

Ducks open NCAA tourney with Eastern Washington

By Dennis Fernandes
Of the Emerald

NCAA tournament basketball comes to McArthur Court tonight when the Oregon women's basketball team takes on Eastern Washington University in a 7:30 p.m. matchup.

The winner will face 11th-ranked Ohio State University this Saturday, and if Oregon wins tonight's contest, the second-round game will be played at Mac Court due to a scheduling conflict at Ohio State's home floor.

The Ducks have reached the goal which eluded last year's 21-7 club, and they are now looking forward to the opportunities which only a "second season" could offer.

"I'm excited about it," said coach Elwin Heiny. "It's like a whole new season for us. This team is not ready to quit the season yet."

Oregon, the seventh seed in the Western Regionals, qualified for the 40-team tournament after posting a 22-6 season and second-place tie (14-4) with University of Washington in the Pacific 10 Conference.

With 10th-seeded Eastern Washington, the Ducks will play a team that, much like themselves, was on a roll toward the end of the regular season.

The Eagles, 18-11, qualified

for the NCAA playoffs by defeating the University of Montana, 77-74, in the Mountain West Athletic Conference tournament final.

Since struggling at the beginning of the season with a 4-10 start, the Eagles have run off 10 straight wins and have won 14 of their last 15.

They are led by 6-foot-2 senior post player Brenda Souther, who is the school's all-time leading scorer. She averages 22.2 points and 9.9 rebounds a game, while shooting among the nation's leaders in field goal percentage at 61.1 percent.

"We were told she is one of the best centers on the West coast," Heiny commented. "She's supposedly just a great athlete and almost unstoppable."

But Souther and the Eagles have probably not faced a front line as dominating as Oregon's, which averages 6-foot-5 with starters Kris Glidden, Gabi Neumann and Stefanie Kasperski.

The Ducks led the Pac-10 in rebounds with a 46.6 per game average, outboarding their opponents by a 7.9 edge a contest.

Although Eastern Washington's starting five is very good, the bench play is not that impressive, according to Heiny.

"One thing they didn't have,

I hear, is depth, so if they get into foul trouble they will have to bring someone else in that won't help them that much," he said.

Neither have they played at a place as boisterous as Mac Court, where the Ducks have won 12 in a row and drew over 2,000 fans in each of their last four home games. They set a Pac-10 record for attendance this season, averaging 1,790 for conference games.

The last time Oregon hosted an NCAA tournament contest — a 1982 loss to University of Missouri — 5,032 fans witnessed All-American Bev Smith play her final game.

"There's no place like home," Heiny quipped.

But Heiny is really not as concerned with the Eagles as he is with his own club, especially after the Ducks dropped their regular season finale to the University of California at Berkeley last Saturday.

"We're going to worry more about our game than theirs," Heiny said. "We did not play that poorly against Cal — we did miss some key shots and we made some untimely mental errors."

"That fact that we lost at Berkeley sticks in our minds," he continued. "We know we can play better and I think we want to show that."

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"I think stimulant abuse as a whole is on the decline because physicians are becoming more and more reluctant to prescribe amphetamines, so people are turning to drinking coffee and taking caffeine pills, which are not like amphetamines," Ripley said.

After the caffeine buzz wears off, coffee drinkers often will feel drained, "which may last into the next day," Ripley said.

An employee at the EMU Fishbowl said the cafe sells a lot more coffee at the end of each term.

"We're really busy during dead week," journalism senior Brenda Golbeck said while manning the cafe's cash register.

Beginning tonight, the Fishbowl will keep pots of free coffee out for students studying in the EMU, open for the rest of this week and next week until 1 a.m. every night, she said.

"We won't be serving food after 11 p.m., but the coffee will be hot," she said.

Li Simmons, who purchases candy, medicines and health and beauty aids for the University Bookstore, said sales of caffeine pills usually double this time of year. Included are brand names Energy Now, Up Time, No-Doz and Vivarin.

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