

*"It's a sad situation. We're sorry to see him go, but we can't dwell on Ian's absence. We just have to stick together."*

Oregon guard Aaron Brooks on Ian Crosswhite's dismissal from the team

■ In my opinion



CLAYTON JONES  
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

## Farewell Ian Crosswhite; the next beer's on me

The dismissal of Ian Crosswhite from the men's basketball team has left me in a daze. What happened?

This guy was one of the most popular players on and off the court, and he has descended from an all-conference-type player to a bench player.

Was it the pressure of leading a team?

Last year he was a role player next to stand-out Luke Jackson and seemed to thrive in that position. He got his points and rebounds and seemed content.

This season, with more pressure to contribute every night and to lead a big-man corps anointed by head coach Ernie Kent "the most athletic" since he's been at Oregon, Crosswhite seemed to fade into the background.

His lack of productivity seemed to aggravate everyone from the casual fan to the coaching staff.

But maybe there was too much pressure for him to succeed.

None of that matters now that he's gone.

Quite frankly, he was my favorite player to interview, as he would say whatever was on his mind. He never tap-danced his way around questions. If you got something wrong, he would tell you.

While many say his dismissal is good for the program, I vehemently disagree. He still had another year of eligibility left and there aren't many 7-footers who can shoot the three, dribble to the basket and have a great post-up game like Crosswhite had.

Consistency might have been his worst enemy. While his game would come in good streaks, it would also hit terrible stretches when the only time you realized he was on the floor was when he was turning over the ball.

The team is on the rise and playing better, but if the real Ian Crosswhite was present — the one who trained all summer to slim down and be in shape — it would be that much better.

So Ian, your game on the court will be missed, and I only wish the best for you.

I will never forget seeing you at Rennie's one night after an interview, drinking straight from a pitcher of beer. You gave me a smile and a nod, and we chatted for a bit.

I remember seeing fans with T-shirts bearing photos of you preparing to do a keg stand and the phrase "Crosswhite: Australian for Final Four."

People see you playing fetch with your yellow lab on the grass fields behind Mac Court, as it is hard to miss a 7-foot man throwing a ball to dogs.

These are the little things people don't see in box scores or in a scouting report. These are the things that make you so personable and well-liked in this community.

Scouts will call you soft on defense or say something else about your inability to rebound well for your size, but they don't see the man off the court that University students love.

Sure this year has been tough, and obviously

JONES, page 10

# Crosswhite dismissed from team

*A week after being suspended indefinitely for a policy violation, the junior is permanently let go*

BY JON ROETMAN  
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

Ian Crosswhite's career as an Oregon basketball player is over.

The junior forward was permanently dismissed from the men's basketball team for a violation of Athletics Department policy, head coach Ernie Kent announced Tuesday.

Crosswhite had been suspended indefinitely from games and practices since last Wednesday.

Kent added that Crosswhite will retain his scholarship through graduation. The Castlegar, Australia, native, who redshirted during the 2001-02 season, is majoring in political science and is on pace to graduate in summer.

"It's disappointing from the fact that you spend an enormous amount of time and energy with one player, developing and

bringing him along, hoping he would have the opportunity to grow and have some success here," Kent said. "We had some goals set for him this year and certainly next year that I thought were attainable for him."

Attempts to contact Crosswhite by e-mail were not immediately returned.

Crosswhite averaged 8.4 points and 5.7 rebounds per game this season and started 17 of 19 games. His numbers declined to 5.5 points and 5.2 rebounds per game during Pacific-10 Conference play. His best game of the season came Dec. 4, when he scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds during a 75-65 win against Vanderbilt at the Papé Jam in Portland.

Crosswhite's departure leaves Oregon with only two juniors —

Brandon Lincoln and Matt Short — to helm the young team. The team's lineup, which has included more playing time for the likes of Chamberlain Oguchi and Adam Zahn, has been much shorter and quicker in the 7-footer's absence.

"We've all seen this as an opportunity to step up," Zahn said. "(Crosswhite) is a great player and a great leader and we need to come in and fill his shoes."

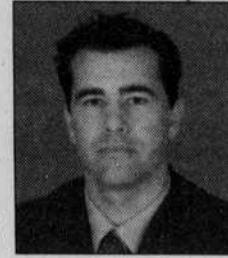
Kent said the team will look to recruit a junior college player who could step in and contribute immediately next season, rather than look for a young player who would have to sit and wait behind all of the Ducks' talented young players.

"If we find the right kind of fit we will go and do something," Kent said. "Otherwise we will

continue to develop what we have and come back and be a much stronger basketball team regardless next year."

When at the top of his game, Crosswhite could knock down perimeter shots, create his own shot inside and beat defenders his size off the dribble.

A scouting report on ESPN.com said Crosswhite is "one of the best low-post scorers in the nation" and "has an excellent chance at developing into a NBA player."



IAN CROSSWHITE  
JUNIOR FORWARD

For his career, Crosswhite played in 83 games, scored 856 points and grabbed 389 rebounds, averaging 10.3 points and 4.7 rebounds per contest. His 57 career blocked shots ties him with Jerry Adams for seventh all-time on Oregon's career list.

jonroetman@dailyemerald.com

■ Outdoor recreation

## Ice climbing gains local popularity

*The sport is becoming a seasonal favorite for local climbers and students*

BY ASHLEY GRIFFIN  
OUTDOOR RECREATION REPORTER

In a town where community interest in rock climbing is as apparent as the popularity of the Yankees in New York, a variation of the sport is gaining ground.

That variation comes in the form of a chilly endeavor known as ice climbing. Many area rock climbers turn to ice for variety, a bit of fun or a new challenge. Others are attempting to broaden their mountaineering skills and become more competent on mountain routes in cold weather.

"Usually the way people get into ice climbing is that they get into rock climbing and then learn the beauty of the ice," Michael Strong, director of Outdoor Pursuits and instructor of the OP ice climbing class, said.

The two sports do have their similarities. Both require a sense of balance and the ability to move on a vertical plane.

"Rock climbing and ice climbing have some things in common in terms of balance and movement, but other than the gymnastic part they are quite different," well-known mountain guide and ice climber Jim Frankenfield said.

Some of the differences are fairly obvious — one is on rock, the other on ice — but others aren't as apparent. Take, for instance, the types of balance they require.

"The neat thing about ice climbing from a balance perspective is that ice climbers are creating their own balance by the way they put the ice holds into the ice," Strong said, who has been ice climbing for



COURTESY | TINO VILLANUEVA

Oregon junior Tino Villanueva climbs the ice at Mount Hood in February. Mount Hood is one of several hotspots for the sport nationwide, and is a big draw for local ice climbers.

23 years.

According to Frankenfield, another difference is in the level of each sport's difficulty.

"Ice climbing is more challenging in terms of placing protection points and also because the medium is never quite the same," Frankenfield said. "One route can be very different in different conditions, which isn't true of rock."

Still, many climbers recommend learning the basics by starting with rock climbing. Ice climbing prospects should also get proper instruction, learn about anchor placement and start slowly with a more experienced person. Those interested in climbing can take a class, a guided expedition with a group like Timberline Mountain Guides in Bend



COURTESY | TINO VILLANUEVA

(<http://www.timberlinemountainguides.com>) or a one-on-one tutorial with an experienced ice climber.

"One could certainly go straight into ice climbing, but

proficient rope work is fundamental for safety, particularly with all the sharp, pointy equipment involved in ice climbing," five-year ice climber and

ICE CLIMBING, page 10