

Sports

Ducks win Bulldog Tourney

By Dennis Fernandes

Of the Emerald

After disappointing losses to two top-ranked teams, the University of Oregon women's basketball squad desperately needed a large dose of confidence.

In winning two games and the Bulldog Invitational this weekend, which counts as Oregon's first tournament championship since the 1983-84 season, they got that confidence.

Lauri Landerholm regained her shooting touch in Saturday night's championship game, hitting for 25 points in the Ducks' 83-67 victory against host team Gonzaga University at Spokane, Wash.

Landerholm was later named the tournament's most valuable player. She also had a 19-point, 12-rebound effort in the first-round 72-47 win against the University of Idaho Friday night.

The two victories put the Ducks over the .500 mark at 3-2 and give coach Elwin Heiny a positive standpoint from which to prepare for the squad's next encounter, a road game against the University of Nevada-Reno a week from today.

"We needed some games we could win for our team's confidence to develop," Heiny said. "Now the players can see what we're going to have to do to win in the season."

Part of that confidence needed to come via some improved team shooting percentage. After hitting just under 41 percent for the season, the Ducks turned in a 54.3 percent performance against Gonzaga, sparked partly by Landerholm's shooting 11 of 15 from the field.

The Ducks needed good shots to pull away from a scrappy Bulldog team in the second half. After holding a 39-34 lead at halftime, Oregon scored 10 unanswered points to take a 49-36 lead in the second half to finally pull away. Guard Carol Drouet registered 15 of her 19 points in that half to maintain the Ducks' lead.

Shelly Ray, who was also on the all-tournament team, grabbed 10 boards and added nine points. Forward Kris Glidden fought off the flu bug and got eight rebounds in her second start of the season.

Friday night's win was also close in the first half, as

halftime found Oregon holding onto a slim lead over Idaho at 33-30. The Ducks then went into an incredible defensive flurry, holding the Vandals to just two points for the first ten minutes of the second half and 17 for the entire 20 minutes.

The Ducks pummeled Idaho for 28 turnovers and held them to 27 percent shooting for the game.

"In the second half we shut them down with a full-court, man press and mixed it up with a zone defense to keep them off-balance," Heiny said.

It looked as if Oregon may have trouble before embarking on the trip north to Spokane. Starting center and leading rebounder Gabi Neumann came down with a case of chickenpox and had to miss the trip. As it turns out, it was a blessing in disguise, and gave Heiny a chance to use other players in the post, including the first collegiate start for 6-foot-7 Stefanie Kasperski.

"This game was especially good in that we played most of our players, particularly at the post," Heiny said.

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