

Ducks aim for number 40 Smith earns league MVP award

By TAMARA SWENSON
Of the Emerald

Oregon's women's basketball team shoots for its 40th consecutive league win against Portland State in McArthur court Saturday.

The 12th-ranked Ducks, 13-0 in league play, are favored over the last-place Vikings.

But no game will be taken lightly, says Oregon coach Elwin Heiny. "Obviously our opponent doesn't have that impressive of a record, but we want to be sharp."

Earlier this season, the Ducks beat the Vikings 78-40 in Portland.

"We're the favorite, but when you're on top everyone is out to get you," Heiny says.

A win would give Oregon its third straight perfect Northwest Women's Basketball League record, a feat acknowledged this week as the coaches handed out league awards.

Oregon forward Bev Smith was named the league's most valuable player for an unprecedented second year. Smith, an All-American candidate, also was named for a third year to the first team.

Senior guard Debbie Adams found her way onto the first team, freshman guard Angie Snider was named to the league's second team and freshman center Alison Lang received an hon-

orable mention.

But despite the awards Heiny, who was named coach of the year for the third time, stressed the need for a win Saturday.

"We obviously need to, and want to, win our last home game."

Two Ducks, Adams and Allison Towriss, may be playing their last game in the Pit. Only if Oregon goes to nationals and is ranked higher than its opponent will the team play in Mac Court again this season.

"That thought is on everyone's mind," says Heiny. "We have two seniors, and even the freshmen understand what it's like to play your last regular season game."

Adams is currently third on the all-time scoring list with 1,348 points and should move into second before the end of the season. Adams also is second in career rebounds (821) and leads the team with a 60-percent shooting mark.

Towriss leads the team in assists (4.3 average), and last week tied the single game school assist record with 11 in Oregon's victory over Seattle.

"Everyone will want to perform, both against Portland and at regionals," says Heiny. "But then again, this team has performed all year."

Saturday's game will begin at 5:45 p.m., followed by the men against Arizona at 8:10 p.m.

In Provo

Gym teams face Cougars

A wounded Oregon women's gymnastics team will try to bounce back from a disappointing performance last week when they enter a co-ed dual meet tonight at Brigham Young University.

Oregon's fifth-ranked men's team, which posted its highest score last weekend against Cal-State Fullerton, faces BYU's 12th-ranked squad.

Both Oregon teams will end the weekend road trip Saturday against the University of New Mexico.

The Oregon men are 7-2 this

season, the women 9-3.

The women had to withdraw from the Shanico Invitational last weekend after injuries and illness took a heavy toll on the team.

All-rounder Maureen Nolan underwent knee surgery last week, while teammate Chris Krueger is slated for minor surgery and Dawn Haberland is still recovering from a foot injury.

Haberland should compete this weekend, along with several teammates who were ill last week. "Dawn's foot is com-

ing along and so is her shoulder (following surgery in December) and she may be able to go all-around this weekend," says Oregon coach Henriette Heiny.

For the Oregon men, the situation looks a lot brighter.

"I was really pleased with our performance," says Oregon coach Bill Ballester of the Ducks' 275.45-271.80 win over previously undefeated Cal-State Fullerton.

"We're getting to the kind of team scores we're capable of."

Three Ducks stood out in Oregon's win over Fullerton. Alex Schwartz broke his own school record on the rings with a 9.8 — the best score in the nation this season. All-American James Yuhashi posted a 9.8 in the floor exercise, also a national best, and Tim Darling hit a personal best, 9.4, on the parallel bars.

Baseball season opens

Oregon's baseball team opens its season today, hosting Gonzaga University in a doubleheader at Howe Field, at 1 p.m.

Next, the Ducks go on a road trip that includes 11 games in California and the Pacific-10 Northern Division opener against Washington State April 3-4 in Pullman.

Oregon will return to Howe Field April 7 for a game against Willamette University.

"We have a much improved team this year," said coach Mel Krause, whose team was 19-21 in 1980. "We have a better

Coach named to Olympic job

Scott Irving, throwing events coach for the Oregon women's track team, has been named Western Region throws coordinator for the U.S. Olympic Development Committee.

Irving will work with talent assessment, camps, clinics and educational programs.

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