

# SPORTS

## Returning players dominate team

By Jake Berg  
Emerald Sports Editor

The key players on the Oregon women's basketball team this season all have experience, but most of them only have one year of experience.

Nearly everyone returns from last season's 13-15 team, the only losing Duck club in Coach Elwin Heiny's previous 15 years at the Oregon helm. He expects the experience from last season's newcomer-dominated team to help this year.

"We're counting on it a lot," Heiny said. "That's a year under their belt."

Heiny will get his first taste of how the Ducks stack up against intercollegiate opponents Friday at North Dakota. Oregon's opening game gets under way at 5:30 p.m. at Grand Forks.

Of the 15 players Heiny has out for his team this fall, 12 have played at least a year. Seven of the Ducks are sophomores, one of the nation's best recruiting classes last season.

Among that class of sophomores is Debbie Sporcich, the team's MVP and leader in points and rebounds last year. The 6-foot-3 forward, a member of the Pacific-10 Conference all-freshman team, averaged 15 points and 10 rebounds while starting every game during her debut campaign.

Center Sara Wilson and point guard Missy Stowell both started as freshman for much of last season, too. The 6-3 Wilson was known for her defense and shot a team-high 51.4 percent, and Stowell assumed the start-



Point guard Missy Stowell is one of the returning basketball players Coach Elwin Heiny is counting on.

ing point guard duties after Vanessa Selden missed the final 20 games because of academic deficiencies.

Selden is back for her junior season, however, and will likely be the starter at the point again.

"Her presence last year would have given us four or

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