

## The holiday's over as Cal, Stanford arrive

By DAN LINDAHL  
Emerald Sports Editor

Winter vacation was anything but a holiday for the Oregon basketball team as it spent considerably more time diving after loose balls and shooting lay-ins than it did huddled around a fire or wolfing down turkey and mincemeat pie.

The vacation was equally absent on the basketball court where Oregon opponents didn't extend much in the way of the holiday spirit, handing the Ducks three losses and two bare wins in eight games.

But if all that seemed bad for Oregon, the worst has yet to begin. Starting tonight when California invades McArthur Court for an 8:05 p.m. tip-off, the party is truly over as Pacific-8 conference play opens.

For the first 12 games, of which Coach Dick Harter's club has won nine, a loss or a win didn't carry half the importance either will once league play begins. The Pacific-8 season is the road to post-season play and Friday's and Saturday's games with Cal and vastly improved Stanford are the first two steps along that 14-stop trek to the NCAA playoffs.

Despite the insight 12 non-league games would be expected to provide, Harter is now as unsure where that trail will end as he was when fall practice opened back in the sunshine of October.

"This is just like the start of the season," shrugged Harter. "We could finish anywhere from first to eighth."

A better bet would be somewhere in between. During a non-league schedule that featured some rejects from a Mel Brooks comedy as well as a couple of toughies, the Ducks demonstrated enough promise to make an upper-division finish seem likely.

California and Stanford, generally considered to be the weakest travelling duo in the league, will give Oregon its first hint of what to expect during its conference travails.

Coach Dick Edward's Cal team has won six of 10 games, including a thrilling one point win over talented San Francisco. Stanford is off to its best start in 14 years (8-3) and has an 86-73 whipping of Colorado State to its credit. Colorado State upended Oregon 61-50 in the first round of the Far West Classic in Portland. The Ducks went on to finish seventh in that tournament.

Harter sees both bay area schools as being very similar and foresees a similar necessary ingredient to be successful against them.

"Both Cal and Stanford are the same. They both like to play at a fast tempo and they both play aggressive and hard," said Harter. "The only time we beat them is when we play harder."

Last season Oregon played harder three of the four meetings, but the lone Duck loss was the most memorable game of all; a five overtime 107-102 Cal victory in Berkeley.

The key to the Golden Bear attack that night was 5-foot-9 guard Gene Ransom. Ransom scored 36 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to almost single-handedly do in the Ducks.

Ransom has been at the top of his game this season, hitting for an average of 19.2 points per game and doling out 4.8 assists per game.

Also playing well for the Bears has been 6-foot-11 center Tom Schneiderjohn. The junior postman is hitting for 11.9 points per outing while grabbing 9.5 rebounds.

While Cal, with 10 lettermen returning, was anticipated to make itself felt in the Pac-8, Stanford was not. But Coach Dick DiBiasi's Cardinals are making believers out of the rest of the league, riding the play of sophomore Kimberly Belton (15.9 point average) to eight wins, including a convincing 76-61 upset of nationally powerful Providence.

Along with Belton, the Cardinals have been receiving balanced scoring from Mark Pitchford (11.9), Jay Carter (11.1) and Jeff McHugh (11.0). Carter and McHugh are both lettermen, but Pitchford is just a freshman and makes a sophomore and a freshman Stanford's two top scorers.

Oregon's youth movement is in full swing too with freshman Phil Barner, Mike Clark, Stu Lyon and Felton Sealey all playing substantial amounts of time. But the league season will be their first exposure to Pac-8 play, and as anyone who has followed the Pac-8 knows, it is certainly no holiday.

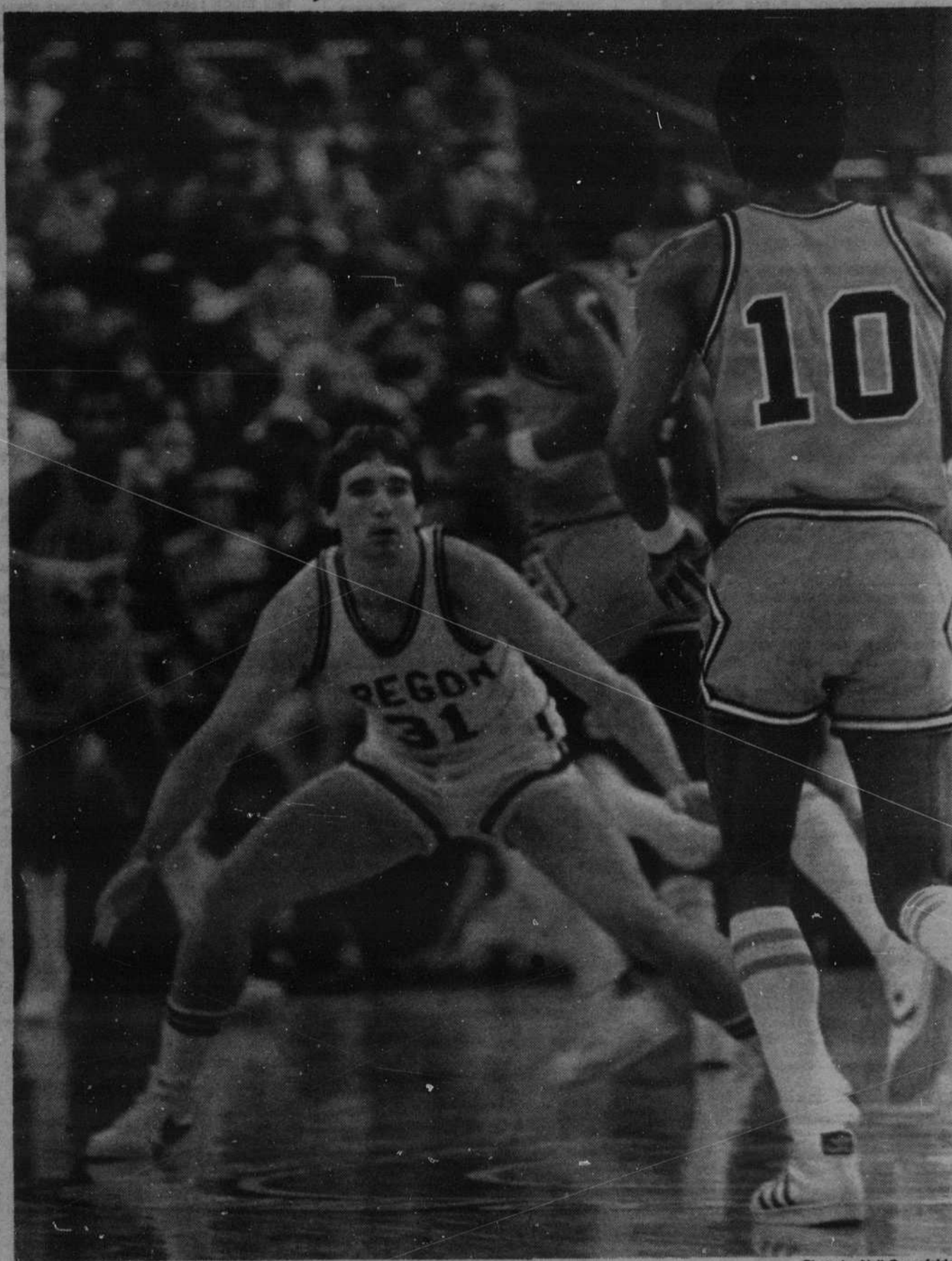


Photo by Neil Gruenfelder

The kind of defense Oregon's John Murray (31) applied to Illinois' Reno Gray (10) will key the Ducks' effort this weekend against California and Stanford on the first weekend of Pac-8 play.

**SALE**

**10% - 60% OFF**

the retail price of selected items  
(sale lasts until Jan. 14)

WARM-UPS ..... \$15.50 and up  
RUGBY/SOCCER SHIRTS ..... \$7.50 and up  
ASSORTED TENNIS SHIRTS ..... \$5.00 and up



**NIKE Le VILLAGE**

reg. \$28.95  
sale priced

**\$19.95**

**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

Original NIKE headquarters

We have every NIKE ma

10th & Olive  
in the Atrium Bldg.  
Monday-Saturday 10-6  
Phone 342-5155

## PACIFIC NAUTILUS CONDITIONING CENTER

THE MOST ADVANCED  
CONCEPT IN TOTAL  
BODY CONDITIONING  
FOR MEN AND WOMEN  
EVER DEVELOPED.

**COME IN, FOR A  
FREE TRIAL WORKOUT.**

**SAVE UNTIL FEBRUARY 15  
ON GRAND OPENING RATES.**

**AND THE FIRST FIFTY (50)  
MEMBERS RECEIVE ONE  
MONTH FREE.**



2570 Willamette Eugene  
485-4475