

Ducks can't overlook Beavers

Women ready for tough battle

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

There's no need to warn assistant coach Bev Bland and the 11th-ranked University of Oregon women's basketball team. They know that if they overlook Oregon State they could be in for a long evening.

The Ducks, who face Oregon State tonight at 7:30 p.m. in McArthur Court, will have to be at their best if they plan to beat the Beavers. And Bland will attest to that.

"We are expecting a tough game from them in spite of how much we beat them by last time we played (a 65-48 win at the Giusti Classic in December)," Bland says. "They are really balanced this year. They have really killed teams this season with a different style than last year."

"Last season they had Carol Menken (former Beaver 6-8 All-American). This season they have to be more balanced. They are playing the same defense and a similar offense, but they are getting more out of different positions."

Oregon should be ready to play. The Ducks just returned from the Pizza Hut Classic in Wichita, Kan., where they took third place. Oregon faced top-quality competition in the Classic and should be ready to tackle Oregon State.

The Beavers, meanwhile, have been beating up on their opponents — although their opponents have not been first-class. Oregon State's last five game scores look something like this: 98-47, 117-58, 59-49, 88-53 and 103-64. But keep in mind the opponents — Pacific Christian, Portland State, Drake, San Francisco and Hawaii.

"Even though they haven't

played great teams, the scores which they win by should give them confidence," Bland says of the Beavers.

But there is one thing about the Beavers which worries Bland a little.

"They have a very good half-court press — a tough press," says the Ducks assistant. "Against Texas in the Pizza Hut (a 66-63 loss in the semifinals) we were hurt by a press. Their press cost us the game. We've been working on it in practice and I

think we're ready."

Senior All-American Bev Smith and center Alison Lang continue to dominate the statistics for Oregon. Smith leads the team in scoring at 19.7 points and 12.3 rebounds per outing, while Lang is second in both categories at 17.9 and 11.1. In addition, Lang has rejected 38 opponent shots.

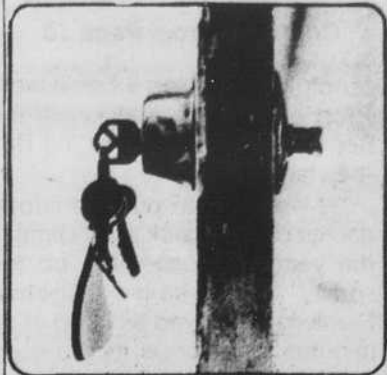
Injuries continue to plague the Ducks. Just when reserve center Helen Higgs comes back from an injured foot, guard Lisa Vetter goes down with a stress fracture a

week ago, and now, starting forward Chris Metzger may miss the game with a stress fracture. "We'll see this afternoon what the doctor report is," Bland says.

If Metzger is unable to suit up, the Ducks will look to the bench in the form of sophomore Alison Bernhardt.

"If Chris can't play, we are optimistic because Alison has played very well lately," Bland said. "She has been fairly consistent the past few games. I think she can handle it."

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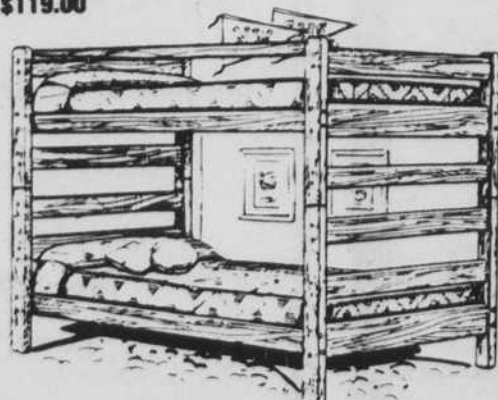
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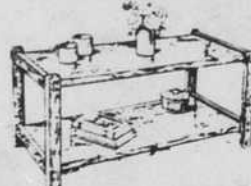


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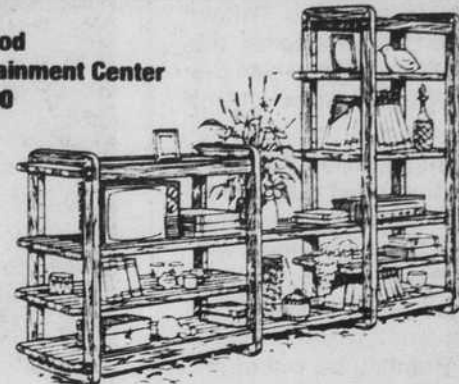


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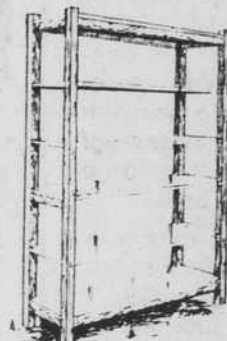
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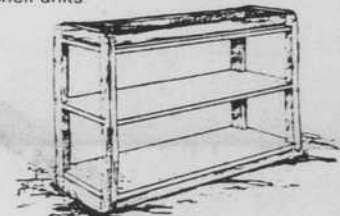
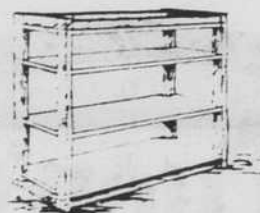
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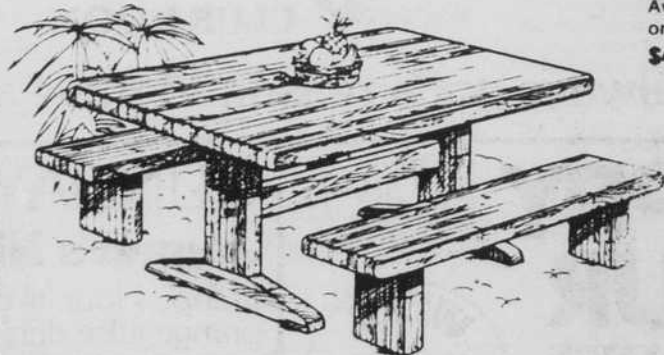
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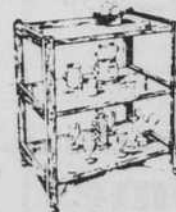
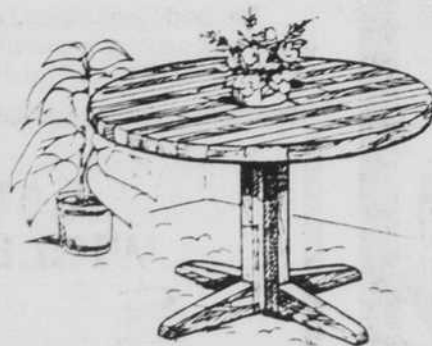
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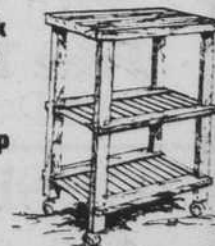
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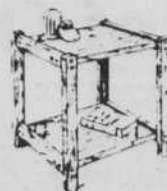
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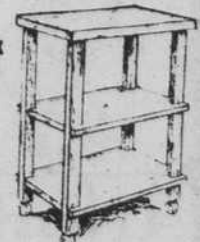


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