

emerald sports

Stickers face old foe in tough national test

By CHRIS NORMAN
Of the Emerald

Challenging the nation's titans of field hockey is no easy task, but that's the situation the Oregon field hockey team faces this week.

Oregon, representing the Northwest, is at the USFHA-AIAW National Championships in Valley Forge, Pa., for the second straight year.

Entering the national championships with a 13-3-2 record, the Ducks confront Ursinus today, a Philadelphia-area team that finished second in the nation last year and is seeded number two for this year's tournament.

What will it take to upset Ursinus?

"Realistically, it will take an overwhelming effort," Oregon coach Diane Smith said.

Last year at nationals, Oregon played its first game against Ursinus and lost, 2-0.

"They thought they could walk over us," Smith said, but Oregon stunned Ursinus, playing a strong game and holding the Philadelphia club to its lowest score in the entire tournament.

Ursinus will probably be confident of another victory, but, as Smith said, "I'm sure their coach will remember last time."

Oregon will be no sloucher, though, as it has outscored its opponents this season almost 4 to 1 — 43 goals to 11. It has also racked up 10 shutouts in 13 victories.

The Ducks won't be the only underdog hoping to knock off one of the East Coast schools. The other West Coast teams are in a similar situation.

The Eastern schools are the perennial field hockey champions, as seen by this year's tournament seeding. The top three teams, Westchester State, Ursinus and Lockhaven, are all Philadelphia-area schools. Last year, Westchester State won the national crown.

The Eastern teams dominate field hockey "because of their long exposure to the sport," said Smith.

"The Eastern schools are definitely the powerhouses. They enter hockey in grade school — out here, they're lucky to get one year of (hockey in) high school. The West Coast is new to field hockey."

In its bid for the nationals, Oregon has had to overcome a major obstacle — inexperience.

Besides having only three returning varsity players, Smith, as a rookie coach, had to fill some pretty big cleats of her own after last year's coach, Beckey Sisley, led Oregon to the nationals.

"There was a time when I didn't think we would be able to get it together, but we did," Smith said.

A 13-win season is a testament to the rewards of dedication and hard work that Smith and her team have put into the Oregon field hockey program.

Ducks gear for opener

By STEVE GEIGER
Of the Emerald

The Oregon basketball squad played its third and final pre-season intrasquad game at McArthur Court Tuesday night, and begins preparing today for a Friday home contest against Athleten In Action at 8:05 p.m.

The game against AIA, which is not considered a regular season game, will feature former UCLA center Ralph Drollinger.

The senior trio of Ernie Kent, Greg Ballard and Greg Graham made the difference in last night's game, in which the White team defeated the Green team 67-47.

Kent, Ballard and Graham played for the Green team during the first half and helped it to a 28-24 halftime lead. In the second half, the three put on White jerseys and the Whites outscored the Greens 43-19.

"I thought it was a good ball game, and quite a few people played well," said Head Coach Dick Harter. "We'll find out Friday though, if these intrasquad games did us any good."

During the first eight minutes of the second half, the White team outscored the Green 20-0 to take a commanding 44-28 lead. Kent, Ballard and Graham showed the 5,000 people present who was boss during the rally by scoring 10 of the first 14 points of the half.

Kent opened the half with a jumper from the right, Ballard followed with a free throw and Kent hit another jumper to put the White team into the lead. After center Gary Nelson made

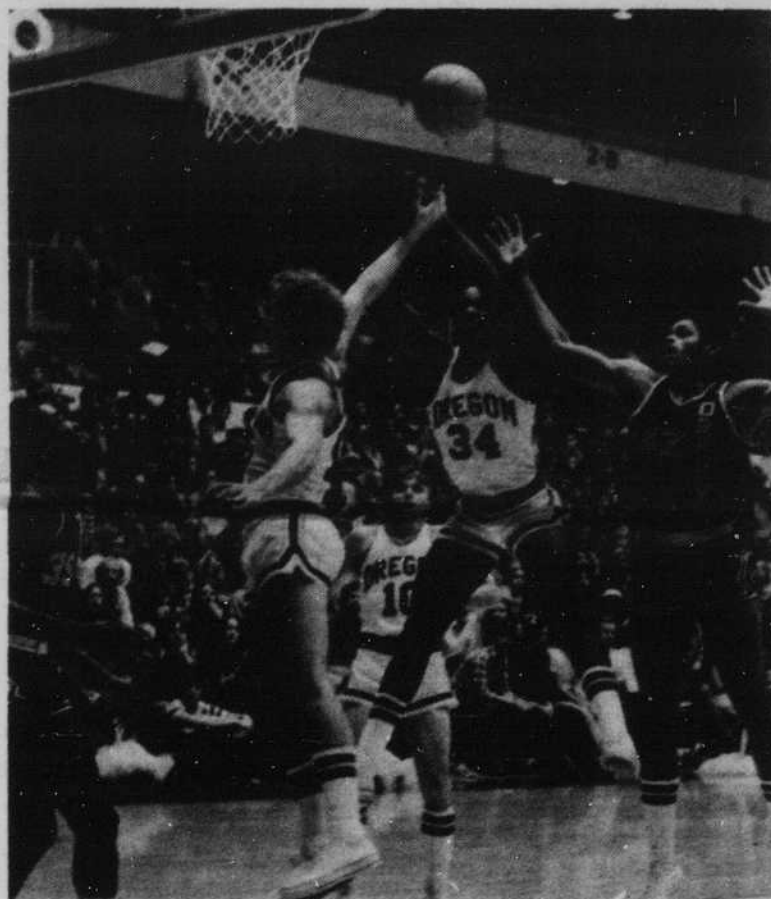


Photo by Mike Baer

Gary Nelson, Danny Mack (34) and Greg Ballard (42) jump for a rebound in first half action of Oregon's final intrasquad game Tuesday night in McArthur Court. Ernie Kent was leading scorer with 17 points in the White team's 67-47 win over the Green team.

a lay-in, Graham made a free throw and Ballard and Kent each hit from the field for a 36-28 White lead. Everything after that was academic.

Kent was the game's high scorer with 17 points as he hit 6 of 10 from the field. Ballard was 6 of 11 for 15 points and pulled down eight rebounds.

Both teams shot well during the game from the field. The Greenteam, led by Kelvin

Small's five-for-seven, finished with a .531 percentage, while the White, led by Nelson's 7 of 12 game and Rob Closs' five-for-eight, shot .518.

Green — 28 19 — 47
White — 24 43 — 67

Green (47) — Small 13, Murray 8, Ballard 8, Kent 8, Wade 2, Graham 2, McCloud 2, Williams 2, Moreck 2, Lamb, Brown.

White (67) — Nelson 16, Closs 12, Kent 9, Ballard 7, Greig 6, Mack 6, Drummond 4, Berhndt 4, Graham 3, Ritchey.

Volleyballers seek sixth national berth

While the rest of the state is enjoying turkey, trimmings and football games, Oregon's women's volleyball team will be trying for a trip to the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) tournament to be held Dec. 9-11 in Austin, Tex.

The Duck women, who will be shooting for their sixth-straight national berth, will start pool play at 5 p.m. Thursday against Montana in the Northwest Collegiate Women's Sports Association (NCWSA) regional qualifying tournament in Monmouth. The top two teams from each of three pools advance to the championship bracket, along with two at-large teams selected from the best of the non-qualifiers in pool play.

From there, the top two teams from the 15-team tourney advance to nationals.

Portland State is the favorite to defend its NCWSA title. The second-place spot is expected to be a battle between Oregon, Washington State and Central Washington. PSU had a 33-0 record in the northwest last year, and the Vikings haven't lost a game this season.

The Ducks, meanwhile, enter the tourney on a seven-game winning streak after defeating Eastern Oregon 3-2 and Southern Oregon 3-0 last weekend. Oregon has a season record of 18-7, with three losses to Portland State. The Ducks are seeded fourth in the tournament behind PSU, WSU and CWSC.

Oregon lost a 3-2 match to WSU earlier in the season and defeated Central Washington once, by a 3-2 score.

After Montana, Oregon plays Eastern Oregon at 9 a.m. Friday, Central Washington (1:30 p.m.) and Oregon College of Education (6 p.m.) The first round of the championship bracket will begin at 8 p.m. Friday with the finals on Saturday.

Cyclocross? Unknown, but...

A real torture test

By MIKE MARINO
Of the Emerald

Picture if you will, 40 or 50 men and women running up, over, around and through man-made sand traps, sagebrush, logs, rock piles, mountains and lava formations. Now if you picture these people with bicycles on their backs, you're beginning to get the idea of Cyclocross.

The sport of Cyclocross originated in Europe 50 years ago and is in fact a bicycle race through an obstacle course. Its popularity in the U.S. is just in its infancy, but the people of Oregon will get a closer look as the second annual U.S. Cyclocross Championships are held this Saturday at Sunriver Resort in Bend.

Terry Green, a fifth year architecture student at Oregon who placed third in October's regionals also held at Sunriver, says half the fun of the sport is not having to take it too seriously. "I have been road racing for five years, and I don't like to be too serious," said Green. "Cyclocross gives me a chance to have fun."

Sponsored by the United States Cycling Federation, Cyclocrossing also involves a lot of risks, not the least of which is destroying bicycles.

"You tend to fall a lot, especially if you try to jump a log on your bike. That can really bend your rim, so you see a lot of riders jumping on their rims to make them at least a little easier to ride on," Green remarked.

The Sunriver course measures .8 of a mile around which the riders must traverse the various obstacles 18 times. "There are obstacles coming up all the time, so one of the keys to winning is how fast you can jump on and off your bike," explained Green.

The Sunriver resort is the headquarters for the event, which will attract the top riders — men and women, from "all over the country."

"It's not only a fun sport to watch, but it's also fun to compete," said Green. "It does require a certain amount of natural ability to ride, and it is pretty tiring, but it sometimes is fun just to bust up a bike."

If all the competitors have the same attitude, this weekend could be very interesting.



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Sportfolio

Hoop, v-ball teams forming

Men's and women's basketball and men's volleyball teams are forming for a number of leagues sponsored by the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department for play starting in January.

The women's basketball league has openings for teams and the team fee to enter the league is \$106. The men's AAU basketball league and church basketball league both need teams. Team fees are \$120 for the AAU League and \$117 for the church league.

Men's volleyball has openings for teams in the major, mid, minor A and minor B leagues. Team fees are \$51 for the major league and \$29 for the mid and minor leagues.

Teams should sign up at the Eugene Parks and Recreation Department office at 858 Pearl St., 4th floor before Wednesday, November 24. For more information call Dave Lipp at 686-5306.

ESP seeks b-ball coaches

The Eugene Sports Program is looking for volunteers to coach junior high and grade school (grades 5-9) basketball teams.

Grades 5-6 start immediately, 7th grade teams start play Dec. 6, and grades 8-9 begin Dec. 20. Some ESCAPE credit is available. For more information, call John Elder (342-7261).

The AP top twenty

1. Pittsburg (39)	10-0-0	1,172	11. Texas A & M	8-2-0	319
2. Michigan (13)	10-1-0	1,050	12. Ohio State	8-2-1	281
3. Southern Cal (7)	9-1-1	1,046	13. Notre Dame	8-2-0	246
4. Georgia (1)	9-1-1	807	14. Colorado	8-3-0	153
5. Maryland (2)	11-0-0	790	15. tie Okla. St.	7-3-0	153
6. UCLA	9-1-1	576	16. Penn State	7-3-0	74
7. Houston	7-2-0	550	17. Rutgers	10-0-0	40
8. Oklahoma	7-2-1	346	18. Alabama	7-3-0	29
9. Texas Tech	8-1-0	333	19. Miss. St.	9-2-0	15
10. Nebraska	7-2-1	323	20. tie No. Car.	9-2-0	15