

Webfoots Face Cal, Stanford

PCC Fate Hinges On Final Contests

The possible fate of the Pacific Coast Conference basketball championship on the block, Oregon and California square off tonight at Berkeley in the opening game of the Webfoots' season-ending trip.

Saturday night Steve Belko's Ducks travel to Palo Alto to meet Stanford's Indians. Both games start at 8:00 p.m.

The Bears, current leaders in the tight PCC hoop race, must win tonight's game to assure themselves of at least a tie for the crown. Oregon State, hot on Cal's heels, carries an 11-3 record into its final two games of the year.



WIMP HASTINGS
Plays Final Oregon Game

But if the Ducks play anything like they did the last time the two clubs met, there may be trouble for the Bears. Cal won that one, a 61-60 McArthur Court decision, but they were behind most of the way and it took a desperation basket by UC center Don McIntosh in the last 25 seconds to pull that one out.

Cal's low-scoring strategy, which has worked to near-perfection throughout most of the season, relies heavily on its guards, Earl Robinson and Al Buch. The backcourt pair simply hold onto the ball until they see an opening; then fire away.

Much of Oregon's success in that first Cal game came from the brilliant play of Webfoot guards Chuck Rask and Bud Kuykendall. Most observers felt that the Duck pair outshined the Bear backcourt duo and that was the big reason for the close score.

Oregon defeated Stanford in their first meeting at McArthur Court, but the Indians figure to be much tougher on their home floor. What's more, they've won their last four PCC contests including a big one over UCLA.

Oregon is currently tied with Washington for the seventh place in the conference standings with 5-9 records. Stanford, just a notch ahead, carries a 6-9 record. Saturday's contest will be a battle for sixth place, whether Oregon wins Friday night's game or not.

Both squads still have a chance to overtake Southern California for fifth place, although the Ducks would have to win both of their tussles while the Trojans lost their final contest.

Comparative team records through March 1 games show Oregon to be the strongest team offensively of the three, while California is the defensive leader.

Team Scoring averages: Oregon (62.9); California (59.3); and Stanford (57.3).

Team defensive averages: California (53.9); Stanford (59.3); and Oregon (67.1).

Charlie Franklin, Oregon agile forward needs only eight points



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to top the all-time University career scoring record of 1073 set by Bob Hamilton in the 1943-45 seasons.

Belko will probably start Franklin and Dale Herron at forwards; Hal Duffy at center; and Rask and Kuykendall at guards. Making the trip will be guard Wimp Hastings who returned to the squad last week after a long stay on the injured list.

Missing will be Jerry Anderson, who has a fractured left hand.

Franklin, Duffy, Hastings and center Paul Tucharth will be playing in their final

Oregon needs one victory in these final two clashes to finish the season above the .500 mark. On the strength of a 7-1 pre-conference record, the Webfoots now have won 12 games and lost 10.

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