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Duck cagers stagger into the home stretch

By Donald Coulter
Of the Emerald

Amid controversy over the dismissal of Barry Walker, compounded by the longest losing streak in Jim Haney's tenure, the Oregon basketball team is trying to regroup for the final stretch of the season.

The Ducks have lost their last six games, and 9 of their last 10 — Oregon's longest basketball drought in 10 years. And to make matters worse, Oregon plays its next four games against teams in the first division of the Pac-10 standings.

Oregon travels to the state of Washington this weekend to play the Huskies in Seattle on Saturday night, followed by a Monday evening contest in Pullman vs. Washington State. Washington is in second place in the conference, one-half game behind Oregon State with an 11-2 record. The Cougars are in fifth place with a 8-5 record, well ahead of sixth-place California.

After this weekend's road contests, Oregon returns to Eugene for its final home games of the year vs. third-place UCLA (9-3) and USC, fourth with an 8-4 record. The Ducks will travel to the state of Arizona for their final two games of the season against Arizona and Arizona State.

Already, hopes for a winning season have virtually passed by Oregon (3-9 in the Pac-10, 8-13



Photo by Bob Baker
John Greig

overall). And with this kind of a schedule remaining, it is conceivable that Oregon might not win another game this year.

Add to this one of the worst defeats in the Oregon basketball history last weekend at Oregon State, and you have a team rapidly losing confidence and in desperate need of a victory.

"It's definitely frustrating right now," says Oregon captain John Greig. "Any time you're on a losing run, it's easier to get frustrated, especially when you know you have the ability to do better."

"We're capable of exploding anytime. Maybe we'll get back on the right track this weekend."

Despite the losing streak, and the Walker situation, the Ducks have had other adversities in past years, and it will be a measure of the team's character to see if they will regroup, Greig says.

"It will take initiative on the part of some people to take a positive attitude," he says. "It starts on the practice floor. We have to wipe the slate clean."

"We may not have a winning record, but we want to be winners in terms of people associated with the team, and in terms of the program."

While he wouldn't comment on what effect Walker's dismissal will have on the team, Greig says practice this week has been especially emotional.

"I know Barry doesn't hold any grudges against the coaches or the team," Greig says. "He would like nothing better than for us to win our remaining six games."

Aside from the loss of Walker, the Ducks may have another casualty soon. Jerry Adams, 6-8 freshman center, will make a decision in the next few days as to his playing status for the rest of the season.

Adams has a cartilage tear in his right knee, which apparently will require surgery. He says he will decide when to have it done after speaking with his mother in Los Angeles, and with team trainers.



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COMING EVENTS

Event	Entry Deadline	Event Date	Location
Scotch Double - Bowling	February 19	February 20	EMU Lanes
Badminton Tourney	February 19	February 20	Ger X B-54
Sport Photography Contest	March 5	March 9 Judging	Ger 103

Badminton Tourney - Men's & Women's singles and mixed doubles. There will be two classifications - novice and open. Enjoy a day on the courts Saturday February 20. Pick up entry blanks at 103 Gerlinger.

Scotch Doubles - Bowling - The tournament format will consist of 4 games across 2 sets of lanes. Partners will roll every other ball regardless of frame. Each person bowls the equivalent of 2 games.

Sport Photography Contest - The contest for all entries has a broad title of sport, which is meant to include endless varieties of human movement, sport performance, recreation and dance. The categories for competition will be as follows:

Sports Action (Division I) which depicts an event or group

Sports Portrait (Division II) which depicts an individual

Century Club or beginner, intermediate and advanced joggers, swimmers and cyclists. Interested participants pick up a registration form. Set your own goal, start anytime, report mileage weekly and we will chart your progress. Miles are charted on the Oregon and California Map - Travel south on our map - watch your miles mount up.

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