

Sports

Duck women look forward to Aussies

By Cliff Pfenning
Emerald Correspondent

Less than a week before the Oregon women's basketball team tips off its non-counting contest against the Australian national team on Nov. 24., the Ducks have yet to settle on a starting line-up.

Head coach Elwin Heiny claims not be worried, though. The rapid development of several first-year players has added a sense of depth to the squad. Heiny indicated that the line-up that starts Nov. 24 may or may not be the starting line-up for the regular season opener against Gonzaga on Nov. 27.

Once the starting line-up is settled, Heiny indicated the bench situation, especially the sixth player — the first player off the bench — will also crystalize. The two probables for sixth player are seniors Sheila Sattiewhite and Amy Pettersen.

After starting the first several games last season, Sattiewhite settled in as the Ducks sixth player, and chipped in 6.8 points and 4.9 rebounds per game.

Sattiewhite's ability to play close to the basket, although she is only 5-foot-9, has kept her in the running for the starting forward position.

"Her strength is a definite

asset," Heiny said. "She's very strong, and we need that, especially on this team."

One of Sattiewhite's drawbacks, though, is her shooting. Sattiewhite's career shooting percentage is a mere .380, but there are signs that that will improve this season.

During the two scrimmages, she hit 12 of 28 shots and averaged 14.5 points. "She has improved her shot selection and that has helped improve her shooting," Heiny said.

Pettersen, who was slated to start last season before an injury forced her to redshirt, possesses one of the better shooting touches on the team. "For a 6-3 player, she has one of the best shots in the league," Heiny said.

Oregon's first opportunity to play against real opposition comes against the Australian

national team. The game for the Australians will be the third in as many nights. The Aussies were 6-1 with four games to play before coming to McArthur Court, with their only loss coming against highly-rated Louisiana Tech.

"The Australians are a very good team, and they should be favored to win," Heiny said. "It's (Australia's) national team, not a club team. They're preparing for the Olympics. They'll probably get every loose ball."

Oregon signed two players to early letters-of-intent last week. Marne Smith, a 6-4 center/forward from Portland's Marshall High School, and Carrie Thompson, a 6-0 forward from Hoquiam (Wash.) High School, both signed to play at Oregon for the 1988-89 season, according to Heiny.

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