

Ducks can return a year-old favor tonight

By MIKE GRADY
Of the Emerald

Revenge and pride will be the motivating factors for Oregon tonight as they face Oregon State at 8 p.m. in Corvallis's Gill Coliseum.

The Beavers, 9-4 in league play, have wrapped up second place in the Pac-8 and are hoping that a victory over the Ducks will sway a post-season tournament committee into giving them a bid. Oregon State's overall record stands at a somewhat unimpressive 16-10, but head coach Ralph Miller hopes the NCAA and NIT selection committees will look at more than just the won-loss column.

"You aren't going to find too many second place teams throughout the United States that have a better record than what we've achieved since the Christmas vacation," said Miller.

"That should count for something. Everyone will have different ideas when they get down to selecting teams and I wouldn't bet any of my hard-earned money

on what their decision would be."

While Oregon coach Dick Harter stated that he'd like to see the conference's second-place team go to the NCAA tourney from the standpoint that it would help the league, he admitted he really had no opinion on whether OSU would be deserving of a bid over other schools also being considered.

Harter instead concentrated on what the game against the Beavers will mean to his program.

"All of our games are important," said Harter. "But this one can be looked at as being especially so since it's our last one. It was pretty frustrating to play so well against Southern Cal last weekend and then come back two days later and play so poorly against UCLA. It would certainly make it a nice spring if we can come back to play well and beat Oregon State."

The Ducks currently hold a 15-11 overall record and are 5-8 in conference action. Nothing would taste sweeter for them to finish with the same season record as OSU

and to finish off any Beaver dreams of post-season play as well.

Ironically, it was an OSU 78-73 overtime victory in last year's final game that snuffed the Ducks' chances of an at-large NCAA tourney berth. Oregon will be out to return the compliment tonight and will also be trying to give Harter the edge over Miller in head-to-head confrontations. Each has 11 victories against the other.

Previous meetings between the two schools this year have produced a split. Oregon ran away with the first one, a non-league game in Portland, 78-51, while OSU claimed a regionally televised league counter in McArthur Court, 62-48.

"Oregon State plays a type of game that is really tough for us," Harter said. "They're really good at spreading out their offense and moving the ball around."

Harter indicated that the Ducks won't slow the game down as much as they did in their 43-41 Southern Cal win last Thursday. Still he pointed out that ball control will be of great importance in the cross-state rivalry.

Another aspect which could be of utmost importance, but has nothing whatsoever to do with strategy, is health. The Beavers are coming off a week that had half the squad attending classes with the other half attending the infirmary.

And while it looks now like OSU has kicked the flu bug, it also looks like they've kicked it south. Felton Sealey, Danny Mack and Rich Davis have all complained of illness in the past week for the Ducks and Harter is hoping that whatever it is, it won't spread.

The game will be carried live by both KUGN radio (590 AM) and KEZI-TV.

DUCK NOTES — Oregon Coach Dick Harter, now in his seventh year at that position, has had six straight winning seasons...Freshman Phil Barner has taken over as the team's leading scorer. Barner is averaging 9.4 points per game while Dan Hartshorne is close behind at 9.3...Going into tonight's game, Oregon is shooting .438 from the field. That is the lowest since 1973, when the team average was .415.

Ailing Flying Ducks will face BYU gymnasts this weekend

The sixth-ranked Oregon Flying Ducks will play host to second-ranked Brigham Young University (BYU) Friday and Saturday. Optional competition will be Friday and compulsories Saturday.

Portland State was scheduled to compete, but illness has forced them to withdraw.

The Cougars will bring in three all-arounders that impress Duck coach Bill Ballester. Isamu Maesato, Masahiko Kinjo and Perry Johnson dominated the Oregon Open last December. Johnson and Maesato each won two events, while Kinjo was the victor in the high bar. Maesato and

Kinjo also went one-two in the all-around competition.

As if that wasn't enough for Ballester to worry about, there are problems within his own ranks. One of the primary ones involving himself.

Ballester underwent surgery for a torn tendon in his right arm and will be in Sacred Heart Hospital until sometime Friday. Ballester injured his arm while spotting for all-arounder Jim Hamilton in last weekend's victory over Washington.

Ballester said yesterday he would be at the meet. However, his team, riddled with sickness, has been practicing without him.

Ballester said he didn't know what shape his squad would be in this weekend. At this stage, Jim Kelch, Oregon's top all-arounder Mike Weidemann, Jim Hamilton, Marty Vasey and the nation's best sidehorseman, Tom Truedson, are all victims of illness. However, Ballester said he expects all five to be ready for action Friday night.

Truedson was the only Duck to break up the BYU monopoly on individual titles in the Oregon Open. He scored a 9.35 in his specialty to beat teammate Wiedemann, who registered a 9.00. Truedson tied a school record of 9.7 in the compulsories in last week's meet at Washington.

Scott McEldowney, Oregon's number one ring man, also got a 9.7 in the compulsories last weekend. In the Oregon Open, he finished third behind Maesato and teammate Jerry Bush.

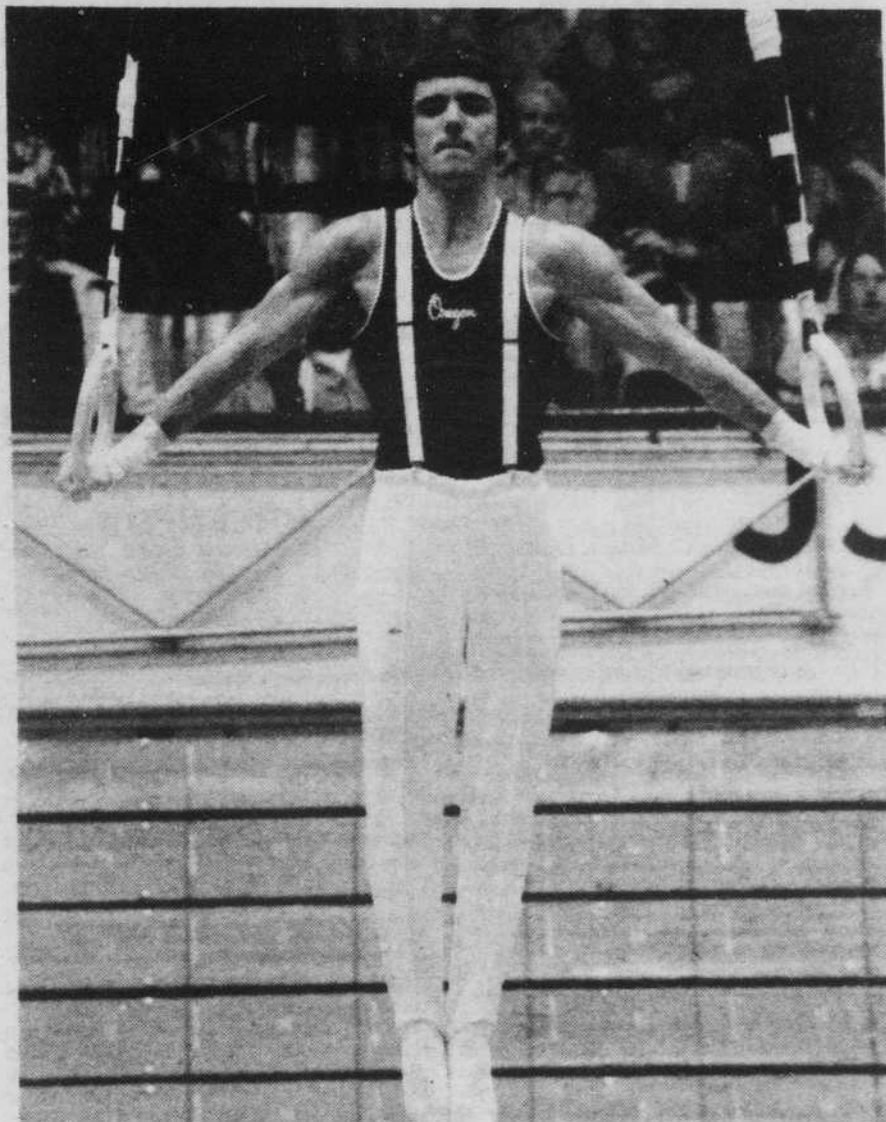


Photo by Mike Marino

Scott McEldowney, Oregon's top ring man, will be making his final home appearance in regular season competition this weekend, as the Flying Ducks take on Brigham Young.

Women face mysteries in weekend hoop action

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

With a playoff berth in a regional tournament assured, the Oregon women's basketball team faces two teams from Montana this week that are virtual "unknown quantities."

The last time the Ducks faced two teams they knew little about, Washington State and Boise State, two losses appeared in the season record.

Oregon faces Montana in Mac Court tonight at 7:30 and Montana State tomorrow afternoon at 2:30. Coach Elwin Heiny doesn't know what to expect.

"I know that Montana State has (Kammy) Unruh in the stats," noted Heiny, "but other than that I don't know anything about them."

In the latest statistics available at press time, both Montana and Montana State had 3-7 league records and are in third and fourth place respectively in the Mountain division of the Northwest Women's Basketball League. The Montana teams are the last two in offensive production in the league and in the second half of the rankings defensively. Both teams were also bombed by Washington and Western Washington earlier in the

year. Oregon lost both it's games with Washington and won two from Western.

"I hope we will play good games," said Heiny. "We can play good — we must do what we have to to win."

Last weekend Oregon put together two solid games to beat both Oregon State and Oregon College of Education.

"Against Oregon State, we didn't play as poorly as the score indicated. We played well except we blew leads. Our press and defense was good and we were running plays well."

Against Oregon College of Education, the Ducks could do no wrong.

"We executed our plays well. In fact most things we tried. They've got some good kids that didn't do anything."

Oregon is relatively injury-free, but the flu bug has hit two players. Sally Bickie did not practice Monday and Shannon Kelly did not practice on Tuesday or Wednesday, but Heiny expects both of them to see action against Montana.

Heiny hopes that if his team gets the flu it's this week and not next week, when the Ducks will be at the regional tourney.

sportfolio

Volleyball Correction

The Oregon Volleyball Club will face Washington State here Saturday, not Friday as reported in Wednesday's Emerald. The JV and Varsity will begin at 11 a.m. in B-54 Gerlinger Annex.

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