

Women cagers keep NorPac title hopes alive

By Capi Lynn
Of the Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team kept their sights on the NorPac Conference title with important road victories over San Jose State University and the University of California-Berkeley over the weekend. The Ducks boosted their conference record to 7-1 and improved their season mark to 18-6.

Junior Gabi Neumann poured in a career-high 27 points, including a nine of 11 showing from the free-throw line, to lead the Ducks past Cal 68-51, Sunday in Berkeley.

The Ducks played a zone defense for the entire game, hoping to shut down Cal's inside game. It proved to be a key

factor in the victory, as Oregon held the Bears' post-player Jennifer Bennett, the NorPac's second leading scorer (16.6 points per game), to only eight points on the night.

Oregon led the entire game, but the Bears managed to stay within reach in the first half by outshooting the Ducks. Cal shot 42 percent from the floor, while the Ducks connected on only 38 percent of their shots in the first 20 minutes of play.

Despite the poor shooting and a sloppy first half of action, according to Oregon coach Elwin Heiny, the Ducks established a 28-25 halftime lead.

The Ducks roared out to a commanding start after intermission, holding the Bears

scoreless in the first 5:40 of the second half. Cal finally found the scoreboard, connecting on a free throw. But the lead and momentum was too much for the Bears to overcome, and Oregon cruised to yet another victory, its 17th in its last 19 outings.

Lauri Landerholm and Amy Pettersen led Oregon with seven rebounds each.

According to Heiny, guard Tammy Richard played an excellent game, and Sue Brown made some key first-half buckets to spark the Ducks.

Chris Metzger, a former Oregon player, led Cal with 18 points and five rebounds.

The Ducks clobbered the SJSU Spartans, winless in conference games, 81-59, Friday in the Spartan Gym. Oregon made use of its overwhelming depth, with 11 of 12 players seeing more than 10 minutes of playing time.

Junior Lauri Landerholm was the only Duck to reach double figures, hitting eight of 12 shots for 17 points in just 22 minutes. Oregon's frontline players Kris Glidden, Neumann and Pettersen combined for 22 points, hitting 10 of 16 shots.

Heather McDuffie, Glidden and Pettersen all finished with six rebounds apiece.

The Ducks initiated their zone defense on the Spartans, playing it the entire game for the first time this season.

Oregon's strategy paid off, as it allowed SJSU to shoot just 38.2 percent from the field and held the Spartans leading scorer, Dana Foster, to a mere three points.

Oregon, meanwhile, shot a respectable 54 percent from the floor, hitting 34 of 63 on the night.

Oregon now has the week to prepare for the most important weekend of the season when it hosts Washington State University Friday night.

The Ducks will then face the University of Washington at 6 p.m. Saturday night in a showdown for the conference's automatic NCAA bid.

The Ducks squeaked past WSU on the road earlier in the season 68-67 in overtime, but fell to the Huskies 69-68 in another overtime contest.

Oregon is only one game behind the conference-leading Huskies, who top the NorPac with a perfect 7-0 record.

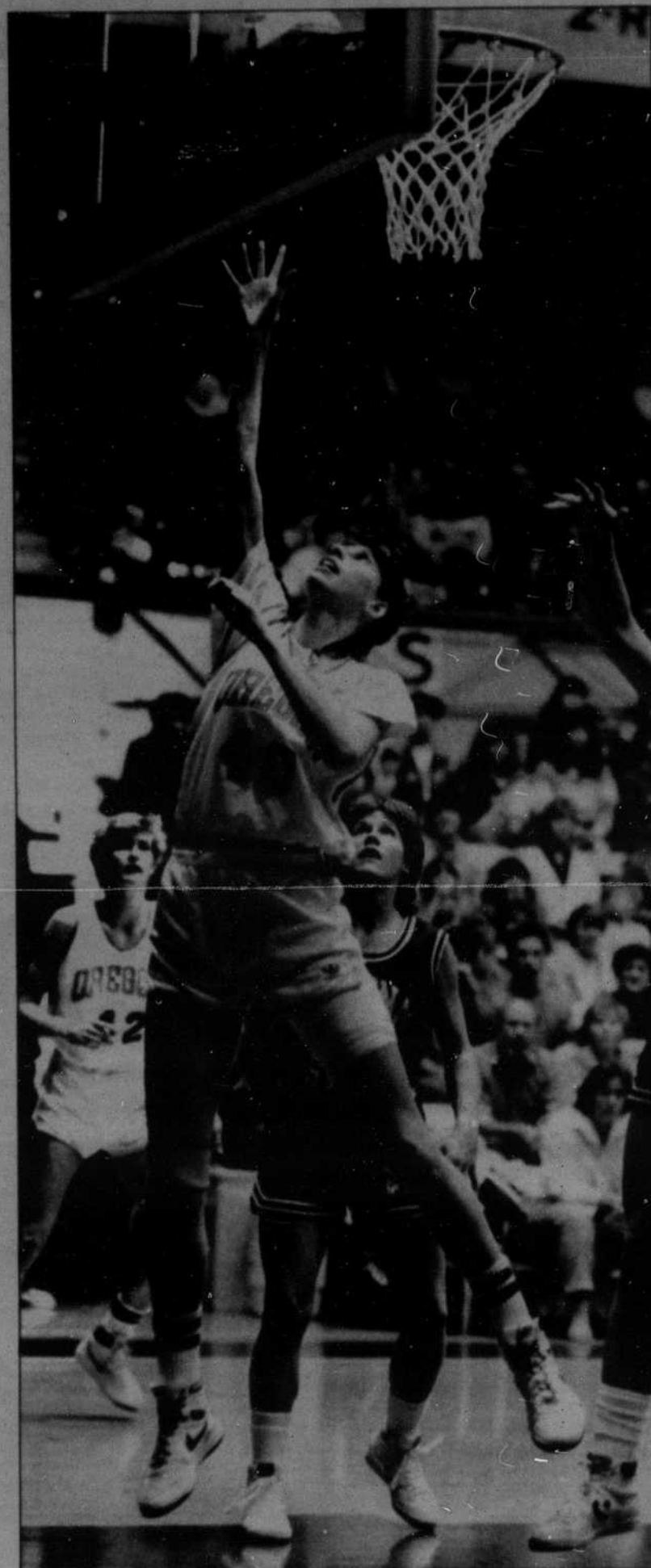


Photo by Jim Marks
Gabi Neumann scored a career-high 27 points against the California Bears as the Ducks kept their NorPac title hopes alive with a pair of victories this weekend.

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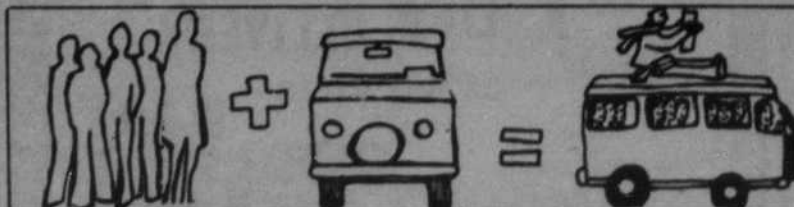
The Oregon Ultimate team won the first annual Ashland Ultimate tournament this weekend as they easily dispensed of four opponents on the way.

Oregon won the five-team tournament as it finished with a 4-0 record in the round-robin competition.

Oregon first took on an Ashland club team

and easily defeated them 11-2. Oregon then went on to beat Chico State 11-3, Corvallis 11-5, and Humboldt State University 11-8.

"It was a team victory all the way," said Oregon coach Jeff McBride. "We played very well against Humboldt. They are usually our toughest competition."



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