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## SPORTS

# Women's team shooting for first Pac-10 win tonight

By Jake Berg  
Emerald Sports Editor

After eight games of pure bliss, the Oregon women's basketball team experienced two games of plain blah last weekend.

The Ducks' preseason schedule saw them finish 8-2, but a pair of losses at UCLA and USC to open up the Pacific-10 Conference season have Oregon (8-4) scrambling to mend the start of the new year.

A league win is as needed as anything right now for the Ducks, and a visit to McArthur Court by Washington State tonight at 7:30 and Washington Saturday will give Oregon its chance.

But is that good or bad?

"These two teams coming here this weekend are probably better than the two we just played," Oregon coach Elwin Heiny said.

That may bode badly for the Ducks, who lost to the Bruins by 21 points and to the Trojans by 28. In walks Washington State — which received as many votes in the latest national poll as USC — and Washington, the No. 9 team in the country with a 10-2 record.

"The losses get us to wondering," Heiny said. "It's frustrating because we didn't execute what we were practicing, but we're better now."

Off the court things are looking better for the Ducks. Injured Debbie Sporcich just recently had a cast removed from her foot, and Heiny expects his star sophomore back in a "couple more weeks."

But the loss of Sporcich

**'The losses get us to wondering. It's frustrating because we didn't execute what we were practicing, but we're better now.'**

— Elwin Heiny,  
Women's coach

showed last weekend, he said.

"Deb's such a big factor in the game," Heiny said. He also said the reason UCLA and USC were so effective was the fact that they were able to utilize their post players without Sporcich to guard them down low.

Shooting was also a problem for the Ducks in those games, hitting only 33 percent of their shots against UCLA and 40 percent against USC.

But the Ducks had better get their hot hands out for the Cougars, 9-2 overall and 2-0 in the Pac-10, if they want to avoid a repeat of last year's nightmare at Mac Court. In that now infamous contest from last season, Washington State embarrassed the Ducks, 102-69, Oregon's second-worst loss all season.

What was worse was the fact that two nights earlier, Oregon had played ranked Washington tough before losing, 55-50. Heiny said the Cougars may be better than their cross-state rivals this year.

"I think they're stronger than Washington," Heiny said.

# Cold Ducks face hot Bruins tonight; Trojans on Saturday

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's basketball team can do no wrong this weekend.

The Ducks will travel to California to take on UCLA and USC, two games in which Oregon is expected to lose.

Tonight the Ducks will face the second-ranked Bruins at Pauley Pavilion. UCLA is possibly the hottest team in the nation.

The Bruins possess a perfect 10-0 record (2-0 in the Pacific-10 Conference) and are coming off a huge victory over seventh-ranked Arizona, ending the Wildcats' incredible 71-game home winning streak.

However, the biggest problem for Oregon (5-6, 1-1) is they do not even come close to matching up with the mighty Bruins.

UCLA's front line features 6-foot-10 forward Don MacLean, 6-8 forward Tracy Murray and 6-9 center Rodney Zimmerman. MacLean and Murray — both averaging over 20 points a game this year — will be guarded by Clyde Jordan and Antoine Stoudamire, both at 6-5.

Coach Don Monson said there's really not too much anyone can do about it.

"When you're overmatched, you just have to go out and play," he said. "There's no secret solution to it, you have to

stick to MacLean and keep your eye on Murray."

The Ducks are coming off a week that saw them beat California and lose to Stanford, despite playing a tough game.

"I don't know if they have more confidence," Monson said, "but they are feeling good about themselves. They played hard, and they feel good about that."

Seven-foot center Chuck Patterson played especially hard. The up-and-down senior turned in two solid performances last weekend, grabbing 17 rebounds in the two games, and he seemed to be hustling around the court for the first time this season.

"Chuck is getting progressively better, and he is becoming a bigger force on our team," Monson said. "We may start trying to get him the ball more often to get him more into the offense."

Monson may want to wait until Saturday when Oregon plays USC (9-3, 1-1), a much smaller team than UCLA. The Trojans use a three-guard offense, which could be a big advantage to the Ducks if they can get Patterson the ball inside.

Unfortunately for Oregon, one of those guards happens to be Harold Miner.

Miner is averaging 26.6 points a game and scored 39 on

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