

Ducks, Cougars try it once again

By MIKE GRADY
Of the Emerald

The Oregon Ducks will try to turn around from a disastrous opening seven games of Pac-8 play tonight, facing a Washington State team that gave them their fifth straight league loss last Saturday night, 54-48.

George Raveling's Cougars come to McArthur Court for the 8 p.m. tip-off in a much different position than last weekend. After watching his team sweep both Oregon schools and raise their league mark to 3-4, good enough for fourth place, the colorful WSU coach has high hopes for his Cougs in the second half.

"Sure I think we've got a realistic shot at second place," Raveling said when questioned about the eventual conference finish of WSU. "Why just settle for a stick of gum when you can have the whole pack? We've got just as good a shot as anyone else."

The Ducks meanwhile stand tied with California in fifth place with a record of 2-5. And while Oregon head coach Dick Harter wasn't quite as dynamic in his optimism toward the next seven games as his Cougar counterpart, he still gave plenty of reason to believe that it's much too soon to throw in the towel.

"We played our best game of the year against Washington State," Harter said. "I'm proud of everyone who played Saturday. I think we're ready to play that way the rest of the year and we're looking forward to the final half of the conference season."

Plaguing Oregon in recent games has been the inability to put the ball in the hole during the second, and deciding half. In a 58-52 loss to Washington last Thursday in Seattle, the Ducks hit only seven of 32 second-half shots for a meager percentage of .219. Two nights later in Pullman it was the same story as they could manage only .304 from the floor in the final half and ended up losing by eight—the amount they had been ahead by at halftime.

"We've had the shots we've wanted," said Harter, negating any notion that the Ducks have failed to work for the high percentage shots when they've most needed them. "We just haven't hit 'em."

A factor in Oregon's favor is that they'll be playing in the friendly atmosphere of Mac Court while the word "Pit" will take on special meaning for visiting WSU. After having this pointed out, Raveling shrugged it off as being nothing out of the ordinary.

"It really means nothing," he said. "All places are tough to play at. Any time you win on the road it's an upset."

The high hopes of Raveling for his squad have also been padded by the successful returns of Stuart House, Ken Jones, Don Collins and Clarence Clark. House and Jones returned to the line-up last weekend from injuries while Collins and Clark were reinstated after a 10-day suspension.

Ugly rumors about team problems had been flying from the Palouse before last weekend, but two victories have seemed to put the lid on that.

"If the fact that we won two games is what it took to quiet the people who know nothing about what's going on, then that shows just what kind of a society we're living in," stated Raveling.

"People take it too seriously. It's just a cotton candy world we're living in. I mean basketball is just a game played by a bunch of kids running around in shorts and having fun."

And while Harter and the Ducks may see fun as snapping their streak of five straight league losses, Raveling and the Cougs see it as the now coveted second-place spot in the Pac-8.

"Realistically it would be the NCAA," said Raveling when asked which post-season tournament committee would possibly pick the conference's second place team. "The NIT is looking at the money aspect of it. They want the winning records and the big names."

George, when was the last time Washington State made it to the NCAA's?

"When did Noah build the ark?" he answered.



Photo by Neil Gruenfelder

Terry Kelly (44) and James Donaldson (52) have been the only standouts for George Raveling's inconsistent Cougars. With Stu House (53) returning healthy, they'll start the second half of the Pac-8 season against Oregon tonight at 8:05 in Mac Court.

Ducks face SOSOC before OSU

By NICK DAWSON
Of the Emerald

Oregon wrestlers travel to Ashland today to take on Southern Oregon State College, then head to Corvallis for a rematch with Oregon State on Saturday.

SOSOC could present the Ducks with some problems, coach Ron Finley believes.

"It could end up to be a very close meet," Finley said. "I'm real cautious they could beat us."

Illness and injuries could team up to take a drastic toll on Oregon. It will be forced to forfeit at 118 pounds because Norm Knight has not yet recovered from a shoulder injury. Barry Boyles, Oregon's 142-pounder, is very doubtful be-

cause of the flu. That leaves Finley with one choice move — Dave Loftis, who has seen limited action at 134 pounds, up one weight.

"We may have to pull some strategy to beat them," Finley said. "We can't take them lightly. The upset is a possibility there."

"We're going to try to use this as a tuneup for Oregon State," he said.

Finley only hopes the Ducks don't look past SOSOC and at the Beavers. "That's a fear you always have as a coach, the team looking past somebody."

Saturday night, Oregon travels

to Gill Coliseum to battle the fifth-ranked Beavers. It will be Dad's Weekend in Corvallis, and as a former Beaver himself, Finley knows what the crowd is going to be like.

Going by past results, the Ducks' chances are slim against OSU. A couple weeks ago in Mac Court, Oregon fell to Oregon State, 36-9. In that match, the Beavers recorded four pins.

The Beavers are led by Dan Hicks, who was victorious at 142 pounds for the West in the East-West College All-Star meet. Hicks has yet to lose this year.

Ramsay scoffs at trade rumors

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland Coach Jack Ramsay says a New York newspaper's story saying the Trail Blazers tried to trade Johnny Davis and are dissatisfied with the play of forward Maurice Lucas is "complete nonsense."

"I couldn't believe it when I heard about the story," Ramsay said in reaction to the article in the New York Post. "It is complete nonsense and irresponsible journalism. There is nothing factual about it."

The story said Portland was ready to trade Davis, a second-year guard, to Chicago for Norm Van Lier until starting guard Dave Twardzik became ill and missed three games.

The story also said Ramsay was dissatisfied with the play of Lucas, a starter for the West in Sunday's National Basketball Association All-Star game in Atlanta.

Ramsay made his comments to a reporter for the Portland Oregonian.

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