

Regionals await Duck cagers

By TAMARA SWENSON
Of the Emerald

After walloping every league foe this season, Oregon's women's basketball team goes back to 0-0 for the regional tournament in Missoula, Montana.

The Ducks, ranked 12th nationally with a 23-5 season and 11-0 league record, will be chasing a berth to nationals Saturday and Sunday during the Region 9 playoffs. Oregon is the defending Region 9 champ.

And it looks like another Oregon State-Oregon matchup in the final.

The Beavers will open the tournament Saturday against host Montana, followed by the Ducks against Washington. Both Oregon schools downed their opponents earlier this season.

Winners of the Saturday games will meet Sunday in the championship game. Everyone expects a contest between the league's two top-seeded teams.

"OSU and we have a friendly competition going," says Oregon coach Elwin Heiny. "I look for a good game, a tough game, if we meet."

The competition may be friendly at one level, but it is a fierce battle on the court every game. The Ducks have won the last six meetings with the Beavers, but

Oregon's last loss to OSU came in the Region 9 final two years ago. Oregon downed OSU 68-67, 73-64 and 80-66 this year.

"We remember Bozeman (Montana, site of the 1979 regionals), two years ago," says Heiny. "We were overconfident in that game. That won't be a problem this time around. We have a realistic understanding of how close the game could be."

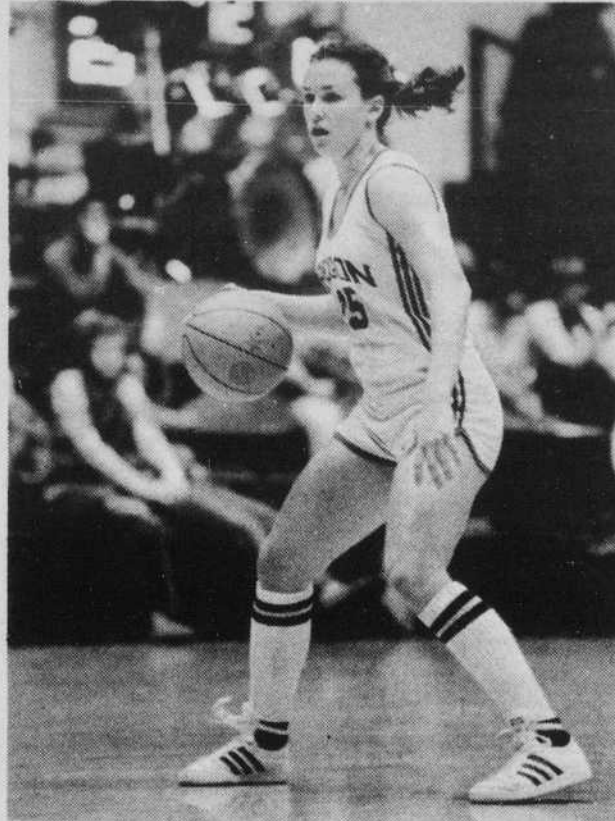
"We're prepared to play aggressively," says OSU coach Aki Hill. "Especially against Oregon."

"Sometimes we've been intimidated by them, especially our last game," says Hill. "But I feel we've overcome that type of struggling and are ready to beat them."

"We didn't even play our best against them last time and we beat them," says Oregon guard Allison Towriss. "Every game could possibly be our last now so we'll play it that way — as tough as we can."

The Ducks will play the Huskies at 2:30 p.m. (PST). OSU and Montana will meet in the other semi-final contest at 12:30 p.m.

Sunday's final game is scheduled for 12:30 p.m., while the consolation game is set for 10:30 p.m.



Emerald photo

Freshman Angie Snider, who made the region second-team, prepares to pass the ball down court.

Women prep for top-ranked gymnastic foe

University of Utah, the nation's top-ranked women's gymnastics team, will meet Oregon's squad Saturday at 8 p.m. in McArthur Court.

The match, part of a coed meet with the men facing Portland State, is expected to be a good test of Oregon's gymnasts.

Utah has posted the nation's top score this season (150.2) and are led by all-arounder Christa Canary, who has the third highest score in the country (37.6).

The Utes only loss this season was to fourth-ranked Cal State-Fullerton, 146.55-146.40.

Utah brings an 24-1 record into the meet.

Oregon, 11-4 this season, is still hobbled with the loss of all-arounders Maureen Nolan and Chris Krueger to injury.

"We lost a lot of talent because of injuries, but the rest of the squad has done a good job filling in," says coach Henriette Heiny.

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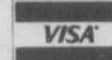
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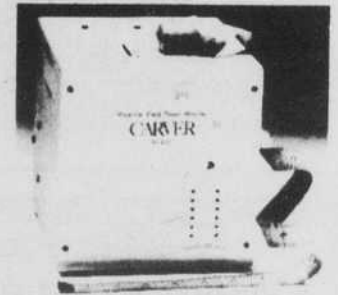
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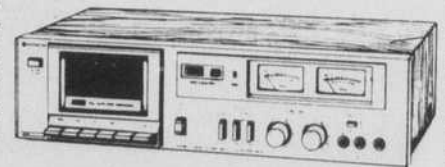
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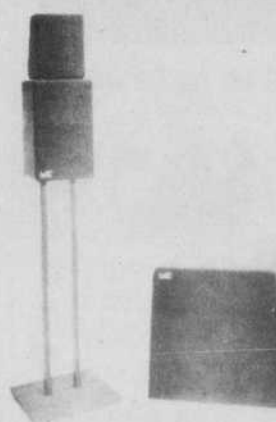
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