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Sports

Ducks tip off hoop campaign

By Aaron Knox
Emerald Sports Editor

The coaches of the Oregon men's and women's basketball teams were speaking different languages as they opened practice for their respective squads Thursday afternoon at McArthur Court. The men are talking speed and quickness, while the women are emphasizing a huge front line.

Men's coach Don Monson, with eight newcomers to his

roster, was optimistic about the Ducks' increased athleticism. At the same time, he made no bones about who Oregon's main man will be this year: senior guard Anthony Taylor.

"We've got better speed, more quickness, and better jumping ability," summarized Monson, who begins his fifth year at the Oregon helm. "But any talk about our strengths has to begin with Taylor," he added.

Taylor is entering his final year of eligibility this season. He averaged 19.6 points a game to pace the Ducks to a 16-14 record and seventh place in the Pacific-10 Conference regular season standings a year ago.

Also figuring prominently in Monson's plans is senior forward Keith Balderston, who averaged 7.3 points and 5.5 rebounds per game. He will be hard pressed to fill the void left by last year's leading rebounder, NBA draft choice Sven Meyer. Every other position on the floor is wide open.

Women's coach Elwin Heiny, entering his 12th year as coach of the Oregon women, looked at the Pac-10 coaches preseason voting that placed Oregon seventh in the conference, and smiled.

"The potential is here for a very good team," Heiny said. "Maybe we can sneak up on some people."

The Duck women were con-



Don Monson

ference runners-up last year, and advanced to the second game of the NCAA tournament. But the graduation of Pac-10 player of the year Laurie Landerholm and three other members of that team means that questions remain to be answered.

The biggest of those questions is how the front line, led by sophomore Stephanie Kasper-ski, responds to the challenge of replacing Landerholm's scoring



Elwin Heiny

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