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Sports

Oregon men seek wins up north

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

After a tough loss to Oregon State last Sunday, the Oregon men's basketball team had only two days of practice before tonight's game at Washington State.

The Ducks headed north to Pullman Wednesday, needing wins today and Saturday against Washington to keep their postseason hopes alive.

Oregon is currently tied with Stanford for fifth in the Pacific-10 Conference at 6-6 and is 11-10 overall. The Ducks probably need four wins in their last six regular season games to garner an NIT bid.

Although Oregon had very little practice time this week, coach Don Monson doesn't believe that will hurt his team this week, despite the loss to the Beavers.

"A loss is always tough, especially to such a big rival, but you just have to get on to the next game," he said. "I don't think the lack of practice will hurt us this week as it would have earlier in the season."

While Oregon has rebounded from last season's 8-21 season, both the Cougars and the Huskies have gone in opposite directions. Washington is ninth in Pac-10 play with a 3-10 conference mark and is 9-13 overall. Washington State is in the Pac-10 cellar with a 1-12 Pac-10 slate and is 7-16 overall.

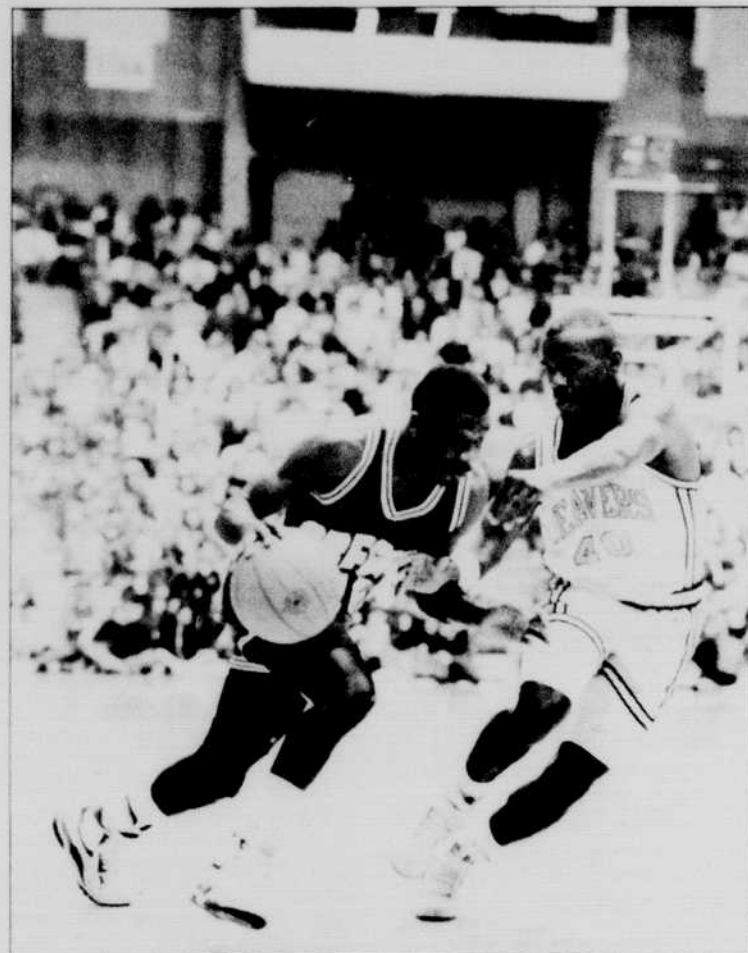


Photo by Mark Ylen

Terrell Brandon needs 55 assists to break Ron Lee's single season record. Brandon will lead the Ducks into Pullman to meet Washington State tonight.

Despite both teams' problems this season, Monson isn't taking the Washington schools lightly.

"I don't know that it's any easier playing them because you're on the road, and we've never won at Washington since I've been here," Monson said.

The Ducks have won at Pullman during Monson's stay at Oregon, but that won't make Thursday's game any easier for the Ducks.

"The biggest thing is they (Washington State) have lost 12 in a row," he said. "They've gone through their dropping games, so to speak, and once they start shooting well, they will break out of their slump."

As an indication of this, Monson pointed out the Cougars' game against California last week, where Washington State was up by eight at half-time, and by as many as 10 points in the second half before falling 69-51.

"They're going to break out of it sooner or later, and it scares me that it might be right now," he said.

Oregon beat the Cougars

82-68 last month in McArthur Court in a game where all five Duck starters scored in double figures, but the game was closer than the final score indicated, as Washington State trailed 62-61 with about five minutes remaining before Oregon ran away it.

Freshman guard Bennie Seltzer scored 25 points in that game, and he and guard Darryl Woods give the Cougars a potent 1-2 backcourt punch.

Woods leads the team in scoring with a 14.9 point-per-game average while Seltzer is right behind at 12.2 points a game, but the Cougars are shooting only 42 percent this season with both guards hitting just over 40 percent of their shots.

Coach Kelvin Sampson, who has compiled a 30-51 record in three seasons, has had a hard time of it in Pullman, but Monson feels Washington State will be able to turn it around.

"They've had a really good recruiting year," he said, "as good as any team in the Pac-

now."

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