



Coupons in the Emerald save you money. Check every page, every day. It pays.

## **Sports**

## Ducks hope to get offense on track against Falcons

By Capi Lynn
Of the Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball team, with hopes of getting its offense back on track, hosts Sesttle Pacific University Saturday in McArthur Court at 7:35 p.m. to conclude a four-game homestand.

Seattle Pacific, a Division II school, has nothing to lose and everything to gain against the Ducks, said Oregon head coach Don Monson.

Seattle Pacific "will be up to come in and beat us," Monson said. "For us, (the game) is trying to get another game in and get our offense and shooting back."

The Ducks, 3-2, have been plagued with inconsistency on the offensive end of the floor, shooting just 36.4 percent in their last outing against Lamar University Tuesday.

That statistic would have been worse (24.4 percent) if it weren't for the stellar performance of forward Keith Balderston. Balderston hit nine of 10 from the field en route to a career-high 23 points to lead the Ducks to a 58-47 victory.

Oregon's defense has been taking up the slack from the lagging offense. The Ducks have allowed only 60.5 points in the last four games after surrendering 86 points in their season-opener.

Rebounding has also been a strength for the Ducks in the early going, as they are averaging 36 boards compared to 30.6 for their opponents. Center Sven Meyer has been a dominating force underneath the basket, leading the team in the rebounding column with a 10.6 mark.

Although the Ducks have been led offensively by a different player in each of their three victories, guard Anthony Taylor has been the team's leading scorer, averaging 19.8 a

The Ducks will be without the services of senior captain Kenny Sprague, who was held out of the Ducks' victory over Lamar because of increased swelling in both knees.

Sprague had reconstructive surgery on his left knee last January and arthroscopic surgery on the right knee last summer.

After averaging 25 minutes in Oregon's first four games, doctors and coaches decided to give his mending knees some much needed rest. He is expected to

return to action prior to the Ducks' conference-opening trip to Stanford, Dec. 21-23.

Sprague's temporary absence will definitely take its toll on the Ducks' game, Monson said.

"He is not only the captain. but his experience on the floor makes such a difference — even if it's for 15-20 minutes," Monson said. "You just can't substitute that (leadership and experience)."

Seattle Pacific is 2-1 on the season and will be searching for their first win ever over a Pacific-10 Conference team.

The Falcons, who beat the Norwegian national team 103-101 in overtime (the Ducks lost to the Norwegians 91-90), welcome the eligibility of Junior Darrin Levy, a 6-foot-7 forward transfer from Loyola Marymount.

Monson pointed out that Levy, who is expected to start against the Ducks, will provide the Falcons with an added offensive threat.

The Falcons' center Tony Brown leads the team in scoring with 15.3 a game. Brown has also pulled down 9.7 rebounds a contest.

