

sports

Stickers must defeat Cougars

By JOHN SELIX
Of the Emerald

It's all or nothing for the women's field hockey team Saturday, as the Ducks take on the Washington State Cougars in the Region 9 Qualifying tournament. The game is set for 1:30 p.m. at Autzen Stadium, with the winner advancing to the national tournament, while the

better than the other, the Ducks have a slight edge because of the home field.

Confidence-wise however, Oregon is surely on the short end of the rope. The team has been inconsistent in the last three weeks, playing exceedingly well at times, but seemingly not playing at all at others. The Ducks played perhaps their best hockey of the

Perhaps Plantz has some doubts now-too, as she is pondering making several moves that would result in some players moving in and out of the lineup, and to some new positions.

Sophomore Stacey Allman has been playing well at right outside. If Plantz starts her there, senior Nancy Berry, who is the team's leading scorer and has been playing right outside almost all season, will be moved to right inside (her original position). This means that freshman inside Scottie Johnson, the team's third leading scorer, will sit on the bench. The game also marks the return to the lineup of sweeper Cindy Stocker, who had been out for two weeks with a difficult spell of bronchitis.

The Ducks tuned up for the tournament by defeating Southern Oregon, 3-0, Tuesday in Ashland. The Ducks dominated the game, out-shooting SOSC 24-0, with Julie Theiler, Deidre Eddy and Kathy Herion getting the goals. Though SOSC is not nearly the team that WSU is, the game had to help moral a little.

"The main difference," said Plantz, "is going to be who really thinks it can do it, WSU or Oregon. If they (the Oregon players) are doubting themselves or their teammates, then we're in trouble. I know we can beat them. I just hope my players know."

The tournament includes five Division II schools playing single elimination matches beginning Thursday night and continuing Friday. The Division II Final is Saturday at 11 a.m., just before the Oregon game.



Photo by Martha Stanton

The women's field hockey team faces Washington State Saturday in a crucial encounter which will decide who will represent Region 9 at the national tournament.

loser suffers a disappointing end to its season.

Oregon is currently ranked 16th in the nation and has a record of 20-3-1 on the season, while the Cougars are 12-5-2. The two teams have played each other twice this year, with each team taking a 1-0 decision at home. So while neither team has been able to prove that it is

year at the Berkeley Invitational two weekends ago, and then went up to Washington and barely survived a three game weekend, that included a loss to WSU.

"(That win) is a confidence builder for WSU," said Oregon coach Nancy Plantz. "As far as our players go, they're probably doubting themselves a little bit."

Blazers fall to fourth quarter surge

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Mickey Johnson, held to two points in the first three periods, scored 16 in the final quarter Wednesday night to spark the Indiana Pacers to a 97-90 comeback victory over Portland in National Basketball Association play.

Portland led by 16 points, 61-45, with 7:51 left in the third quarter. Then, James Edwards, Johnny Davis and Joe Hassett sparked a rally that pulled the Pacers to 68-65 in the closing

seconds of the period. Davis had eight points in a streak that had the Pacers outscore Portland 20-7.

Edwards, who led Indiana scoring with 22 points, put the Pacers ahead for good 89-87 with 2:42 to play after a Johnson bucket tied the score with 3:30 remaining.

Portland's Kermit Washington had three free throws to make two points with 1:58, but missed the last two shots. Larry Steele then missed a shot that

could have given Portland the lead. Edwards grabbed the rebound and passed to Johnson, who was fouled as he made a dunk shot with 1:15 remaining to make the score 92-88.

Tom Owens, who led all scorers with 28 points, cut Portland's deficit to two in the final minute before Johnson scored the game's final five points.

Portland, which went into the game with the league's top record, fell to 11-3.

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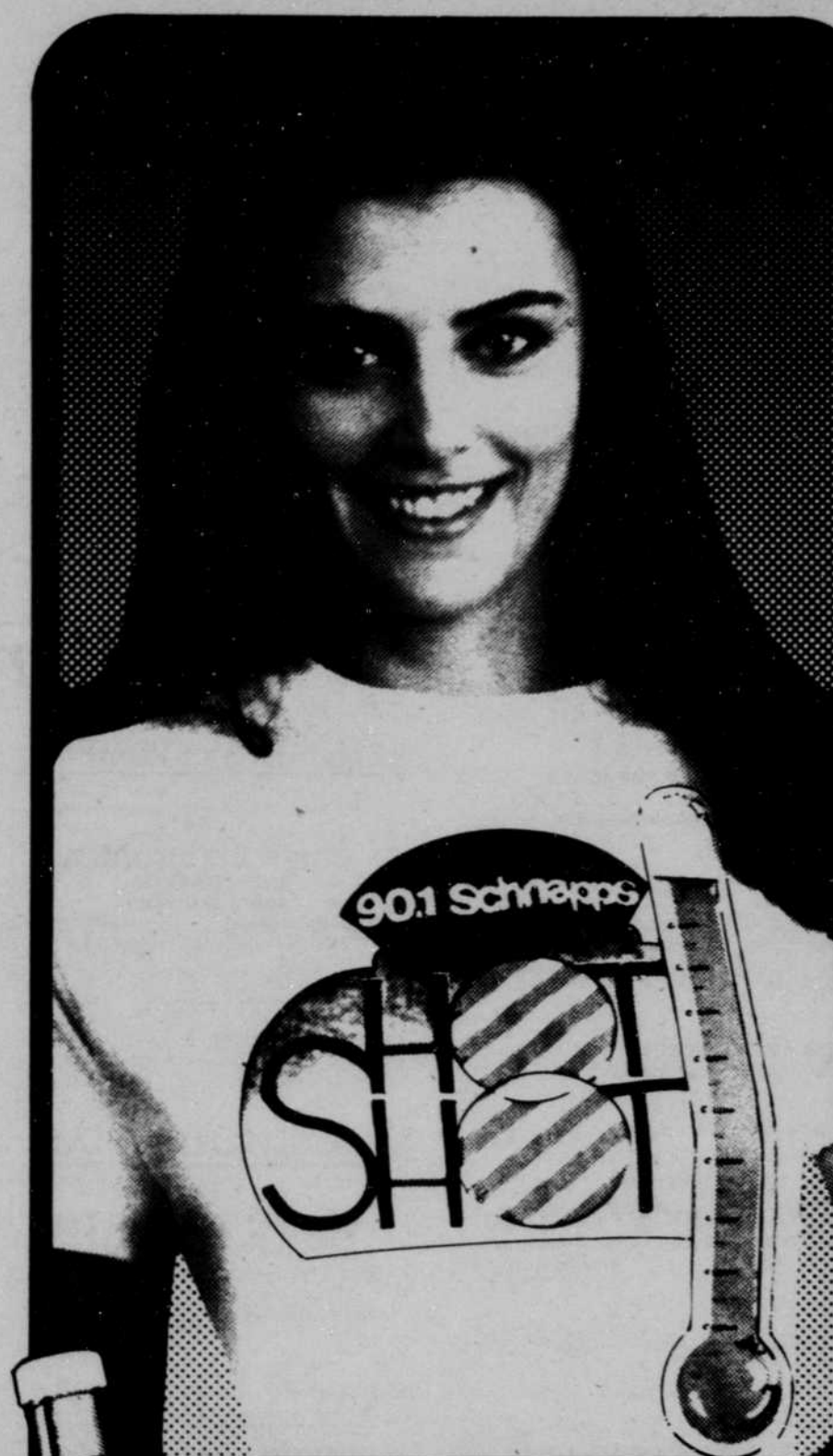
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