

## Auburn hoopsters defeat women

By Cam Sivesind  
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team lost the Auburn Dial Classic championship to tournament host Auburn 89-78 Sunday, getting their 1989 season under way.

The 24th-ranked Ducks beat Grambling State Saturday night 84-81 to advance to the title game with the seventh-ranked Lady Tigers of Auburn.

Oregon played the Lady Tigers tough throughout most of the contest. The Ducks were close at the half with a four-point deficit at 44-40. But Auburn began to pull away in the last five minutes of the game.

"We were always in reach throughout the game," Oregon coach Elwin Heiny said. "It was a closer game than that until there was about four or five minutes to go and they went up by 10."

Two Ducks were named to the all-tournament team. Senior center Stefanie Kasperski scored 15 points and had six rebounds against Auburn and contributed 17 points and nine rebounds against Grambling State to take all-tournament honors.

Senior guard Michelle Eble matched her career game-high 18 points in both games this weekend to earn a spot on the all-tournament team.

Shooting percentage was low for the Ducks as a team with a 45 percent mark, and the Ducks were eight for 13 from the three-point zone. Oregon was also eight for 13 from the free-throw line.

"We were hurting them from the outside before they switched defenses," Heiny said. "Even though we did get some very good shots after that, we missed some very good shots too. That probably hurt us more when we did go inside."

Most of the Auburn scoring was done by two people. Junior guard Carolyn Jones had 32 points and five assists while senior center Linda Godby chipped in 25 points and 21 rebounds.

The Lady Tigers extended their home court winning streak to 44 games by defeating the Ducks. The streak is the longest in the nation.

This weekend's games began the Ducks' regular season and a six-game road trip. Coach Heiny knows that playing on the road is a tough way to begin a season, but he admits that any early season game will have its problems.

"We made some early season errors, but overall I'm very pleased. I feel playing here and playing away is always more difficult," Heiny said. "This early in the year against a team this good we experienced some very good results even though we didn't win."

The Grambling State game was a little bit closer than the Ducks expected it to be. Oregon found itself down at the half by one point at 42-41. The Ducks outscored Grambling State 43-39 in the second half to squeak out the win 84-81.

Eble led the scoring for the Ducks with her 18 points, followed by Kasperski with 17

and sophomore forward Staci Wallenborn with 16. Senior guard Jacquie Semeniuk added 11 points.

"Everyone played and contributed in some phase, but the two players who stood out in the first half were Michelle and Staci. Staci played real well, hitting a couple of shots from the outside as well as penetrating into the middle," Heiny said.

"But Stefanie was clearly the difference in the second half, plus Jacquie ended up with 11 points."

Shooting percentage was again down for the Ducks at 43 percent.

Grambling State team leader was junior center Tarcha Hollis who dumped in 33 points, earning a spot on the all-tournament team.

Grambling State went on to defeat Eastern Kentucky 95-86 in the consolation game.

The Ducks face Portland Tuesday night at 7:30 at the Chiles Center in Portland. The Ducks defeated the Pilots last year at McArthur Court 85-68. The Ducks last trip to the Chiles Center was two years ago when they snubbed the Pilots 69-56.

Oregon will compete in the Cellular One Red Raider Classic Dec. 1 and 2 in Lubbock, Texas. The Ducks will face 23rd-ranked Western Kentucky in the opening round.

Oregon has sweet memories of the state of Texas. Lubbock is 120 miles from Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle where Oregon took home the women's NWT championship last year.

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