

Ducks travel north—face Idaho, WSU

Faced with the job of keeping one of the Northwest's top college basketball records intact, Oregon's varsity basketballers embark on a three game road tour into Idaho, Washington and Portland before returning home a week from Saturday.

Tonight the Ducks will be at Moscow, Idaho, facing a new and interesting Idaho Vandal quintet.

THE VANDALS finished next to last in the now defunct Pacific Coast Conference last year when they posted a 6-10 record. Only Washington State and the Ducks were below them.

This year the Moscovites will be interesting to watch in more than one respect.

Last years starting five, for one thing, is largely depleted, with the guard Waylen Coleman, Jon Liveious, B. J. Schaeffer and big Jim Prestel gone from the ranks.

GONE ALSO is colorful Harlan Hodges, whose basketball productions, although not always winning, were always among the most colorful on the coast.

In Hodges' place at the Vandal school is Dave Strack, a man with plenty of ideas himself. Strack's job will be largely a rebuilding one this year with four fine starters gone from last year's 11-15 club.

Brightest hopes on the Moscow campus center around two active young guards, sophomore Gary Floan and a reserve from last year, Joe King.

THE DUCKS dropped both contests to the Vandals last year, bowing 64-58 at Mac Court and 81-75 at Moscow.

So far in the campaign the Vandals have shown spurts of real class bouncing back from a close early season loss to Portland's dangerous Pilots to route the same Portland club 63-45 in the Far West Classic.

Also in the tourney, the Vandal's bowed to eventual winner, host Oregon State, by one slim point, 49-48.

The Vandals are far from a polished crew yet have shown sparks of real promise and must always be considered dangerous at home.

SATURDAY EVENING the Ducks travel ten miles across the border into Cougar country to engage Washington States potent crew for the third time this year.

Both previous encounters have resulted in resounding wins for the Ducks, 62-48 last Monday

night at Mac Court and 63-48 in the Far West Classic at Corvallis three weeks ago.

The Cougars finished third in the Classic, edging Idaho by two points.

AS LOCAL FANS discovered last Monday at Mac Court, the Cougars are big, not just vertically but horizontally as well. They can be, and were Monday night, a rough team on the boards from time to time.

They are a young squad, big and aggressive. One national sports publication has even gone so far as to pick them as the dark horse candidate to take the honors in the northwest this year.

The biggest reason this prediction has not become a reality so far is that the experience is just not there yet.

GONE FROM LAST YEAR'S 10-16 squad that finished in a cellar tie in the PCC with Oregon, is spark plug guard Jim Ross, the team's high scorer and Mert Kennedy and Dick Axleson.

Make no mistakes about it though. The Cougars are bigger this year and should be tougher on the boards than anything the Ducks faced last year from Pullman.

The Cougar starters will probably be Dwight Damon and Terry Ball at guards, 6-5 Frank Reed and 6-6 Charlie Sells at forwards and 6-7 John Marris, a two year letterman, at center.

SELLS, the teams leading scorer, evening in 11 points Monday evening and Reed, his 6-5 running mate, banked 10.

This will be the same five that the Cougars started against the Ducks in the last two encounters. It's a big squad scaling 6-5 on the starting rank.

The records, if at all reliable should promise an easy Oregon win. This may not be the case. The advantage of experience and home court surroundings are riding in the Cougars' favor.

OTHER BOYS to watch on this Cougar club are 6-6 sophomore Bill McKenzie, who two years ago led Grant High of Portland to the Oregon State A-1 finals here at Eugene, and 5-9 Nick August, flashy junior guard.

Coach Steve Bilko takes a reasonably healthy Webfoot squad on its third road trip of the season, the only big question mark being star center Glenn Moore.

There's a good chance the Klamath Falls sophomore may start tonight against the Vandals but no promises of how much and how well are in the offing at the moment.

THE REST of the squad travels intact. The forwards: Dale Herron and Charlie Warren, with

Stu Robertson and Bill Simmons filling in frequently; the guards: Denny Strickland and capt. Chuck Rask, with assist from Butch Kimpton.

Also making the trip will be forward Jerry Anderson, center Wally Knecht and guards Leon Hayes and Jim Granata.

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OREGON'S LANKY (6-5) guard Denny Strickland aims a careful eye toward the bucket in anticipation of tonight's opening road encounter with Idaho's dangerous Vandals. Strickland carries a 9 point per game scoring average into tonight's contest.

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the coast meet last year, but missed competing because of an injury. He is in fine shape for tomorrow, however.

BESIDES WILSON, at 147 pounds the Ducks have a good man in Don Hoiness who gained a third in last year's PCI tourney.

Both the Ducks and Beavers are sending some outstanding freshman wrestlers to Mac Court. The Ducks have Layton Ferguson, last year's 147 pound state champ, wrestling at 157 and Steve Barnett who won the Northern California heavyweight title. Mike Streeter at 167 pounds is another top-flight frosh grappler.

The OSC Rooks have entered two former high school champions. They are Doug Rambo at 157 and Bob Stiles at 191.

ALL IN ALL, Saturday's action will feature plenty of tough, exciting matches with the large number of champions and near-champions that are competing. Toughest competition will probably occur in the 130, 147, 167, and heavyweight divisions where there are many grapplers of outstanding merit.

... More news on Sooner hassle

Nebraska football coach Bill Jennings, a former Oklahoma assistant, has refused to comment on charges that he "blew the whistle" on a special fund for Oklahoma football players.

Yesterday Oklahoma was put on indefinite probation by the National Collegiate Athletic Association because of the fund. The NCAA says the probation will stand until accounts of the fund are produced.

THE FUND was administered by Arthur Wood, an accountant in Oklahoma City. Wood has absolutely refused to surrender his records to either the University or NCAA officials. Wood said he

would not show the records for various internal revenue reasons.

The accountant said yesterday that Jennings knew of the fund and must have reported it to the NCAA. In New York, NCAA secretary Walter Byers commented that Jennings, "has given testimony to the council and we have heard both sides of the case."

Jennings told newsmen, "I have said and will say nothing but 'no comment' to anyone."

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