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# It won't be bland with Bev

By **Debbie Howlett**  
 Of the Emerald

Bev Bland meet Elwin Heiny. Actually the two head coaches need no introduction: not to each other and certainly not to Oregon fans. Bland spent the past two years under Heiny as Oregon's assistant coach and left the nest last year or the head job at Portland State University.

But tonight in McArthur Court at 7:30, Bland will test her learned abilities against her teacher — Heiny, and both of the coaches are ready.

"It's the first time any assistant has come back," Heiny says. "She's very good, I'm sure she'll have her team ready."

"It's a challenge to go against a really good opponent and show them what you can do," says Bland. She adds that the challenge is intensified because she worked with Heiny and a number of players on Oregon's current roster.

Bland turned the Vikings from a stumbling 6-23 team last year to a promising squad that lost to Oregon State by only 11.

Most of the trouble PSU had last year was because of injuries.



**Alison Lang**

Bland says the Vikings were going into most games with only six or seven players.

But C.J. Sealy, a 5-10 off-guard, is back after a year on the sidelines, along with Sheri Van Loo a 6-0 forward, who picked up the slack with a 19.8 points per game average.

The problems the Vikings had last year are the ones the Ducks are feeling to some extent this year. Lauri Tennant, a 5-10 guard and the Ducks' second most prolific scorer until an ankle injury, will watch the game propped up on crutches. Another guard, Janet Harris, 5-7, will also watch because of a re-injured knee. Helen Higgs, a 6-4 center, has a brace-like contraption taped around her elbow because of a spill she took in practice a week ago.

Heiny says the injuries aren't as prominent a factor as they might be. Most of the other players are healthy, he says, adding that Higgs will be able to start.

Bland says her team shows promise but has trouble with consistency and that the

Oregon game will be a good test. She hopes to get a better perspective of PSU's strengths. "We're improving, it's hard to say what our strong points are after just two games," Bland says.

Whether or not they're improving, the Viks' style is anything but bland. They've accumulated a reputation as a fired up squad with some real ability. Against Western Oregon State College, a highly regarded Division III school, the Vikings forced 23 turnovers in the first half. "But we just couldn't do anything with them," Bland says. PSU ended up on the losing end, 74-72.

Bland knows the Ducks' trouble at guard first hand, and she hopes to capitalize on that. But Bland is concerned about the Ducks' front line. Most of the problems Bland encountered against OSU were because of the Beavers' height.

The Vikings will find the same situation at Mac Court. Alison Lang, the Ducks' 6-3 center, is and has been the Ducks' biggest offensive threat. But Bland says the whole front line at Oregon has to be contained. Higgs, who teams up with Lang in the Ducks' double post offense, "is always a threat to score," says Bland.

But Heiny says the Ducks won't go to the middle any more often than they normally do.

"We've been keying on defense," Bland says. And that is what she hopes to do against the Ducks. "We want to force them to spend time bringing the ball up the floor."

"Portland State is a big game," Heiny says. "But they're not as strong as the teams we've faced on the road."

The Ducks will also face Chico State from Chico, Calif., Saturday night. The game is the first half of a coed double header. The men will face San Diego State University at 7:30, the women go at 5:30.

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