

Seniors to play final home games

ASU, Ducks clash on TV

By Cam Sivesind
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team makes its last home stand of the 1989-90 season starting with a nationally televised showdown tonight at 9 in McArthur Court against Arizona State.

The game is being televised by ESPN, something Oregon coach Elwin Heiny feels is a big boost for women's athletics.

"This is great for women's basketball," Heiny said. "It will give the East Coast a chance to see what it's like in the West, how we play here. Rankings are often extremely biased toward the East and the South."

Oregon faces Arizona Saturday night at 7:30 in what will be the final game in the Pit for three seniors.

Record-breaking center Stefanie Kasperski, multi-position player Jacquie Semeniuk and three-point gunner Michelle Eble are the seniors that will be sorely missed next year.

The Ducks, 16-9 overall and 8-6 in the Pacific 10 Conference, are two and a half games behind third-place UCLA in conference action. There is still an outside chance of a postseason appearance, most likely in the NIT, but those chances are remote.

Oregon is on a losing slide as of late, a slide that may have started with a 81-68 loss to Arizona State in early February. The Ducks have lost four of their last six outings, including two losses in Los Angeles last weekend.

"Arizona State beat us down there. We want to prove we're a better team than that," Heiny said. "They do present problems for us, as they did down there, but we had an extremely off night."

The Sun Devils are enjoying their best season since 1985-86 with a 12-12 overall mark, and a 4-10 Pac-10 standing.

Arizona State is in a losing skid itself, having won only one of its last five contests since it defeated the Ducks.

Forward Fran Ciak is averaging 14.7 points a game and 8.6 rebounds to pace the Sun Devils in both categories. Karen O'Connor is scoring 12.9 points a game from her guard position for second in team scoring. O'Connor scored 18 points and had eight assists in the previous contest with Oregon.

In the Ducks' last meeting with Arizona, Oregon came away with an 84-73 victory. Arizona is no pushover and has plenty of firepower with four players averaging in double fig-



Senior Michelle Eble, Oregon's best-ever three-point shooter, will play her final two home games Thursday and Saturday in McArthur Court.

ures this season.

Guard Timi Brown scores 16.2 points a game on 52 percent shooting from the floor to lead the Wildcats arsenal. Forward Brenda Freese averages 14.2 points a game while grabbing a team-high 6.2 rebounds.

The Wildcats are 10-15 overall, 3-11 in the Pac-10. Arizona is coming off a 113-70 drubbing by Stanford after beating Cal in overtime two nights prior.

"Arizona is another team that is very challenging. They have very good shooters, and they are a good hustling team," Heiny said. "We didn't play well on the road (against Arizona), but we still beat them."

Saturday looks to be very emotional as the three seniors will bid farewell to Mac Court and the fans.

"I'm going to miss everybody on the team. I think it's a great group," Semeniuk said. "I think we just want to go out and finish our last two home games the best we can."

"We want to show people how we are really capable of playing, which I don't think we've done lately," Semeniuk said.

Semeniuk established the single-season assist mark last season with 190, and is looking

to be one of only four Duck players ever to complete their careers at Oregon in the top 10 in scoring, rebounding and assists.

Eble, the Ducks' most prolific three-point shooter ever, owns six school records including most threes made in one game (5) and season (41).

"I don't regret anything about coming to Oregon," Eble said. "It's been a lot of fun and a good experience. I've learned a lot about myself."

Kasperski receives the most attention of the three seniors, but rightfully so.

The 6-foot-7 center currently holds six Pac-10 records, including career rebounds (954), field goals (787), and blocked shots (388).

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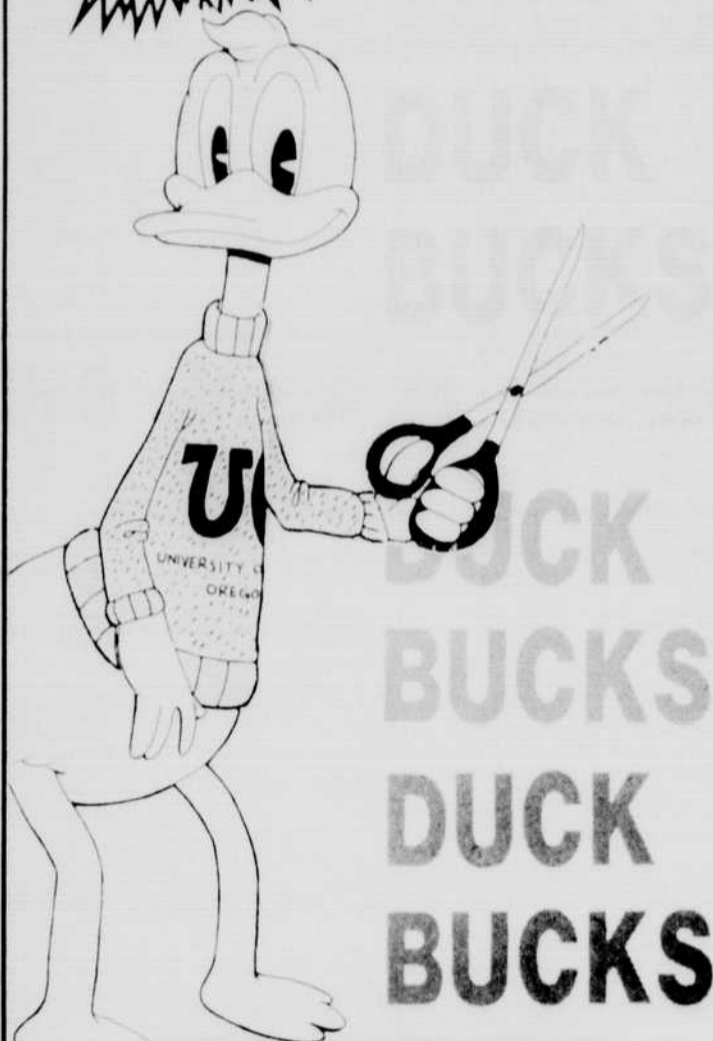
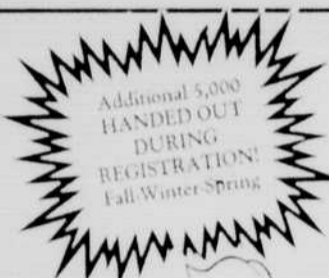


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