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◀ GAME PREVIEW ▶

Ducks hope to end four-game skid

Face Huskies, Cougars in key Pac-10 contests

By Ashley Conklin
 Emerald Sports Reporter

As Oregon searches for a way to end its current four-game losing streak in the Pacific-10 basketball race, the Ducks will meet two teams having problems of their own on Thursday and Sunday.

Oregon hosts Washington, 2-4 in Pac-10 play and 8-7 overall on Thursday, and then meets Washington State, 1-5 in conference action and 7-9 overall Sunday afternoon.

The Ducks will be looking to bounce back from a 69-67 loss to Oregon State last Saturday. Oregon was outrebounded by the shorter, but quicker, Beavers, and coach Don Monson feels rebounding and defense are the keys against the Washington schools.

"One, we have to rebound better," he said. "We gave up too many offensive rebounds to Oregon State. One phase we did do better in was we played better defense, but we're still not a very good defensive team."

At 2-3 in the Pac-10 and 7-7 overall, the Ducks have four of their next six games at home. Three wins in four games at McArthur Court are virtually a must if Oregon hopes to finish in the upper-half of the conference and play in the NIT, a very realistic possibility.

"If we're going to do anything this year, we have to win at home or turn something around on the road to finish in the upper-half (of the Pac-10)," Monson said.

Washington had lost three of its last four before beating Miami, Fla., 83-67 on Monday. The Huskies, however, are a team that has given Oregon fits lately.

Last season Washington won twice, 71-70 at Mac Court and 78-69 in Seattle. Eldridge



File photo

Dion Brown, battling Oregon's Richard Lucas for a rebound here, leads Washington into McArthur Court to battle the Ducks Thursday night.

Recasner and Dion Brown, players who really hurt Oregon last season, are again leading the way for the Huskies.

A two-time all-conference pick, Recasner, leads Washington in scoring and assists with 15.8 points per game and 3.7 assists. Brown adds 10.4 points per contest and leads the team in rebounding at 6.2 per outing. Last season Brown scored 21 at Mac Court and Recasner went for 28 points, including 5 of 7 from three-point land, in Seattle.

"Washington has a lot of good players with a lot of experience," Monson said. "Right now their adapting to a new

system and getting better."

The new system Monson refers to is that of new coach Lynn Nance who returned to his alma mater after a 12-year career at three different schools. Most recently, Nance spent three years at St. Mary's where he was 61-27, including a 25-5 mark last year.

On Sunday, Oregon meets the Cougars, a team with coach Kelvin Sampson in his third year, but a team with a lot of new players. Among those who left was all-conference pick Brian Quinnett, who graduated.

Senior guard Darryl Woods leads Washington State in scoring with 16.2 points per game while freshman Bennie Seltzer adds 12.3 points off the bench. Other starters include forwards Neil Evans and Jason Thompson, center Brian Paine and guard David Sanders.

"They've been kind of up-and-down," Monson said. "It stems from shooting the ball. If they can break out of their slump they're an entirely different team."

Oregon lost two of three against the Cougars last season, winning at home, losing in Pullman and losing 78-56 in the opening round of the Pac-10 Tournament.

Monson is expected to go with the same starters he has for most of the season, except for freshman Bob Fife who will draw his third straight start for Eric Dunn at forward.

Other starters are Richard Lucas at center, Keith Reynolds at forward and Terrell Brandon and Kevin Mixon at guard.

Brandon leads the team in scoring (16.9 a game) and assists (6.6), but has averaged 21.2 points at home. Reynolds is second in scoring at 13.3 points and Lucas leads in rebounding at 8.1 boards per outing.

Thursday, January 18, 1990

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