregon proved they can win on the road, something they struggled with last year, compiling a 3-9 record away from McArthur Court.

Oregon forward Cathrine Kraayeveld was named the tournament's MVP. For the two games, Kraayeveld scored 28 points and collected 18 rebounds.

For Kraayeveld, it was her fifth-straight MVP honor, starting with the 2002 Women's NIT, which Oregon won.

"We wanted to come in and get two wins and just play consistently and I think we did that," Kraayeveld said. "It's different coming out to the East Coast ... it's a little different style than we're used to"

Along with her 28 points, the senior also added seven assists, five steals and three blocks.

"She's not just a scorer, but a player at both ends," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "That's the difference between a good player who's one dimensional and a great player. She gets out on the lane and runs, she's good defensively and just makes us better on both ends."

### Ducks shut down LIU in title game

Defense, something the Ducks have been preaching all year as the starting point for the team, helped Oregon get a big lead early against the Blackbirds and never look back.

After giving up a three-pointer to Long Island's Amber Wirth to start the game, the Ducks clamped down on defense, igniting a 19-2 run before the 10-minute mark in the first half.

"Defensively, we had much greater intensity for the whole 40 minutes," Smith said. "We got 12 steals and they turned into transition points for us. I thought we did that as well as we ever have, as far as running the floor and taking advantage of turnovers."

For the game, the Blackbirds committed 18 turnovers, 12 coming off of Oregon steals.

The Ducks also benefited from hot shooting to begin the game, connecting on seven of their first 10 shots, and finished the half 17 of 26 (65.4 percent).

Junior guard Chelsea Wagner, named to the all-tournament team along with Kraayeveld, drained two three-pointers early to continue her hot shooting from the day before. Wagner finished with 11 points on 4 of 9 shooting.

"She had a great tournament," Smith said. "Chelsea is very defensively solid. She's got great ball pressure, she's great in the passing lanes and is a smart defender. It gives us the opportunity to start a game well and bring that defensive intensity."

The Blackbirds brought the deficit to within 10 just before the half but were unable to get any closer for the rest of the game.

Oregon senior point guard Corrie

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■ Men's basketball

## Ducks steal Herd's thunder, trample Marshall 89-69

Oregon jumps out to an early lead behind Bryce Taylor's stellar shooting and never looks back

BY JON ROETMAN  
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon men's basketball team passed its first road test of the season with flying colors.

The Ducks put on a three-point shooting display Saturday and defeated Marshall 89-69 at the Charleston Civic Center in Charleston, W.Va.

Oregon (3-0) knocked down 13 of 21 from behind the arc and was in control from the opening tip. The Ducks led by as many as 25 points, en route to their highest offensive output of the season.

"This group has the makings of something special," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent told 590 KUGN after the game. "They're young and they're playing at such a high level. The key is to keep them there and to keep their confidence high."

Freshman guard Bryce Taylor finished with a team-high 18 points and knocked down 4 of 6 from three-point range. The Encino, Calif., native sparked Oregon to an early 14-3 lead by connecting on a trio of three-pointers during the game's first five minutes.

"People got a chance to see what a fantastic scorer and offensive player he is," Kent said.

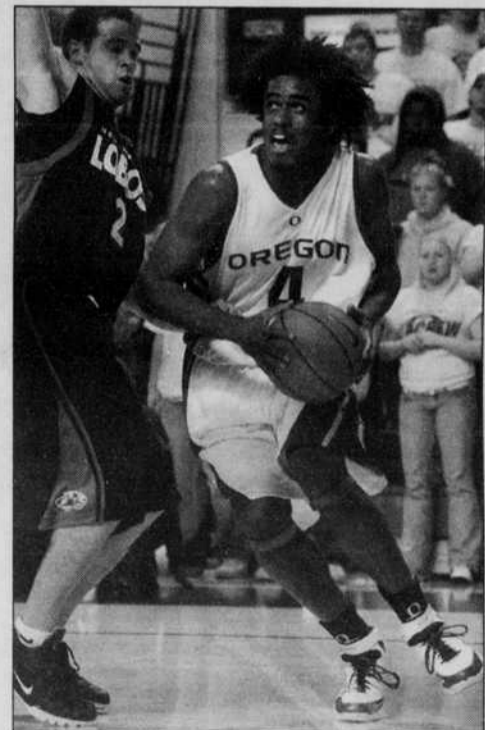
Taylor was one of five Ducks to reach double figures in scoring, including Aaron Brooks (16), Malik Hairston (15), Ian Crosswhite (13) and Chamberlain Oguchi (11).

Oguchi's performance was impressive in its own right. After sitting on the bench for most of Oregon's three contests, the freshman from Houston connected on 3 of 5 three-pointers in just 12 minutes.

"Chamberlain Oguchi showed just how well he can shoot," Kent said.

Along with a balanced scoring attack, Oregon showed off its depth as nine Ducks played double-figure minutes. The Ducks' ability to stay fresh was key early in the second half

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ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman guard Bryce Taylor, seen earlier this season, helped Oregon defeat Marshall 89-69 Saturday in Charleston, W. Va with his three-point shots