

DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon's Adrian Stelly, seen here driving the ball against Portland, has seen action in four games this year as the team's lone walk-on player.

## A walk-on THE PIT

*Adrian Stelly made his walk-on debut in 2002 and has provided strong defense in team practices*

BY CLAYTON JONES  
SPORTS EDITOR

Putting on an Oregon uniform, seeing your name stitched on the back and playing basketball at the historic McArthur Court means a lot for any player.

For Adrian Stelly, a walk-on who worked with the McArthur Court maintenance crew two years ago moving baskets and sweeping floors, it's a thrill.

"When I first got my jersey, I looked at the back where my name was stitched on and smiled," Stelly said. "It was real nice to see that."

While the sophomore hasn't seen more than 10 minutes on the court or scored a single point in his two years with the team, his presence is felt during practice.

"Stelly gives me fits every time in practice," starting point guard Aaron Brooks said. "He comes in and makes guys work real hard, and he's a great player."

"I think he's the No. 1 walk-on in the country."

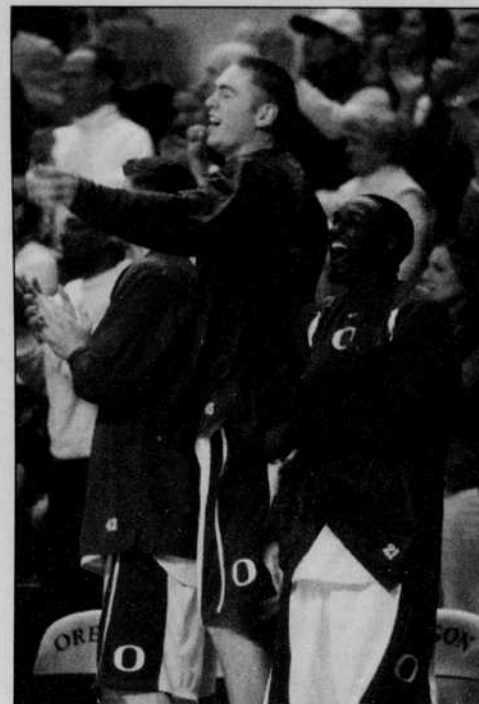
Teammate and fellow Portland Interscholastic League grad Brandon Lincoln said the effort Stelly brings on the court keeps the team honest when preparing for an opponent.

"He keeps us accountable on walk-throughs and scout teams," the Jefferson graduate said. "He is constantly harassing the ball in practice and plays tenacious defense. He brings a lot of energy and is a pest on defense, always reaching and making sure we are keeping a good hold of the ball."

While Stelly currently lives in Eugene, his story begins halfway around the world in Italy.

Stelly was born in Naples, where his father, George, worked with computers for the military. His family lived in Italy for two years before relocating to Portland.

His parents divorced soon after, and he went to live with his mother. When she later met Troy Berry, then an assistant coach at Benson High School, Stelly got seriously into basketball for the first time.



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Adrian Stelly, right, shares a laugh with Ray Schafer earlier this season. Before coming to Oregon, Stelly played at state powerhouse Benson High School.

"While (Berry) was coaching at Benson, I was a ball boy there," Stelly said. "That is how me and Brandon (Lincoln) know each other. Back then, his brother played for Benson, and we used to hang out when we were little."

Even with all his connections, Stelly got a late start into organized basketball.

"In middle school, I wanted to play on a team, but our school was so small we didn't have one," Stelly said. "There really wasn't an opportunity for me to play, so when that opportunity arose, I took it."

That opportunity arrived at one of the best high school basketball programs in the state. He played on the Benson freshman team his first year, the junior-varsity team his sophomore year, and he split time between the JV

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### Women's basketball

## Oregon looks to sweep Stanford

*The Ducks upset the now-No. 3 Cardinal for one of only two Stanford losses on the season*

BY STEPHEN MILLER  
SPORTS REPORTER

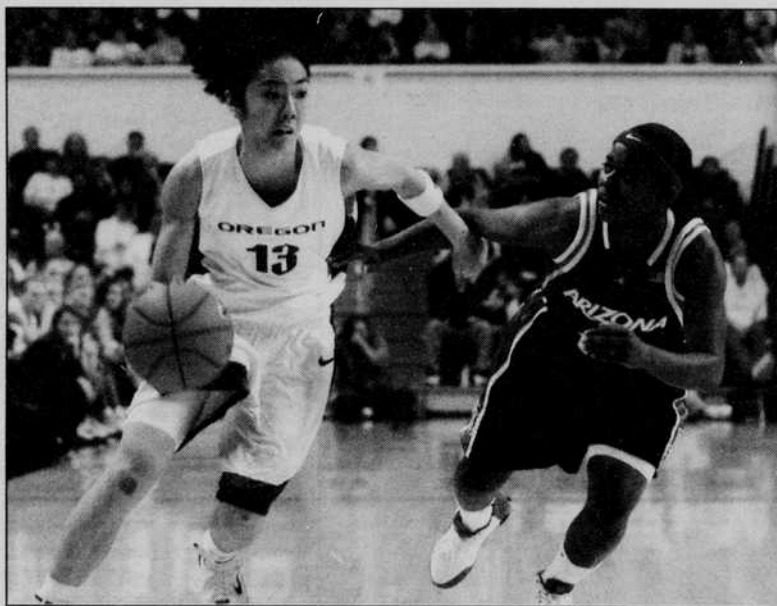
Almost two months ago, something very unusual happened to the Stanford women's basketball team. It lost.

In its second game of the conference season, the Cardinal dropped a shocker to the Ducks — its only loss to a Pacific-10 Conference opponent this season. Since that time, the No. 3 Cardinal has won 15 straight contests.

The Ducks' 62-58 victory at McArthur Court allowed them to be the only team — other than Stanford (24-2 overall, 15-1 Pac-10) — to go undefeated at home in Pac-10 play this season.

This time around, the Ducks (18-7, 11-5) pay a visit to Maples Pavilion — where they are 1-17 all-time — with the weight of a 2-5 road record against Pac-10 teams resting on their shoulders.

"We're really excited to get down to their house and see if we've improved over the season," Oregon freshman Gabrielle Richards said. "The weekend here against



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the Arizona schools has just given us the extra encouragement to go out and finish the season strong."

The Ducks snuck into second place in the conference by defeating Arizona State and Arizona last week, and they are now fighting off the competition to secure the second seed

in the Pac-10 Tournament and an NCAA Tournament berth.

"I don't think our team feels comfortable at all," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "Our team is still hungry to make sure we do

Senior point guard Corrie Mizusawa, a Bay Area native, hopes to help Oregon close out its season with a pair of wins against Stanford and California.

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### Men's basketball

## A rut in the mud should be overcome next season

*Ernie Kent equated his young Ducks' current playing styles to that of a freshman Luke Ridnour*

BY JON ROETMAN  
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

Former Oregon guard Anthony Lever approached Ernie Kent after the Ducks' 92-67 loss to Arizona last Thursday at the McKale Center.

After watching the youthful Ducks struggle to execute in transition, Lever said to his old head coach, "It looks like they're stuck in the mud."

Kent agreed that his team wasn't running the floor with the efficiency needed for his style of offense to be effective. But Kent also reminded Lever that he too looked like he was "stuck in the mud" when he first transferred to Oregon

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