

Flu hits Oregon

Duck women look for cure, wins

By Mike Riplinger
Of the Emerald

Not feeling well? Got a touch of the flu? Just want to lay around and get better?

That's the way the Oregon women's basketball team feels, as it heads to the apple state for Northwest Women's Basketball League action against the Washington schools.



Elwin Heiny

"The flu has hit us pretty well," said Oregon coach Elwin Heiny. "We're not doing too badly, but we could definitely be healthier."

All-American Bev Smith has been down all week, and hasn't been able to practice. Heiny thinks she will be able to play, but a few of the other players are becoming sick too, and he hopes to get through a hectic four-day weekend without any more casualties.

The Ducks, who are ranked 10th nationally and are 16-4 on the season, will face the University of Washington, Eastern Washington and Washington State.

"It'll be a tough weekend," Heiny said. "We can't afford to slack off now, because the rest of the teams in the league look at us as the team to beat, even if it has no bearing on their standings."

Oregon is vying for an at-large berth in the NCAA playoffs, and with their high ranking they are virtually assured of it, but losses this weekend could damage those chances.

They have already won the NWBL Open Division Championship with a 3-0 record. Oregon State and Washington are the only other NCAA Division 1 schools in the league, with the rest of the squads in the NWBL trying to qualify for a berth in the AIAW tournament.

The Ducks destroyed Washington 105-74 last time they played, but Heiny thinks the Huskies are capable of much more.

"They are a much better team than their score indicated last time we played and their record (12-7) indicates it now. I just hope we don't get them when they begin playing up to their potential. Or if they do, then we better play to ours," Heiny said.

Washington State, 14-10, and Eastern Washington, 16-6, will both be trying to play the giant killer against the Ducks.

"Both teams are capable off knocking off anybody in the league."

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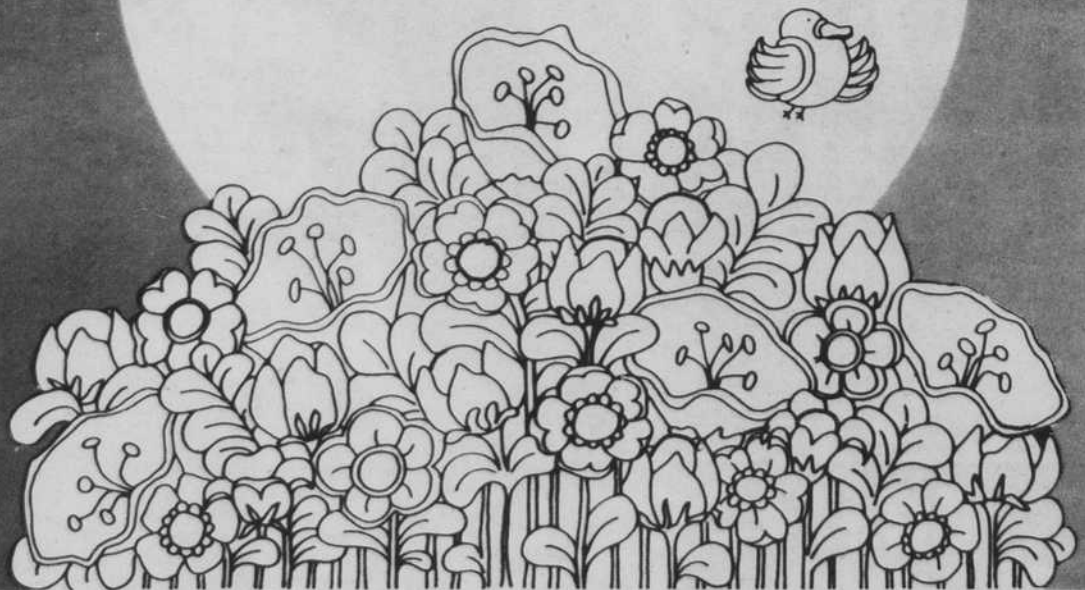
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