

# Weekend in Los Angeles

## Women seek answers in two tough matches

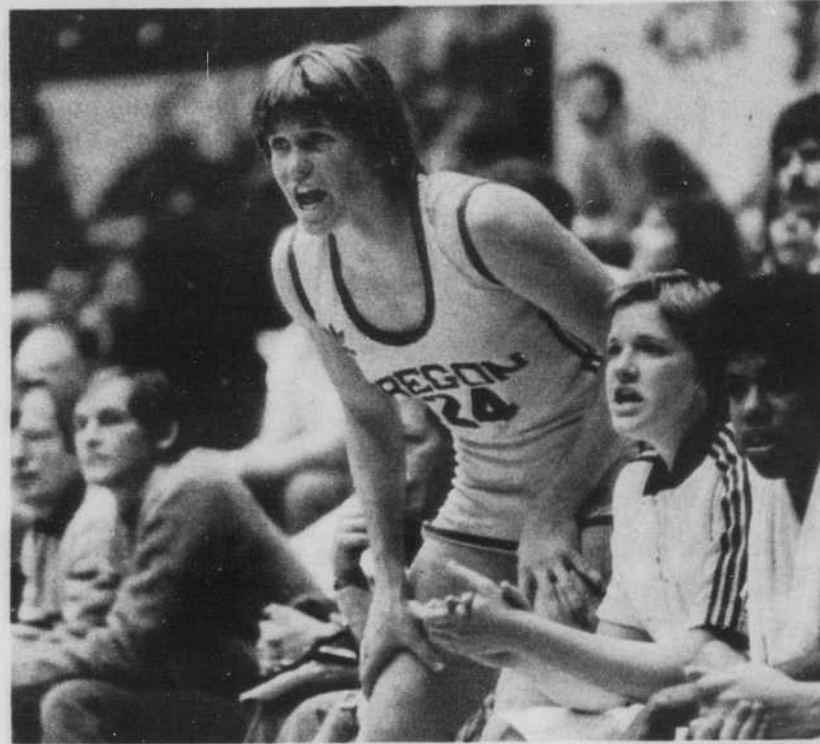
By Mike Riplinger  
Of the Emerald

This could be the telling weekend for the Oregon women's basketball squad.

The Ducks — ranked ninth in this week's Associated Press national rankings — travel to Los Angeles to take on second-ranked and undefeated Southern California and a vastly improved UCLA squad. And they may find some answers in the process.

"We will be able to tell just how good we are after this weekend," said Oregon coach Elwin Heiny. "USC is a very good team, perhaps tops in the nation, and it should be a good indication of where we stand."

USC has an outstanding combination in twins Pam and Paula McGee, a pair of 6-3 sophomores who have been wreaking havoc on everybody this year. Pam is averaging 20.5



Bev Smith and the Oregon women hope to prove their mettle against USC and UCLA this weekend.

points and 11.9 rebounds an outing followed by Paula who is at 20.7 and 9.0.

Oregon will have its own firepower in Bev Smith, an All-American in her own right, who

is at 19.1 points and 11.9 rebounds a clip and Alison Lang at 19.7 points and 12.0 rebounds per game.

"The key will be defense. Who can stop whom will be the decider," said Heiny.

"They have all the advantages going into this game. They're undefeated, they're at home and they've got an awful lot of talent."

"As a matter of fact, I expect them to be a little overconfident, even though we are one of the better teams they'll face this year. They've got so much going for them that I think we might be able to slip in and beat them."

Oregon is coming off a couple of 100-point performances against the University of Washington and Portland State, which Heiny feels shows the Ducks should be ready for USC.

But he isn't forgetting about UCLA. The Bruins started off the season ranked in the top ten, but lost seven of their first ten games.

Now, though, they are on a six-game winning streak and Heiny is worried about his team letting down against them after playing USC.

"We'll have to keep up for UCLA. They have a good team, they're young but they have really come together. They've shown that they have a good team by beating Arizona State by nine points," said Heiny.

## Bruins, USC prepare for injured Ducks

By Donald Coulter  
Of the Emerald

With all their bumps and bruises, coughs and sneezes, they resemble the M<sup>o</sup>A<sup>s</sup>H 4077 unit more than a basketball team. Funny thing, though, nobody on the Oregon men's basketball squad finds the situation too amusing.

"We're not as healthy as we've been other weeks," Oregon head coach Jim Haney understated Thursday, minutes before the Ducks' departure to Los Angeles for a pair of weekend games against USC and UCLA.

The Ducks go into tonight's game at USC with only two starters at full strength: off-guard Paul Bain and power-forward Jerome Williams. Three others — point guard Fred Cofield, center Blair Rasmussen and forward John Greig — are coming off recent injuries, and though Haney says he will probably start them against the Trojans, their contributions may be limited.

If Cofield is in the opening lineup Friday, it will be his first start since Jan. 3 against Arizona State. Cofield suffered a stress fracture in his right foot in that contest, which forced him to miss the Ducks' next four games. He suited up for the first time on Monday against Washington, and scored nine points in limited action.

Rasmussen, meanwhile, practiced with the team the last two days after injuring his foot against the Huskies Monday night. According to Haney, Rasmussen tore scar tissue in his foot, and his playing time in the weekend games will be depend on how quickly that heals.

Greig was also injured in the Washington game, twisting his right ankle. He was in such pain that he had to be helped off the court during the second half of that game. Greig was held from practices this week, though he will apparently start tonight's game.

Greig has started all of Oregon's 16 games to this point, and is 4th in the conference in

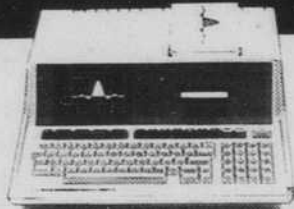
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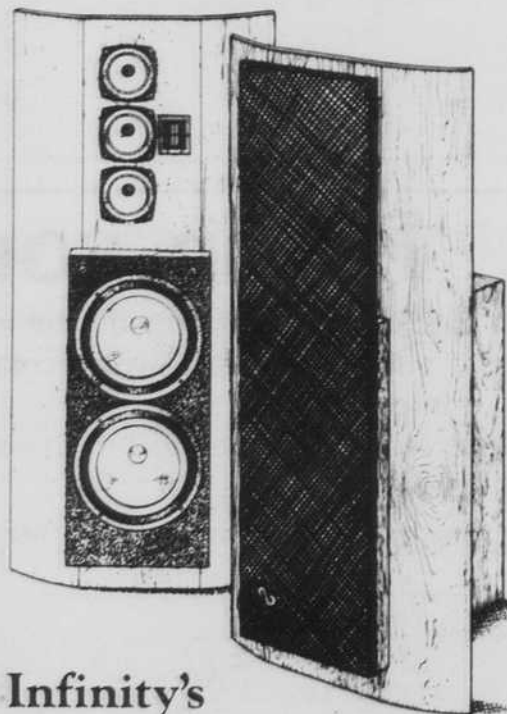
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