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**Miller forecasts Bruins**

**CORVALLIS (AP)** — Oregon State has won the Pacific 10 Conference basketball championship the past three years, but Beavers' Coach Ralph Miller insists that UCLA should be favored to return to the top this season.

"UCLA did not lose as much as we did," Miller told writers as the Oregon State squad began workouts Thursday. "Most of their players are juniors and seniors, so they have the experience. It's logical that they should be seeded ahead of us."

Miller, who has a 222-114 record in 12 seasons at Oregon State, admits the Beavers have some experience, particularly in the front line, and should have "a good year."

"The strength of our ballclub is in the front line," Miller said. "If there is a problem there, it is that we need to develop another small forward to help Danny Evans. We have more depth and flexibility in the front line. I don't remember it being so good there, but it doesn't matter what's up front if you don't have guards."

"We should be a strong defensive club again, and we could have good shooters — if we have guards to get them the ball," said Miller, The Associated Press coach-of-the-year the past two seasons.

Four starters return from the squad that made it to the West Regional finals last year — guard William Brew, forwards Evans and A.C. Green and center Charlie Sitton.

But it will be difficult to make up for the loss of do-everything guard Lester Conner.

Conner, second team all-American and a first-

round draft choice in the National Basketball Association, led last season's team in scoring, rebounding, assists and steals and was second only to fellow guard William Brew in minutes played.

Forward Rob Holbrook, the club's sixth man for several seasons, also completed his eligibility.

Brew could inherit Conner's duties at point guard, Miller said. In the shuffle, Evans, one of the top outside shooters in the conference, could play guard, particularly if another small forward can be found.

Miller also may have a freshman to move into the starting role at guard. Darryl Flowers, a 6-foot-4 guard who averaged 24 points for Madison High in Milwaukee, Wis., will be given an opportunity to play immediately.

The coaches also will watch closely the progress of 6-4 Dean Derrah, the former Hillsboro, Ore., High standout who missed all of last season with a knee injury.

It may be December before Derrah is at full-speed, Miller said.

Returning reserves include junior forwards Jamie Stangel and Jeff Wilson, junior guard Alan Tait and sophomore center Dean Hart.

Miller expects to make use of his other two highly touted freshmen. They are 6-10 Steve Woodside from Parkrose High in suburban Portland and 6-7 Tyrone Miller from San Diego.

The Beavers open the season with an exhibition game against the Canadian Athletes In Action Nov. 19 in Corvallis. The official slate begins Nov. 26 against Utah in Salt Lake City.

**Damaged Ducks hit the road**

Chris Voelz must feel like a team physician instead of a coach.

The Oregon women's volleyball team was hit with yet another injury this week when

Barb Lutz, the JC transfer from Salinas, Cal. who had 9 kills in leading the Ducks to their first Nor-Pac win (over Washington State), went down with a sprained ankle.

The injury to Lutz leaves Voelz with only seven players to take to California, where Oregon will play Santa Clara, 5-9, Friday night and University of San Francisco, 4-8, on Saturday.

The Ducks are already without Shaunna Koenig (hand injury) and Ronda Dalthorp (sprained ankle). Earlier in the season, Oregon was without the services of Stephanie Tambe, and Anetta Ensworth. Again

Voelz must play a numbers game to come up with enough players.

"The injuries give us no wiggle room at all," says Voelz.

In Santa Clara, Oregon will face a team led by setter Ann Skelley. She was voted second-team All-Norcal last season as a freshman and leads the Bronco attack. Skelley is complemented by Laura and Linda Hollis, twins from Portland's St. Mary's Academy. The Broncos are 2-3 in NorPac play.

San Francisco is paced by outside hitter Laura Bertani, who led the team in hitting percentage last year. The Dons are 0-4 in conference.

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