

Oregon women to retire No. 24

The Oregon women's basketball team will close out their regular season this weekend when they host Montana State Friday night and the University of Montana Saturday night in Mac Court, with both games starting at 7:30.

The Montana game will be "Bev Smith Night" as the all-American ends her career at Oregon. Smith will be honored as the greatest player in Oregon history and have her number retired.

"She is amazing, truly amazing," said Oregon coach Elwin Heiny.

Smith, the all-time leading scorer and rebounder in Oregon history, is a top candidate for the Wade Trophy, the women's basketball equivalent to the Heisman Award. This is about the only award she hasn't garnered in a starstudded career at Oregon.

"She's been the greatest thing that's happened to Oregon

basketball. She made an easy job of it for the coaches, because she demands so much from herself, the other players force themselves to try and keep up. She improves the play of the whole team just by stepping onto the court."

Saturday night will be a big night for Smith, but it will also be a difficult one for her. Not only will Smith, who has always shied away from the spotlight, have to accept her due honor, but she'll also have to lead her team against a strong Montana squad.

The Grizzlies have lost only two games this year, and are undefeated in Northwest Womens Basketball League action. They lead the league in defense, and Heiny expects them to slow the ball down against the Ducks.

"They play like the old Dick Harter teams use to: hold the ball to hold the defense. It will be very tough game."

Men end year on road

It's time to turn out the lights on the men's basketball season. But not before the Ducks try one last time for a weekend sweep.

Ironically, the Ducks end the Pacific 10 Conference with the two teams they defeated when the conference schedule began in January — Arizona and Arizona State — in Friday and Saturday games in the Grand Canyon State.

Oregon's 4-12 record is two games behind that of ASU (6-10), but one game ahead of the Wildcats (3-13).

The Ducks are coming off last weekend's beatings by USC (80-68) and UCLA (88-66). In those losses, Oregon exhibited effort at times, but was unable to sustain anything for very long.

"You can't go out and play just one half of basketball," Oregon coach Jim Haney said after the weekend disaster. "But I was pleased with the way we played in the second half against UCLA." At one point, the Ducks battled back from 15 points down to a five-point deficit, but the strength of the Bruins overcame inspired play by Oregon.

Senior forward John Greig continues to lead the Ducks in scoring. The Oregon captain is averaging 15.7 points per game and is second on the team to Jerome Williams in rebounding. Williams averages 8.2 boards a game, while Greig averages 7.1.

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