

# Oregon wins exhibition opener

By Robert Weber  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon's women's basketball team started its season on a winning note Thursday night with a 65-61 win over the Canberra Capitals in an exhibition game at McArthur Court.

Duck Coach Elwin Heiny was encouraged by his team's performance, especially the strong play of his two returning guards, Vanessa Selden and Staci Wallenborn.

"Overall I'm very pleased with the game tonight," Heiny said. "Vanessa and Staci really came through when we needed them down the stretch."

Wallenborn, a junior who plays both guard and forward for the Ducks, led the team with 19 points, hit nine of 11 free throws and also added four rebounds and three steals.

Selden, the Ducks' sophomore point guard, added 18 points, seven rebounds and four steals.

Heiny also received solid contributions from his two starting freshmen, 6-foot-3 posts Sara Wilson and Debbie Sporcich.

"I thought our young posts played outstanding tonight," Heiny said. "They really gave us some solid defense."

The two struggled on the offensive end most of the night, but found other ways to contribute to the Ducks' win.

Sporcich finished with six points and eight boards and all three of the team's blocked shots while Wilson tossed in three points and snared four rebounds.

Heiny stressed the importance of the win, even though it was only an exhibition game.

"We really wanted to win the game," Heiny said. "I think the players always want to win no matter what type of game it is."

After falling behind early, the Ducks came back behind the shooting of Selden and Wallenborn to post a 33-28 halftime lead, but Canberra made a game of it in the second half.

The Ducks fell behind midway through the second half after forward Trina McCartney fouled out with 10 minutes left, but pulled out the four-point win after late baskets and free throws from Wallenborn and Selden.

The Capitals, an Australian club team who kicked off their U.S. tour against Oregon, had four players in double figures, led by center Karen Smith and guard Trudie Hopgood who both tallied 11 points.

Neither team shot the ball well from the field, and both squads seemed to have a hard time avoiding turnovers.

Oregon hit 21 of 57 shots (.368) from the field and gave the ball away 23 times while the Capitals made only 18 of 61 attempts (.295) and turned the ball over 30 times.

Heiny said the exhibition games would provide an opportunity for his team to learn to score in game situations, and he saw some things he liked Thursday night.

"We saw some of what we were looking for," Heiny said. "We had some breakdowns on the offensive end and we ended up resorting to some one-on-one moves. The one-on-one moves were fairly successful tonight, but we will have to do a better job of running the offense."

Oregon plays another exhibition game Tuesday night when it hosts the Portland Saints at 7:30 p.m.

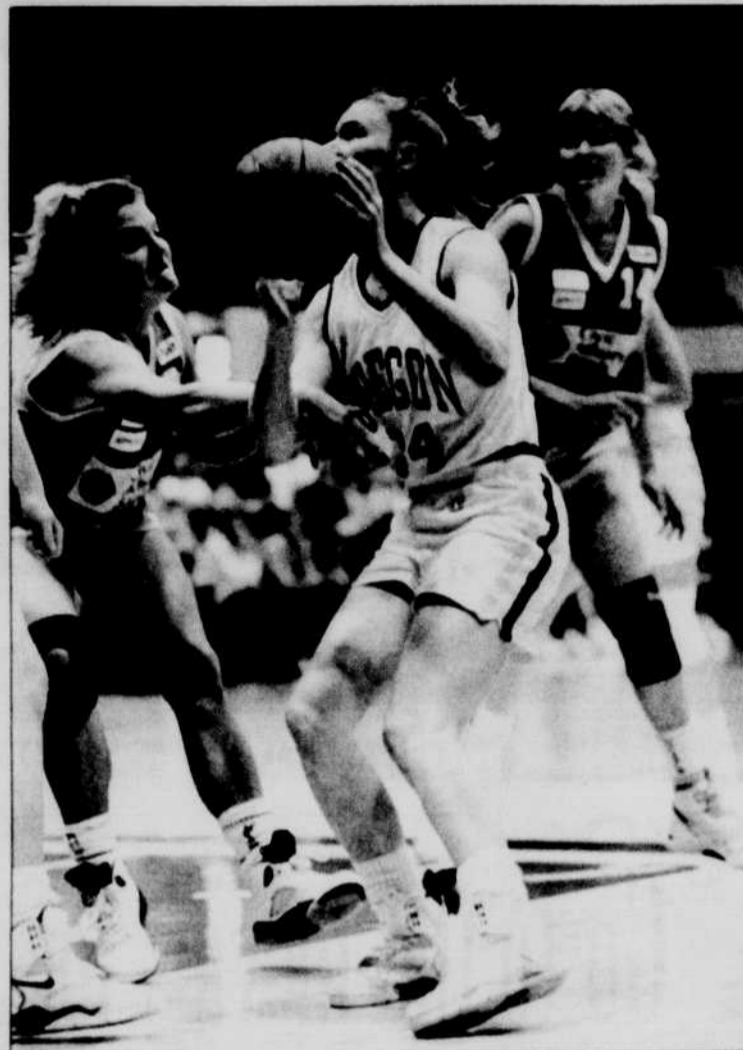


Photo by Andre Kaniers  
**Staci Wallenborn scored a game-high 19 points to lead Oregon to a 65-61 exhibition win over the Canberra Capitals Thursday night.**

## DUCKS

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To beat Cal, the Oregon defense must stop the deadly tailback combination of Anthony Wallace and Russell White, two of the Pac-10's premiere backs.

Wallace has rushed for 812 yards this season, third-best in the conference and White is fifth with 777 yards.

"Their two tailbacks, Wallace and White, are great football players,"

Brooks said. "I think they have a tremendous running game."

The biggest concern for Brooks this week might be keeping his team motivated, because the Ducks know they'll be back in a bowl game in December.

"We have a lot at stake as well," Brooks said. "I hope they don't have an emotional edge on us."

"I hope our players understand the importance of this game to us and the goals that we set at the start of the year,

and certainly reset after the Washington game," he said.

Those goals, Brooks said, are to finish second in the Pac-10 for the second straight year and to win nine regular season games for the first time since 1948.

**Duck Notes:** Oregon should regain the services of center Scot Boatright this week, and wide receiver Michael McClellan could play for the first time since the Arizona State game.

Defensive end Jeff Cummins probably will not play again this week because of a knee injury.

Quarterback Bill Musgrave suffered a minor injury to his shoulder in last Saturday's game with UCLA, but will be ready to go against Cal.

... It's been a big week for Boatright. Sunday night, his wife, Mani, gave birth to the couple's first child, daughter Megan Anne.



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