

Cagers level guns at No. 1

By JODY MURRAY
Of the Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball squad demonstrated Monday night that any reports of their death were greatly exaggerated as they canned Cal-Berkeley, 87-80.

At about the same time, Oregon State's team was being told the defeat of DePaul had indeed nudged them to the top of the nation's heap.

One program hits the peak, while the other shows signs of climbing up. And they meet for the second time this season Saturday at 4 p.m. at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis.

The Beavers, of course, won the first round in a 67-57 decisions in the final of the Far West Classic.

The key to that game was free throws — or a lack thereof. The Ducks were blitzed at the free throw line, 25-9. However, Oregon led OSU in field goals made, 24-21.

The Ducks have since surpassed the Beavers in free throws — 70 to 66 percent. But OSU holds a 58 to 50 field goal percentage edge.

With a 22-point performance against the Bears, Oregon's Mike Clark raised his season scoring average to 15.5 points per game. It was the 11th straight game in which Clark has scored in double figures. He's averaged 18.4 in the 11-game stretch.

Freshman guard Fred Cofield shed a brief

shooting slump to bomb the Bears for 18 points. His season average is now 11.8.

Cofield's counterpart at OSU, Ray Blume, is popping in 10.8 points a game. Like Cofield, Blume is the Beaver's playmaker and one of the quickest people on OSU's squad.

Blume's play is overshadowed by the accolades heaped upon 6-10 center Steve Johnson. After flirting with the 80 percent mark in field goals, Johnson has settled into a comfortable 77-percent clip. More than likely he'll break his own NCAA record of .710, set last year.

Johnson, naturally, leads OSU with 18.9 points a game.

Belief in long-fanged ogres and the tooth fairy is not a prerequisite to believing Oregon might win this one.

Besides the free throw factor, the Ducks have two things they didn't have less than a week ago.

One is the return of Ray Whiting and Barry Walker. Whiting may be rusty, but he's available, and that's more than Oregon could say six days ago. And despite missing two games, Walker still leads the team in assists.

The other is a sudden reduction in turnovers. After averaging 12 per game, the Ducks committed only eight against Cal.

"We got this momentum from tonight," said Oregon guard John Cheatham after Cal when asked about OSU. "We're gonna get 'em."

Gymnasts face test in quadrangle meet

A wounded women's gymnastics team will be tested again this Saturday when the Ducks host a quadrangle meet at McArthur Court starting at 1 p.m.

The Ducks, 2-0 in dual meets this season, will face the University of Alberta, San Francisco State University and Cal State-Hayward University. The young Oregon squad is the meet favorite, although Hayward, which finished seventh in the AIAW Division III meet last year is expected to challenge the Ducks.

Leading the Oregon squad, which defeated Portland State University 129.5-109.15 last week, is Junior all-arounder Sara Gustafson, who scored 33.70 to win the all-around at the PSU meet, vault 9.10, beam 8.20 and floor exercises 8.45.

Freshman standouts Maureen Nolan, who scored 32.2, and Holly Holmes, who scored 31.75, were second and third in the all-around at Portland State.

Challenging the Oregon women for individual honors will be Hayward's Nancy Hemeon, who finished 11th at the AIAW Division III nationals, and Betsy Skellengen, who finished 20th at nationals.

Judge refuses to drop charges

EUGENE (AP) — A motion for dismissal of theft charges against former University assistant basketball coaches Mark Barwig and Ron Billingslea was denied by Lane County Circuit Judge Douglas Spencer Wednesday night.

Billingslea, accused of taking \$1,680 from a secret recruiting travel fund, will face trial Feb. 4. Barwig, charged with taking \$2,000 in University funds, will be tried on April 29. The alleged thefts occurred in 1978.

The Ducks continue to look strong this season despite the loss of all-arounders Dawn Haberland, Chris Krueger and freshman Nancy Krogseng to injuries.

The key to winning the PSU meet, says Oregon coach Henriette Heiny, was strong performances from freshman Nolan and Holmes and walk-on Lynn

Fenton.

"Maureen (Nolan) is an aggressive, assertive performer who doesn't hold back. Holly Holmes, competing in her first meet of the season, won the bars (8.20), despite a fall.

The season is still quite young and we're still building our performance level," says Heiny. "But we're getting there."

OSU features pressure defense against Ducks

By TAMARA SWENSON
Of the Emerald

Pressure defense versus explosive offense.

Oregon State University's women's basketball team has spared no expense in promoting tonight's Civil War match-up between OSU and Oregon, taking out a two-column advertisement in the Oregonian touting themselves as the "pressure defense" team versus Oregon's "explosive offense."

The Duck women had one reaction to the ad Thursday: Oregon has both defense and offense while the Beavers will fall behind in both.

OSU is Oregon's toughest league foe and the only team expected to challenge the Ducks in their quest for a second straight Region 9 crown.

The last time OSU defeated the Ducks was in 1979 regional final, since then the Beavers have come close, falling to Oregon by one point, 72-71, in the semifinals of this season's Guisti Tournament, but not close enough.

The Beaver's bring a talented and experienced squad into tonight's 7:30 p.m. contest at Gill Coliseum. Carol Menken, OSU'S 6-5 center, leads the nation in scoring with an average 30.1 points a game,

shooting 72.9 percent.

"At the Guisti, in the first half we couldn't handle it too well," said OSU coach Aki Hill. In the second half we saw the other side of Menken.

Menken is backed up by guards Betty Collings and Margy Becker, who lead OSU's halfcourt defense.

Oregon will be responding to OSU's inside threat with full pressure, said 5-3 Oregon guard Allison Towriss. "The more time we can make them take to get the ball down the court to Menken the less time she'll have to score."

Oregon's defense will concentrate on pressure and control, while the offense works to score, Towriss said. "It kinda seemed almost that we lost our nerve in the second half (of the Guisti). We were too cautious and didn't get in to score — and we're usually a second-half team."

"We've got to play better pressure defense than they do," Oregon coach Elwin Heiny told his players during Thursday's workout. "Show them who the pressure team is — Oregon."

"It'll be a good match-up," Adams said. "Their pressure defense is a pressure defense, but because there's so much pressure you can get through it real easy."

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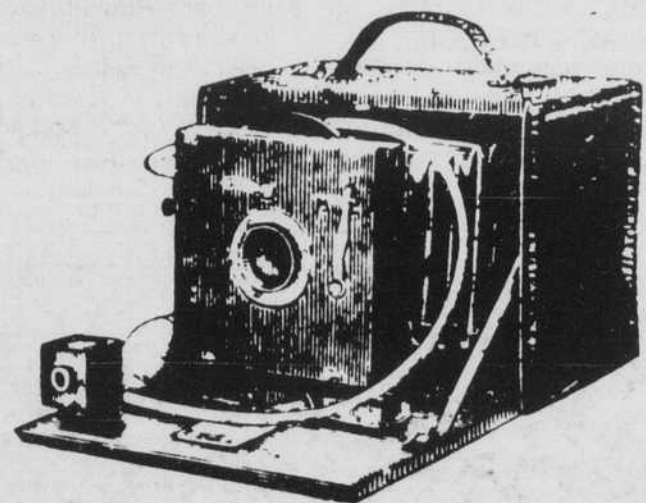
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