

Ducks drop Saints in basketball game

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

The Oregon women's basketball team marched the Portland Saints right out of McArthur Court Tuesday night.

The Ducks silenced the Saints' music, 68-78, in an exhibition rematch of last year's 80-77 Oregon loss at Mac Court. The final score Tuesday made the game appear much closer than it really was.

Oregon never trailed in the game as 6-foot-4 forward Debbie Sporcich scored 12 of the Ducks' first 14 points of the game. The sophomore hit all six of her shots in the opening half en route to a 21-point effort against the Saints.

Sporcich was happy with her effort, which included a team-high eight rebounds, but she said revenge for last year's loss was not a factor.

"I think I improved in more aspects than I did in our last game (a 90-87 loss to Tungsram, Hungary, Saturday)," Sporcich said. "I didn't remember much about last year's game."

Oregon coach Elwin Heiny remembers, and he said both teams looked improved Tuesday night over the teams of a year ago.

"I think they (Portland) might have been better than last year," Heiny said. "I think we played at a different level tonight. We were able to change the game tonight; we really

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— Coach Elwin Heiny

showed the way we want to play."

That way seems different than the way of last year. Tuesday night showed the Ducks as a team ready to run hard and break with the ball more often than last year's team would do.

The Ducks also pressed Portland a great deal in the backcourt, forcing the Saints into turning the ball over a total of 31 times. Turnovers were a problem for the Ducks, too, as Oregon gave up the ball 32 times.

The difference came in the shooting percentage of the two teams. Oregon was a sharp 18 of 30 (60 percent) from the field in the first half and 32 of 64 for the game, and Portland hit only 11 of 32 (34.4 percent) of its shots in the first half and was 44.6 percent for the game.

Portland made a run at the Duck substitutes near the end of the game, cutting what was at its largest a 25-point lead down to its smallest, an eight-point difference with 21 seconds remaining.

Jefferson Wilderness map for an overview of the area.

Hikers have several options at this point. For the fisherman, Marion Lake offers excellent angling for rainbow, brook and cutthroat trout. A small rubber raft is helpful to reach the bigger fish, but bank fishing, especially in the early mornings and late evenings, can be productive. Later in the winter, ice-fishing can work well, too. Marion Lake is open to angling the entire year, as is Lake Ann. The Oregon fishing laws has information about regulations.

Wildlife enthusiasts, especially bird-watchers, will often be rewarded as well. Bald eagles can be seen in the tops of trees on the lakeshore, and the lucky hiker may see one of these birds gliding across the water in search of fish.

Other wildlife such as deer, elk, pine martens and picas may be seen as well. Picas, also known as conies or "rock rabbits," live in rockslides, and unlike many forest dwellers, they do not hibernate in the winter. They survive the long cold season by hoarding dry grasses in their rock nests. These small animals, which do resemble miniature rabbits, but without the big ears, emit a distinctive whistling sound.

Although open to hikers now, there is still some snow along the Marion Lake trail. And it won't be long before the road to the trailhead is snowed in at least part of the way down to the highway. When that happens, the trip to the lake makes an excellent ski tour. Although the trail is easy to follow in the snow, it does require expert skiing skills and should not be attempted in poor weather or by those inexperienced in winter travel in the mountains.

OUTDOORS

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Moon Creek valley. At one-half mile, the trail hits the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness boundary, and soon after crosses a small creek. After a switchback and a long traverse up a ridge, the trail comes to the outlet of Lake Ann, a 25-acre lake usually ignored by hikers going to Marion Lake.

The outlet of Lake Ann is one of the interesting points on the trail, which actually passes right over the small creek. The water passes through a subterranean channel, which is covered by a small field of lava. The hiker can hear the water gurgling through the rock but can't see it.

The trail passes several good campsites along Lake Ann, and after a few hundred yards reaches a junction with the Blue Lake trail. This trail takes the hiker to the northwest tip of Marion Lake, and leads farther to several other lakes in the Eight Lakes Basin to the south.

The main Marion Lake trail continues past the junction, passes through a short stretch overgrown with maple trees, then ascends a rugged rockpile.

Less than a half-mile past the rockslide affords the hiker a first glance of this large, clear-blue wilderness lake, which almost looks too big to be off a trail instead of a road.

The trail continues at the edge of another steep rockslide which drops almost vertically down to the lake, which at this point is almost green rather than the deep blue it appears at a distance.

The trail continues along the eastern side of the lake, and links up with other trails leading to the south. Consult a Mt.



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