

Hot hoopers

The Ducks get another title



Oregon's basketball team is back from the gaming grounds of Las Vegas and the sun of Arizona, but the warmth of the trip hasn't left any member of the now 2-1 Ducks.

There's this trophy — nearly a four-foot monster — that sits in the basketball office to remind passers-by how patience pays off.

Coach Dick Harter's new motion offense relies on well-set screens and picks instead of a shoot-em-down running game, and from Oregon's weekend Sun Devil Classic championship, the results look promising.

"It certainly was a good weekend, I'm real pleased with how we played," said Harter Monday afternoon. "It'll be nice to be at home for the next five games."

After a 78-67 season-opening loss to Nevada Las Vegas last Wednesday in a free-for-all that saw the Runnin' Rebels sink 41 of 50 foul shots, the Ducks redeemed themselves in fine fashion at the Classic.

Confidence is running high at the practices in McArthur Court. One player who deserves some credit is 5-8 junior Mike Drummond, who was named to the Classic all-star team along with forward Greg Ballard, the tourney MVP.

"It was a real thrill to be named to the all-star team," smiled Drummond, "but it wasn't anything I consciously tried for. I didn't even know there was such a thing until I found out I was on it."

Drummond always has been deadily from the middle-range just outside the key. According to this year's basketball press guide, the quick guard has never shot under 50 percent from the floor while at Oregon.

But this season, the new offense allows him to shoot a little more, and he's got a hot hand.

"Mike's always been good shooter, and he's learned the new offense quickly," said Harter. "He and GB know what they need to do to get open."

The Ducks are playing a solid team game this season. And, probably because a lot of people counted them out before the season ever began, they're determined to do well this year in spite of losses to graduation and injuries.

"The team's got a serious goal this season," explained Drummond. "We want to win every game in Mac Court and to get a post-season tourney bid somewhere."

That may seem like quite a task for a team with a Pacific-8 schedule to complete, but the Ducks are ready for it. The next five games will reveal a lot about the squad's powers and weaknesses. After that will come the always-tough Far West Classic, which features, in Oregon's bracket, North Carolina and Oral Roberts.

At this point, Harter rates the Ducks as a "dark horse" in the annual Oregon and Oregon State-hosted tourney.

"Oregon State, has some new kids and they went to Hawaii, which always sets you back," remarked Harter. "I'd rate them one of the favorites. And Oral Roberts and North Carolina would have to be the powers."

But the coach could change his mind after the coming home stand against, in order, San Francisco, Cal-State Fullerton, Cal-State LA, Pepperdine and Grambling.

"If we can win these next five and improve every game, we'd be in a very good position," Harter said. "Doing that, I'd say we'd have as good as team as the one we had two years ago going into the Classic."

The Ducks open the Pac-8 season January 7, when they return to the scene of a crime — Pauley Pavilion, where Oregon handed UCLA their only home loss last year with a 65-45 trouncing.

But right now, UCLA is month away. The Kamikaze Kids have evolved into the "motion masters," and the month of December will prove just how good at it they really are.

Hopeful netters head to nationals

After doing as well as could be hoped in the AIAW Northwest Regionals, Oregon's women's volleyball team heads to the National Tournament in Austin, Texas today as a decided underdog with high hopes.

"We did extremely well in the regionals," said Coach Karla Rice. "The team came together and really improved."

The Duck spikers will be thrown right into the thick of the battle Thursday in the tourney's poll play, where they face seventh-ranked La Mar and second-

ranked UCLA.

"We have a chance of getting out of pool play if we play extremely well," said Rice. "I think the key for our success is how good our mental attitude is."

The Ducks are fairly healthy, despite an injury to setter Robyn Minenko. "We'll be using Robyn as an alternate setter," Rice added. "We had to change our set from a 6-3 to a 6-2, when we lost her, but hopefully we can use her this week."

Oregon takes a record of 25-8 to the Nationals, with four of these losses being to Northwest champion Portland State. The Ducks lost the championship to the Vikings 15-8, 15-6, but the fact that they were once ahead 6-2 proves that they can be competitive this week, as PSU is ranked sixth.

"The skills are theirs — the main thing is the mental approach, and how we look at ourselves," said Rice. "We'll have six days of practice to prepare and work to maintain our skills."

The main objective of the present is simply to get out of pool play alive, and should they achieve that the attitude which Rice calls "the best we've had" could make for more than its share of upsets.

**emerald
sports**

Sun Devils rip lethargic UO, 29 - 11

TEMPE, Ariz. — Oregon's wrestlers blew a 9-0 advantage after the first two bouts, dropping a 29-11 dual meet to Arizona State University, here Monday night.

The Ducks were blasted by Oregon coach Ron Finley after the meet which saw Oregon win only one match the whole evening.

"This was probably the worst performance of any team in the history of my coaching career," said Finley. "It seemed like we didn't do anything right on the mat. We just got beat mentally and physically, and there is no reason for that."

Steve Hart defeated Pete Puccio, 6-4 in the 118-pound match-up, and Susumu Hagihara picked-up a forfeit victory in the 126 bout. After that, however, Oregon failed to score until Brian Dunigan salvaged a, 9-9, tie in the heavyweight match.

Finley was disappointed by the whole thing.

"Arizona State is an excellent team," he said, "But we are a long, long way away from where we should be."

Arizona State, 29-11

118 — Steve Hart, UO, dec. Pete Puccio, ASU, 6-4. 126 — Susumu Hagihara, UO, won by forfeit. 134 — Jim Monday, ASU, dec. Randy Robinson, UO, 10-9. 142 — Tim Jeffries, ASU, dec. Scott Bliss, UO, 6-4. 150 — Dave Butts, ASU, dec. Dan Hollembaek, UO, 5-1. 158 — Roy Oliver, ASU, dec. Kevin Kramer, UO, 5-2. 167 — John Maille, ASU, dec. Tim Strobel, UO, 5-3. 177 — Dave Severn, ASU, won by forfeit. 190 — Dan Severn, ASU, dec. Bob Bragg, by disqualification (stalling). Heavyweight — Brian Dunigan, UO, drew. James Mitchell, ASU, 9-9.
Team Score — Arizona State 29, Oregon 11.

Sherrill resigns as WSU coach

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Washington State football Coach Jackie Sherrill, who left the University of Pittsburgh last year, said Monday he will return to coach the top-ranked Pitt Panthers.

Sherrill announced at a news conference that he would succeed Pitt Coach Johnny Majors.

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Sportfolio

Jenkins leads paddlers

PORTLAND — James Jenkins won the class D competition and finished second in class C to lead the Oregon table tennis club in the Sizzler Steak Open last weekend.

Other Oregon players who competed were Jeff Kurtz who lost in the class AA finals to former state champion Carl Cole. Bruce Douglass and his partner lost in the finals of Open Doubles to Jay Crystal and Ed Ng after defeating Kurtz and Bob Ho in the semi-finals.

Locke wins pin tourney

BOISE, ID. — Buster Locke won the singles competition and Dean Vrooman placed second in doubles to lead the Oregon bowling club in the Boise State University Invitational Bowling Tournament last weekend.

The men's team of Locke, Vrooman, Earl Wilson, Allen Edwards and Ray Lopez teamed up to defeat Brigham Young and win the team trophy.

Locke won singles with a 678 total, and Vrooman placed second with 1224. Vrooman's 729 total for the three-game series was the highest ever recorded in the tournament. Shauna Lae rolled a 228 for the tournament's high game for women.

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