

sports

Ranked women face UW

Ducks venture north, spring to 18th in polls

Coming off an impressive victory over their archrival Oregon State and a jump to 18th in the latest polls, Oregon's women's basketball team heads north tonight to meet league foe University of Washington.

The Ducks, 13-5 this season and 3-0 in league play, will face the Huskies, 9-4 and 1-1, at 5 p.m. in the first game of the Duck-Husky doubleheader. The men's game rounds out the ticket.

Despite Oregon's statistical dominance over the Huskies, the Ducks are taking the game seriously, says 6-0 forward MaryAnn Stoican.

"Some of us saw the new Washington coach (Sue Kruszewski) at a clinic during the summer," Stoican says. "She looks like a real hard worker — a tough coach."

The Huskies want Kruszewski to help turn the UW team from mere winners to champions. The Huskies have never had a losing season, but they have had trouble in recent years getting to nationals.

"Obviously, I want to be a contender in this region," Kruszewski says. "And the University (of Washington) wants to be a national contender."

The Washington squad leads the series 8-5 against the Ducks, but has lost every game the last two years.

Statistically, the Huskies fall into the middle of the league, shooting 42.4 percent from the floor and 63.3 percent from the line, while averaging 48.8 rebounds.

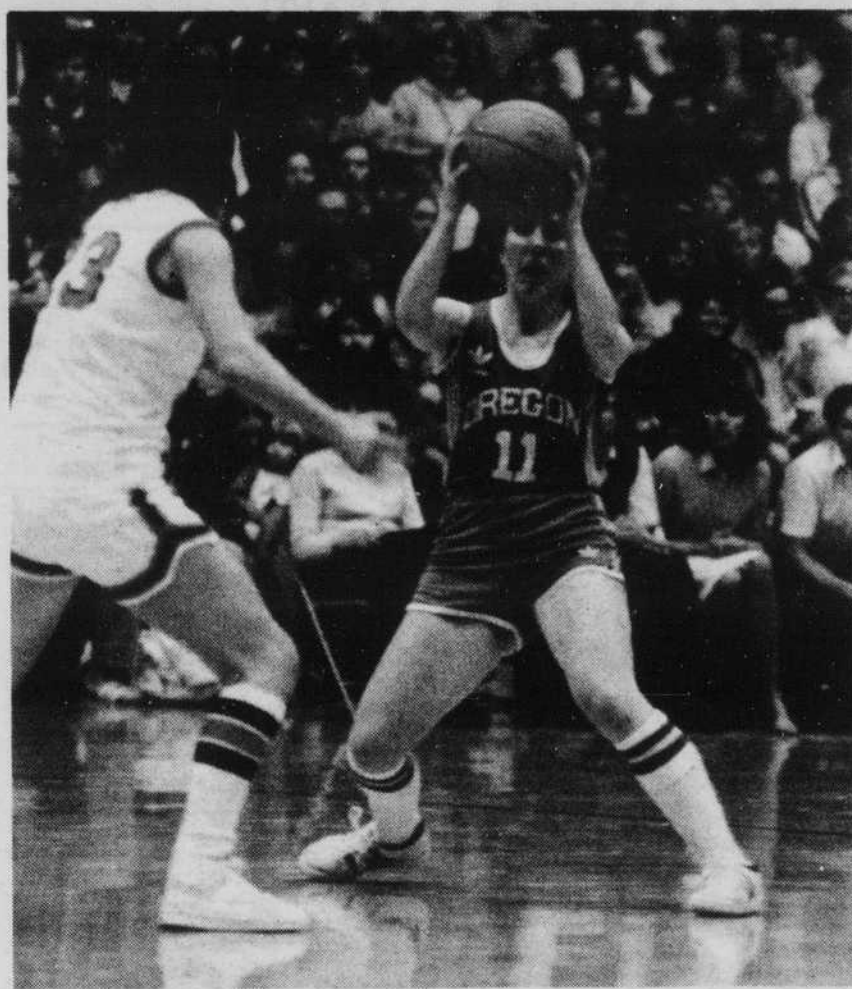


Photo by Dennis Tachibana
Allison Towriss (11) brings the ball down court during Oregon's 73-64 victory over Oregon State University.

Oregon, meanwhile, is shooting 49.7 percent from the floor and 62.8 percent from the line, with an average of 44.6 rebounds.

Individually, the Huskies depend upon 6-0 junior center Carlin McClary, who averages 15.5 points and 11.2 rebounds a game.

The Ducks' high scorer is forward Bev Smith, who is averaging 18.6 points and 11.7 rebounds.

"This is a transition year for us," Kruszewski says. "I have a

lot of respect for Oregon... any team ranked is a good solid ball club.

"But I also know they have a lot of pressure on their shoulders," she says. "Anytime they go into a game against a non-ranked team, everything rides on it. We have nothing to lose."

Smith won't be caught looking past Washington.

"We have to take each game as it comes," she says. "We can't take anyone is this league lightly."

Gary Gatewood, sidelined with a broken wrist, will have to sit out the season.

Gatewood, a sophomore guard, was injured during the fifth game of the season, against Athletes in Action in December. Gatewood should be eligible to play three more seasons for the Ducks, but the University will have to petition the Pac-10 to get the extra year of eligibility.

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Men cagers invade Huskies

Oregon's recent roller-coaster men's basketball team swoops on tonight when the Ducks face the University of Washington at 7:30.

The last time an Oregon team won in Seattle was a 61-60 decision in 1977. On the other hand, Oregon will have the "advantage" of coming off an 82-55 stomping by Oregon State.

In the last three games, Oregon has alternated from hot to cold faster than a bell pepper tossed into a freezer. The Ducks fell apart against Stanford, then played one of their best games this year against California. That was followed by the turnover-plagued loss to the Beavers.

Oregon's opportunity to bounce out of the Pacific-10 Conference cellar tonight is enhanced by Washington's 2-4 record. The Ducks are 1-4.

As is often the case with

neighboring schools, tonight's match involves reunions of players who once played on the same courts or were prep stars in the other state.

John Greig of Oregon and Dan Caldwell of Washington were teammates two years ago at Wenatchee Community College.

Their current credentials are similar. Greig has averaged 11.4 points and 6.1 rebounds as a starting forward, while Caldwell, also a forward, went into last weekend's action averaging 9.8 points and 6.3 rebounds.

Bob Fronk, an Oregon prep all-state selection at Sunset High School, has averaged 12.8 points for the Huskies after 13 games. Ron Burns, a former star at Foss High in Tacoma, is the backup center for the Ducks.

But while Oregon was preparing for tonight's game, physicians announced that

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