

Sports

Oregon looks to preserve unblemished Pac-10 mark

By Dennis Fernandes
Of the Emerald

The Ducks headed down to Los Angeles yesterday in preparation for what could be their most difficult task yet this season.

Oregon will seek to maintain its perfect Pacific-10 Conference record (3-0, 10-2 overall) in games against the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) tonight and the University of Southern California (USC) on Saturday. Also, the Ducks may be looking for a little respectability in a city where they have never won against the likes of USC or UCLA.

"Playing in Los Angeles is a whole different ballgame," emphasized coach Elwin Heiny. "Even a split in Los Angeles would be positive in terms of our chances of being one of the top teams in our league."

The Ducks, riding an eight-game winning streak, really could not ask for a better time to

play the Bruins. The Oregon defense has limited their last four opponents to under 40 percent shooting. In addition, the inside game of Gabi Neumann, Stefanie Kasperski and Kris Glidden has accounted for 43 percent of Oregon's scoring punch in three conference games.

Oregon has been playing well to date without the services of Amy Pettersen (knee injury) and Shelly Ray (academically ineligible), but Arizona coach Wendy Larry, whose team the Ducks overpowered 83-63 Monday night and experienced losses against both the Bruins and Trojans, feels the Ducks' lack of depth or numbers may haunt them in Los Angeles.

"I think with the problems Elwin's team has encountered lately, they will have difficulty against the great athletes at USC and UCLA. They do not only have three or four great athletes, but seven, eight, or nine great

players they can throw at you at any time," she said.

The Bruins have won four straight since dropping their conference opener to Stanford, and are in a second-place tie with the University of Washington at 3-1 (9-4 overall) in league play.

UCLA guard Dora Dome leads the team in scoring at a 17.8 clip, and is coming off a hot weekend against the two Arizona schools, in which she averaged 26.5 points per contest.

Oregon faces a tougher matchup in USC, a Final Four participant in last year's NCAA tournament. The Trojans lost four-time All-American and Olympian Cheryl Miller to graduation, but still boast a strong enough lineup to win the Pac-10. Starting point guard Rhonda Windham and Holly Ford return to lead the Trojans, along with 6-foot-6 Monica Lamb.

Ducks face UCLA, USC; seek first league road win

By Capi Lynn
Of the Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball team has a difficult task at hand tonight when it invades Pauley Pavilion for a Pacific-10 Conference tilt with the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Bruins.

The Ducks will be in hot pursuit to register their first conference victory on the road, while the Bruins, who flaunt the Pac-10's longest winning streak (six games), will be trying to protect their flawless 7-0 mark at home this season.

Oregon, 8-6 overall and 2-2 in conference play, will try to bounce back after a disappointing 71-63 road loss to Oregon State University last Saturday, while UCLA will attempt to maintain the momentum which enabled it to sweep the Arizona schools over the weekend.

UCLA slipped past the University of Arizona when seldom-used forward Craig Jackson hit a game-winning shot as time expired.

Oregon head coach Don Monson knows the Ducks have their work cut out for them against the Bruins, who are 9-4 on the season and 4-2 in the Pac-10.

"We've got to try not to get in a running game with them (UCLA)," Monson said. "We need to get more into a half-court game."

Bruin guards Reggie Miller, who averages 21.4 points a game, and Pooh Richardson, also a double-figure scorer with a 10.5 clip, team up to present a threat on the break—a threat the Ducks will have to put a damper on.

After UCLA, the Ducks round out their Los Angeles stint against the University of Southern California (USC).

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