

# Slumping Ducks face second-ranked Stanford

By Cam Sivesind  
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team tries to get back on track Thursday night at Stanford after losing four of its last five games.

Facing the second-ranked Cardinal is not the best way to get back into the swing of winning ways, but Oregon coach Elwin Heiny knows his Ducks have as good a chance as any team to beat Stanford.

"I think we bother Stanford as much as anyone else. We bother them differently than other teams," Heiny said. "They've always been ready for us because they know they

have to be."

The Ducks, 17-10 overall, did bother Stanford earlier this year in McArthur Court. Oregon played the Cardinal even for fifteen minutes before fading away. The Cardinal left with a 76-57 victory.

### Pac-10 Women

	Conf W/L	Overall W/L	Games Behind
Stanford	15-1	25-1	—
Washington	15-1	24-2	—
UCLA	11-6	16-11	4½
<b>Oregon</b>	<b>9-7</b>	<b>17-10</b>	<b>6</b>
California	7-9	15-11	8
Washington St.	7-9	15-11	8
Southern Cal	6-11	8-17	9½
Arizona St.	5-11	13-13	10
Arizona	5-11	12-15	10
Oregon St.	1-15	5-24	14

Oregon is in sole possession of fourth place in the Pacific 10 Conference at 9-7, two games ahead of California.

The Cardinal, 25-1 overall, have dominated their opponents this season. Their only loss came on the road to Washington. Stanford is tied with the Huskies for first place in the Pacific 10 Conference with a 15-1 record.

Stanford is undefeated (13-0) in Maples Pavilion this season, adding to a home-winning streak that stretches to 27 games.

Stanford also dominates the conference statistically, leading in seven of 12 categories. Individually, freshman center Val Whiting tops the league in field goal percentage (56.7), senior forward Katy Steding owns the three-point accuracy mark (49.1), and junior guard Sonja Henning leads the conference in assists averaging 6.8 a game.

Senior guard Jennifer Azzi, last year's Pac-10 player of the year, is the floor leader for the Cardinal.

"Jennifer Azzi is just amazing," Heiny said. "We've tried stopping her and Steding before, then Henning would start shooting. And they're better inside than they used to be."

Defense looks to be the key for Oregon this week, something that hurt the Ducks in their loss against Arizona Saturday.

"We do have to play better defense than we did this last week," Heiny said. "Looking back I think our injuries hurt us. We had several players that were hobbling. Arizona utilized that in just running up the court, and we didn't get back. That's one thing we can't afford to do down there."

Injuries and a shrinking bench have been a problem for the Ducks this year, and the latest slump may be a result of the same kinds of problems.

Besides losing three players to suspension or school changes, junior guard Brooke Allen went out early with a knee injury.

Injuries continue to haunt the Ducks as the regular season winds down.

"We had eight people yesterday in practice. Stefanie's still taking care of her injured foot," Heiny said. "Vanessa has bad knees that have been swelling on her the last couple of months. Marne has a bad leg,



Jacquie Semeniuk

and several others are laboring over injuries as well.

"We're sort of a like a MASH unit right now, and we were this last week."

Heiny knows it is tough to have to play Stanford so soon after a tough loss at home. But that is part of the game, Heiny said, and his team can only do its best against the Cardinal.

"Stanford is a great perimeter shooting team. They are an outstanding team," Heiny said. "They're a fun team to watch — maybe more fun to watch than to play against."

Saturday, the Ducks travel to Berkeley to clash with Cal. The Golden Bears hope to catch the fourth-place Ducks with a sweep of the Oregon schools this weekend. Should Oregon lose its two contests, the Bears would tie the Ducks.

Cal, a team also stricken with injuries and lost players, is a team Heiny feels his team will have to defeat to keep their sanity.

"We have to go win that game. No matter what happens in this season, just to finish on a good note we really want to win that game," Heiny said regarding the Cal clash.

Stanford is an important game to the Ducks, but Heiny points to the Cal game as being even more vital.

"We want to beat Stanford too, but Cal's a game where we're playing someone that we need to finish higher than in the season," Heiny said.

A player the Ducks must watch for is junior guard Laura Baker, Heiny said.

"Against us she's played very well," Heiny said. "She is a great athlete."

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