

UO faces USC tonight, UCLA Saturday

Can Ducks beat the Pauley mystique?

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Of the Emerald

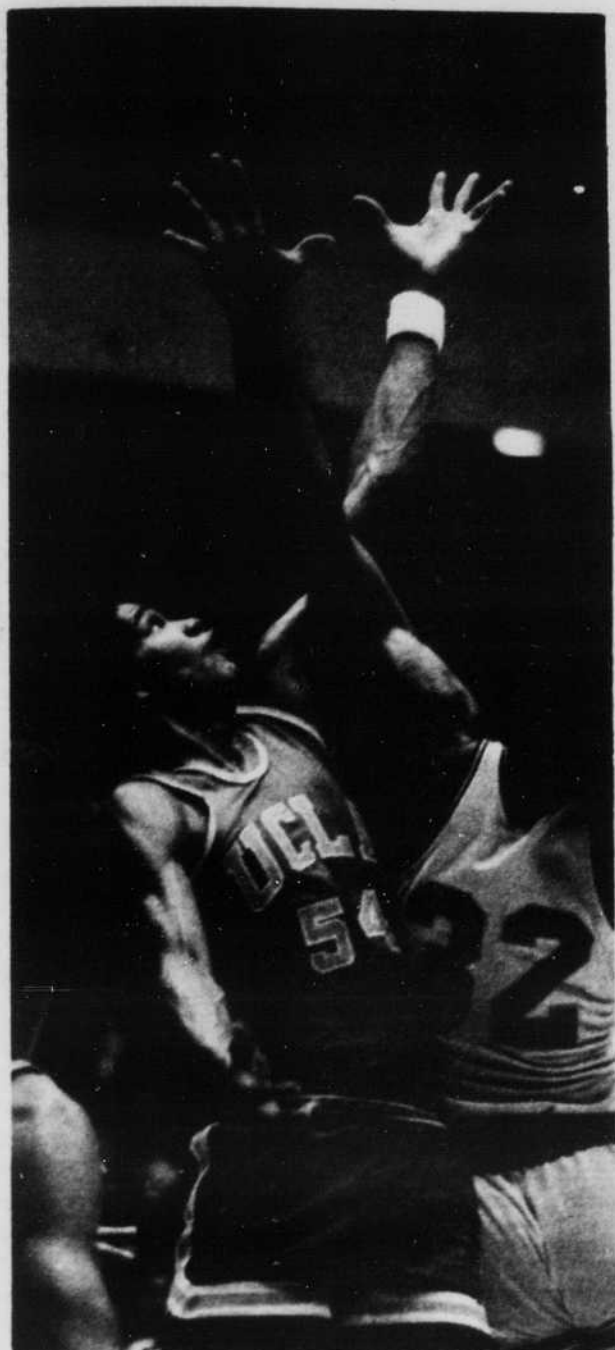


Photo by Greg Clark

UCLA's Marques Johnson is only one of many Bruin assets Oregon will have to deal with when the two clubs meet Saturday night in Los Angeles. The Ducks face USC tonight.

McArthur Court may be the most hated place to play for visiting Pacific-8 teams, but on paper, it can't stand up to UCLA's Pauley Pavilion.

After facing winless USC tonight, the red-hot Ducks (6-3) visit Pauley Saturday night to take on defending national champion and league-leading UCLA (8-1).

Fans won't be breathing down players' necks and frissons won't fill the air, but the 12,800 seat pavilion can be just as intimidating as the Pit. If UCLA beats Oregon State tonight, it will increase their home winning streak to 98 straight games.

Oregon coach Dick Harter believes there is some validity to what has been called "the Pauley Mystique."

"They've always had great players there," said Harter, whose club has never won at USC or at UCLA. "Everybody goes in there knowing about the mystique and the tradition they have at home. They read about it, they think about it and when they walk in there it's difficult to overcome.

"It's tough to win anywhere away from home, but that's the most difficult place to go."

Harter can speak from experience. In his five years of clashing with the Bruins, his Ducks have only been competitive in cozy Mac Court. Oregon came within an eyelash of upsetting UCLA in this season's first conference game, lost just 107-103 last year and won 56-51 in 1974. In 1973, UCLA squeezed out an 11-point win.

In Pauley, however, it's been a different story. In the last four years, the Ducks have lost 99-65, 84-66, 64-38 and 92-70. That's an average spread of 24 points, but the Ducks are taking measures to avoid another embarrassment. Oregon will practice in Pauley Friday night, something they haven't done in previous years.

"We've never had a full-scale practice before in Pauley Pavilion," said assistant coach Dick Stewart. "All we've done is had shooting practice. I think it'll help us to get some bumps and bruises Friday. It'll help us get the feel of the place."

Another thing the Ducks will be doing differently, is playing UCLA with momentum on their side. Oregon is on a seven-game winning streak, just a game behind second place Oregon State and is playing at the peak of its game.

"We're playing about as well as we've played all

year," said Harter.

Stewart thinks there's a new feeling on the team.

"It's been a long time since we've gone to Pauley Pavilion with as much confidence as we have now," he said. "The way we won our games this past weekend—with strong second halves—was really encouraging."

Despite their win streak and new life in the Pac-8, the truth remains that the Bruins always play better in Pauley.

"Remember those foul shots UCLA missed up here?" said Stewart. "The Bruins won't miss them in Pauley."

The Bruins haven't missed much of anything lately. After a slow start which produced three losses and a closet full of hate mail for new coach Gene Bartow, UCLA is back on top. The Bruins have won their last five games, including two conquests over nationally-ranked Washington.

"They're just playing with better intensity," said

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Harter. "They're getting better guard play from Townsend (Ray) and Marques Johnson is getting better with experience."

All-American Richard Washington almost beat the Ducks by himself last month, as he scored 21 points in the first half and helped dominate the boards. Stewart feels, however, the Ducks must do more than just stop Washington.

"There are three things we have got to do," he said. "One, we have to equalize UCLA's rebounding. They'll start Greenwood (freshman Dave) and bring in Ralph Drollinger which gives them an added dimension on the boards. Two, we have to slow down their two forwards (Washington and Johnson). Three, we must control the tempo."

"The key to doing the latter is playing good defense, moving our feet and forcing the bad shot. In order to control the tempo especially on the road we've got to shoot well. We did that in the Bay Area and I hope we can do that this weekend."

That's a lot of things to do well against a team like UCLA, especially in a place like Pauley Pavilion. But, then, the Ducks have been doing a lot of things well everywhere lately.

After 30 sign with Ducks

Read: 'We couldn't be happier'

In what Coach Don Read calls "the best recruiting year we've had in recent years," 30 junior college and high school players signed letters-of-intent Wednesday to play football for Oregon.

"We couldn't be happier," said Read. "A year ago if we could have picked out a dream group, this would have been it. Only one individual we wanted decided to go somewhere else."

The group, which consists of 17 JC transfers and 13 high school players, includes a number of exciting prospects. Three of the JC transfers were All-Americans and three of the high schoolers were All-Staters in Oregon.

"We've got a lot of size, some speed and certainly the caliber of player that will fit into our program," said Read.

Greg Gilchrist, a 6-1, 190 lb. running back from Imperial Valley JC in California, is being counted on to bolster the Ducks' running game. And his stats suggest he might be able to. Gilchrist, a JC All-American, gained 2,367 yards and scored 25 touchdowns last year.

Another JC running back who Oregon Daily Emerald

signed is 5-10, 190 lb. Jim Johnson from Antelope Valley JC in Mojave, Ca. Johnson was named California JC Player of the Year and second team All-American last year.

Craig Feola, a 6-2, 190 lb. defensive back who signed, is said to be the best JC safety in Los Angeles.

Bill Vincent, a 6-3, 200 lb. wide receiver from Cerritos (Ca.) JC had 55 receptions for 907 yards last year.

Top high schoolers include Jeff Wood, a 6-2½, 225 lb. All-State running back from The Dalles High School; Neil Elshire, a 6-6, 220 lb. All-State lineman from South Albany and Darrel Valburg, a 6-3, 220 lb. All-State offensive guard from South Salem.

Also on the list is Clay Henderson, the 6-2, 190 lb. younger brother of Oregon quarterback Jack Henderson.

Of the 30 signed, all but two came from California, Washington or Oregon.

Fifteen are offensive performers, eight are defensive

specialists, six can go either way and one is a kicker.

"I'm proud of our recruiting effort on the part of our coaches, players and the community," said Read. "President Boyd was instrumental in helping us secure so many top student-athletes. He is one fine man and we at Oregon are most fortunate that he is our president."

Junior College Transfers

Don McClain, 6-3, 205, DE, College of the Canyons; Jim Johnson, 5-10, 190, RB, Antelope Valley JC, Mojave, Ca.; Bill Vincent, 6-3, 200, WR, Cerritos (Ca.) JC; Greg Eastburn, 6-2, 240, DT, College of the Canyons; Dale Kaminski, 6-7, 235, DT, Everett (Wa.) JC; David Haynes, 6-1, 175, DB, Grossmont (Ca.) JC; Dennis Bullock, 6-2, 185, WR-RB, Ellsworth (Iowa) JC; Larry Williams, 6-3, 210, DE, Henderson (Texas) JC; Greg Nair, 6-1, 190, RB, Monterey Peninsula (Ca.) JC; Frank Lovero, 6-3½, 250, OL, College of the Sequoias; Mike Hogan, 6-4, 240, OG-OT, Fullerton (Ca.) JC; John Gragg, 6-4, 235, TE, Los Angeles Valley College; Tim Beyer, 6-3, 215, LB, Clackamas JC; Roy Geiger, 6-2, 175, K, Mt. Hood CC; Steve Kleffner, 6-2, 225, C, Mt. Hood CC; Pete Laughlin, 6-7, 260, OT, Laney JC; Craig Feola, 6-2, 190, DB, Fullerton (Ca.) JC; Greg Gilchrist, 6-1, 190, RB, Imperial Valley (Ca.) JC.

High School

Dale Jones, 6-3, 235, LB-DT, Sehome HS, Bellingham, Wa.; Curtis Jackson, 6-2, 170, WR, Boise (Id.) HS; Steve Greatwood, 6-4, 215, OG, Churchill HS; Darrel Valburg, 6-3, 220, OG, South Salem HS; Terry Dion, 6-5, 220, DE, Auburn (Wa.) HS; Pat McDougal, 6-5, 225, TE, Enumclaw (Wa.) HS; Jon Teague, 6-3, 225, TE, Madison HS; Neil Elshire, 6-6, 220, OT-DT, South Albany HS; Steve Nado, 6-6½, 220, OT-DT, Central Catholic HS; Kevin McGill, 6-7, 240, QB, Clatsop HS; Clay Henderson, 6-2, 190, QB, Woodside (Ca.) HS; Jeff Wood, 6-2½, 225, RB, The Dalles HS. (All-State, All-League).

Sportfolio

Lee falls in Pizza poll

Ron Lee may be at the peak of his game but those casting ballots for the Pizza Hut Basketball Classic apparently don't think so.

Lee, fifth in the balloting to make the West team two weeks ago, has slipped to 14th place. Lee has received 44,420 votes, almost 15,000 less than the leader, Iowa State's Hercle Ivy.

UCLA's Andre McCarter, in fourth place, is the top Pacific-8 vote-getter. Washington's Clarence Ramsey is 19th, UCLA's Ralph Drollinger 23rd and Oregon State's Paul Miller 24th.

The top eight vote-getters will be named to each squad to play in the April 5 game which pits the nation's top seniors.

Skiers place high in own event

Oregon's ski team took a first, a pair of thirds and a pair of fourths in the University of Oregon Invitational Ski Meet last weekend at Mt. Bachelor.

Top Oregon placers in each event included: Phil Prodehl, 1st in men's giant slalom; Eloise Carson, 3rd in the women's giant slalom and third in the slalom; Scott Danielson, 10th in men's cross country and Sandy McFarland, 12th in women's cross country.

Schools competing in the event besides Oregon were Central Oregon Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, Oregon State, Washington State, College of Idaho, and College of Siskiyou.

Heiny: 'We can do it'

The Oregon women's gymnastics team has not qualified for the nationals as was reported in Wednesday's *Emerald*. The Ducks scored 98.20 points, .20 above the qualifying standard but the standard must be met at the regional meet March 11-13 in Forest Grove, not in a dual meet.

"Still, it gives us a lot of confidence," said Coach Henriette Heiny. "We know we can do it now."