SPORTS

Ducks hope to rebound from tough losses at Missouri

Don Monson and his Oregon Ducks are hoping that a change of scenery will bring about different results.

After losing consecutive home games at the buzzer to Wisconsin and Athletes in Action, the Ducks are hoping to collect their first counting win of the year when they head to Columbia, Mo., on Saturday to face the 23rd-ranked Missouri Tigers.

Monson said he believes his players will be able to overcome the two heartbreaking losses.

We reassured our kids by telling them we did the right things," Monson said. "They were definitely more down after the Wisconsin game than the exhibi-

Kevin Mixon, the 6-foot-3 senior off-guard, said that the two close losses will help the team mature later on.

Maturing at Missouri will not be an easy task. The Tigers, defending Big Eight conference champions. have struggled in the early season but are still a solid

They were recently placed on two-year probation for violations that occurred between 1985 and 1989. Missouri is ineligible for this year's NCAA tournament and had to cut back the number of its scholarships and off-campus recruiting trips in the next two years.

On top of that, they lost their season opener at Rutgers 68-60 and are playing without all-conference guard Anthony Peeler, who is out for at least the first semester due to academic problems. Despite all of the Tiger troubles. Monson knows that Saturday's contest will be tough.

"They are a tough team," he said. "It will be a real test for our guys. They are particularly tough on the front line with Doug Smith.

Smith, the 6-10 senior forward, is the only starter with any real experience for Norm Stewart's team. After losing Peeler and being slapped on the wrist by the NCAA, he may be kicking himself for not opting for the NBA draft at the end of last season.

Oregon's Richard Lucas, Bob Fife and Chuck Patter-

son will have their hands full trying to stop the inside power of Smith on Saturday.

Monson's plan to stop Smith is simple: stuff the in-

"We'll really try and pack it in against them," Mon-

son said. "and we'll probably double up on them. Another big question for Monson is who to start against Missouri.

Jordy Lyden and Chuck Patterson made their first starts for the Ducks against AIA, and both played well enough to return to the starting five. Monson said.

Lyden, the 6-7 freshman forward, finished with 16 points against AIA by hitting five of six shots from the field, including all three three-point attempts.

The Ducks also received eight points and 10 rebounds from Patterson in Tuesday's exhibition game.

Lyden said that he and the team are too eager to be scared about facing Missouri.

We're all really excited about heading back there," Lyden said. "and we're ready to bounce back and

Women hope to stop on-road losing streak at 7

By Jake Berg Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team will be out to win its first road game since Feb. 3 this weekend as the Ducks leave Eugene in hopes of breaking their current seven-game losing streak away from home.

'We're anxious to get a victory.'' said 15-year Coach Elwin Heiny

The Ducks continued their woes away from McArthur Court last weekend by opening their season with a 76-70 defeat at St. Joseph's and a 70-58 loss on Rutgers' home court. The two losses extended the Ducks' on-the-road losing streak to seven

Oregon travels to play Weber State on Friday night in Ogden, Utah, and Sunday afternoon the Ducks will play Gonzaga in Spokane, Wash.

The one thing Heiny has going. though, is a combined 5-0 record against those two schools.

We're not as worried about them as we are about us," Heiny said.

After looking at last weekend's

games, the Ducks have reason to worry. Oregon turned the ball over 30 times at Rutgers and allowed the Lady Knights to snare 15 offensive rebounds

while failing to block out. "I think if we cut down on those, we can win some games." Heiny said. "De-

fensively we've done a decent job, but blocking out has hurt us.

Freshman forward Debbie Sporcich is one player not having a problem crashing the boards. She leads the team with a 9.5 rebound average after Oregon's first two games, and her 60 percent

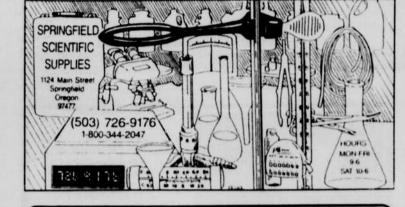
shooting efficiency from the floor is also tops for the Ducks

Junior guard Staci Wallenbourn shares the scoring lead with Sporcich at 14 points a game.

Weber State is 1-1 this season after defeating Colorado State 75-57 in its opener, but losing 73-68 to Wyoming in its second game

Wildcat post Cindy Holcomb racked up some impressive numbers in the two games to pace Weber State. The junior averaged 17 points and 9.5 rebounds

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