

Women take two on trip up north

The women's basketball team accomplished another first last weekend by sweeping two Washington road games. The Ducks trounced the University of Washington, 94-67, in Seattle Friday, then eased past Western Washington Saturday in Bellingham, 73-67.

The women are now 10-0 in the Northwest Women's Basketball league and 1-0 overall. They lead second-place Oregon State by three games in the Coast Division.

The Ducks had no problems at all against the Huskies (now 3-7 in the NWBL), as Bev Smith poured in 23 points and Claudia Eaton added 18. Oregon rolled to a 45-27 half-time lead, then coasted to an easy victory as Smith grabbed 20 rebounds.

The Ducks took another big lead with them into the dressing room after Saturday's game against Western Washington, but the Vikings' desperate second-half rally gave Oregon its biggest scare of the season so far.

After building a 42-26 lead at intermission, the Ducks saw both Smith and Eaton foul out, while Debbie Adams, Tara Smith and Kerry Cawson each committed four fouls.

"The fouls definitely hurt us," said head coach Elwin Heiny. "There were a lot of silly fouls, and some questionable calls, but we got the win and that's what counts."

The Vikings, exploiting a slacking Duck defense in the second half, got the ball to 6-foot-1 forward Jan Johnston, who used it to score the team high, 17 points. But the Ducks kept the lead with the hot shooting of guards Julie Cushing and Suzanne Washington, who combined for 36 points. Debbie Adams added 16 for Oregon.

"Julie Cushing had an outstanding game for us again," said Heiny. "In fact, she's come through on all our road trips this season."

"Against Western, we didn't execute as well as we had in the past," commented Heiny, "and our press didn't work as well as before. Our rebounding wasn't consistent either; we got them in spurts."

The women will get another test of life on the road this weekend as they travel to the Bay Area to take on California Friday and the University of San Francisco Saturday. Both games will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Wrestlers triumph twice in preparation for Pac-10

By JOHN HARRIS
Of the Emerald

The Oregon wrestlers chalked up weekend victories over Utah State and Washington State, and coach Ron Finley feels his team is just about to the point it should be in preparation for next weekend's Pac-10 Conference championship tournament.

"We'll be ready Friday when the tournament begins. We're starting to get healthy and get our lineup back to where it should be," Finley said after watching the Ducks dispose of Washington State 44-11 Sunday afternoon in Mac Court.

Five Oregon wrestlers recorded pins in the Sunday victory, which gave the Ducks a season final dual meet record of 14-10. Winning by falls were freshman 142-pounder Jim Hildebrand, 150-pound Scott Bliss, 177-pound Don Brown 190-pound Ryan Kelly and heavyweight Craig Schoene.

Bliss' win upped his mark to 23-3-2, while Brown improved his record to 27-6-1. Schoene won his 26th match against eight losses.

Oregon will need an abundance of pins if the Ducks are to challenge for the conference championship which will take place Friday and Saturday in Mac Court. Oregon State is heavily favored to win the tournament, while Oregon and Arizona State are expected to battle for the runnerup spot. But Finley is not about to concede the title to the nationally third-ranked Beavers.

"We can win," he states. "We're not the favorite, but anything can happen in a tournament like this. For us to do well, we're going to have to get a lot of wins by pins, and we're going to have to place in every weight class."

Bliss, Brown and Schoene are natural favorites to place, but Finley is also counting on Barry Boyles and two freshmen,

118-pounder Adam Cuestes and 134-pounder Bill Nugent.

Boyles ran his season record to 13-4 with a decision over Washington State's Mark Applegate on Sunday, but the Duck sophomore has missed most of the season due to a shoulder injury that is still bothering him. Nonetheless, Finley considers Boyles a top contender in the 158-pound division.

Finley figures Cuestes and Nugent each have a legitimate shot at an individual title because both of their weight classes lack a clear-cut favorite. "Their weights are wide open; anyone could win," Finley says.

"It's gonna be a solid tournament all the way through," Finley says. "Arizona State is adding a new dimension. You're gonna see a lot of all-Americans."

Among the best individuals will be Oregon Dan Hicks (142), Dick

Knorr (150) and Howard Harris (190). The 177-pound class is especially well-stocked with the Ducks' Brown, Marty Ryan of Oregon State and Dan Severn of Arizona State.

Finley doesn't expect his team to be intimidated by all the big names, though. He figures the tournament can't be much tougher than the Ducks' schedule has been all year. "Confidence-wise we're ready," he says.



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Blazers win in Coliseum as Lucas goes on spree

PORTLAND (AP) — Maurice Lucas celebrated his 27th birthday by scoring 29 points, all in the first three quarters, to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 111-104 National Basketball Association victory over the Boston Celtics Sunday night.

The Blazers never trailed after taking a 7-4 lead on a three-point play by Lionel Hollins early in the game. Portland hit its first eight shots from the field and broke

open a 24-12 lead with 5:43 left in the first quarter.

But the Blazers were never able to turn the game into a rout.

Portland built a 17-point lead, 98-81, on Ron Brewer's basket with 7:20 left in the game. But the Celtics surged back with nine straight points to pull within eight 98-90, on a basket by Dave Cowens with four minutes left, and the game was close the rest of the way.

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