SPORTS

Ducks take third straight with solid win over DePaul

By Dave Charbonneau Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team completed a three game road trip with its third straight victory of the season, a 69-59 triumph over DePaul at Alumni Hall in Chicago on Monday.

The win gave the Ducks an impressive 3-0 record, following convincing decisions over North Dakota and 16th-ranked Northwestern this weekend.

Oregon trailed after one half of play by four at 34-30 but controlled the second half, outscoring the Blue Demons 39-25.

Debbie Sporcich picked up where she left off last weekend, scoring 18 points and grabbing seven rebounds. Her impressive play over the weekend earned Sporcich the Pacific-10 Conference Player of the Week award.

Against North Dakota Sporcich scored 17 points and grabbed 17 rebounds. Two nights later she scored 24 points and hauled down 12 boards against Northwestern.

Staci Wallenborn was the leading Duck rebounder with 15 boards to go along with her 15 points. Missy Stowell and Kelly Blair each had 10 points.

Oregon trailed at the end of the first half despite shooting 62 percent from field. DePaul shot only 39 percent in the half but took nearly twice as many shots (39 to 21). In the second half Oregon cooled off considerably, hitting only 39 percent, but so did DePaul as it made only a fourth of its attempts.

The Blue Demons were led by Rita Hale, who scored 17 points, and Tammy Williams, who chipped in 13.

The Ducks return home for games against Boise State and St. Joseph's on Friday and Saturday before going back on the road to face Montana, Texas A & M and Louisville over Christmas break.

Oregon will open the Pac-10 season Jan. 12 on the road against UCLA, with its first home league game Jan. 16 against Washington State.

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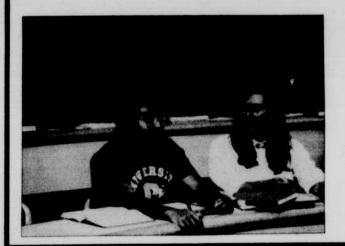
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