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DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Senior forward Cathrine Kraayeveld has rebounded from injury and infection during her five-year tenure at Oregon. She is averaging 16.1 points per game this season.

Leader on the rebound

Cathrine Kraayeveld has bounced back from injuries to become one of the Ducks' strongest weapons

BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

Every time Cathrine Kraayeveld steps inside McArthur Court she feels at home. Even before she walks onto the hardwood, she is eager for another day of fun.

"I love Mac Court," Kraayeveld said. "There's nothing else like it. I enjoy playing here, and I'm glad I've had the opportunity to play here."

The fifth-year senior forward also enjoys playing in Eugene, which she appreciates for its college-town charm.

"Everybody pays attention and the community is very supportive," she said. "They really care about how we're doing on and off the court. It's nice to have people ask how you're doing and show they care."

Kraayeveld has been asked about her health countless times during the past few years. Nine games into her junior season, she contracted a staph

infection in her right knee and was forced to miss 13 games before coming back to play the last five.

Then in the 2003-04 season, after Kraayeveld had already missed more than enough playing time the season before, she tore her anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee during practice. The Pacific-10 Conference granted her a medical redshirt, and she was forced to sit on the bench after playing only five games.

"Injuries happen all the time in sports, and it's unfortunate that it has to happen to anybody," Kraayeveld said. "It sucks to sit on the sidelines for just one game."

Kraayeveld said she was never disappointed that her injury occurred during what seemed to be the peak of her career.

"I was just thinking, 'Let's move on and get this over with,' and go

KRAAYEVELD, page 6B

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