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SPORTS

Pac-10 leaders USC, UCLA roll into town

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

Fresh off the heels of a confidence-building victory over Oregon State last weekend, the Oregon men's basketball team must now face the top two teams in the Pacific-10 conference this weekend.

No. 13 USC, 8-1 in the Pac-10 and 16-3 overall, will visit McArthur Court tonight at 7:35, and No. 3 UCLA (8-1, 17-1) rolls into town on Saturday at 3 p.m.

For Oregon (2-7, 6-12) tonight's game could be a humbling experience. The Trojans are possibly the hottest and most surprising team in the Pac-10. USC has won its last eight games and continues to move up the national rankings.

Oregon coach Don Monson said he was surprised at the Trojans' record, but not how good USC has been playing.

"They seem to have a winning makeup about them," Monson said, referring to USC's win at UCLA and a comeback victory at California. "They're capable of beating anybody."

'If you worry too much about (USC's Harold Miner), then something else jumps up and bites you.'

— Don Monson,
men's basketball coach

The Trojans are led, of course, by guard Harold Miner. Miner is having an All-American year, averaging 26.4 points and 7.3 rebounds a game. No one is surprised with the way Miner has performed this year. The big surprise is the way the rest of the team has played.

With the loss of big man Ronnie Coleman and guard Robert Pack from last year's team, USC was expected to finish near the middle of the pack. But the impressive play of Miner's supporting cast has catapulted the Trojans to a first-place tie with the Bruins halfway through the season.

Monson said USC's depth makes it dangerous for teams to key on stopping Miner.

"If you worry too much about (Miner)," Monson said, "then something else jumps up and bites you."

Guard Dwayne Cooper has played strong alongside Miner, averaging 12 points and five assists a game, and forward Yamen Sanders has been a force underneath with eight points and eight rebounds per game.

USC uses a three-guard lineup, which could play in the Ducks' favor. However, that was not the case when the two teams met earlier this season as the Trojans stomped Oregon 85-56.

Encouraging for the Ducks is the play of freshman forward Jeff Potter against Oregon State. Potter scored nine points, grabbed 10 boards and gave Beaver center Scott Haskin fits underneath.

Against the Bruins, coach Don Monson will likely start both Potter and center Chuck Patterson to try and counter UCLA's front line of 6-8 Tracy Murray, 6-9 Rodney Zimmerman and 6-10 Don MacLean.

Wallenborn showing her best stuff during final season

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

When Staci Wallenborn came to Oregon to play basketball, she wasn't sure what to expect.

Four years later, her teammates are the ones who expect great things from the senior.

"It's my senior season," Wallenborn said, "so I might as well make it the best."

And she has. The Vancouver, Wash., native is Oregon's leading scorer and her 16-point average is seventh best in the Pacific-10 Conference. She is also the Ducks' top rebounder (seven a game) and free-throw shooter, as her 81 percent efficiency is fourth in the conference.

Wallenborn will make her last visit to her home state in a Duck uniform beginning tonight when Oregon (12-7 overall and 4-5 in the Pac-10) plays Washington (13-6, 5-4) in Seattle at 7:30. The Ducks play Saturday against Washington State (10-8, 3-6) at 7 p.m.

As the Ducks have prospered, so has Wallenborn's game. In fact, Wallenborn said her only disappointment has been not being able to play with oft-injured teammates Debbie Sporchich and Sara Wilson together this season.

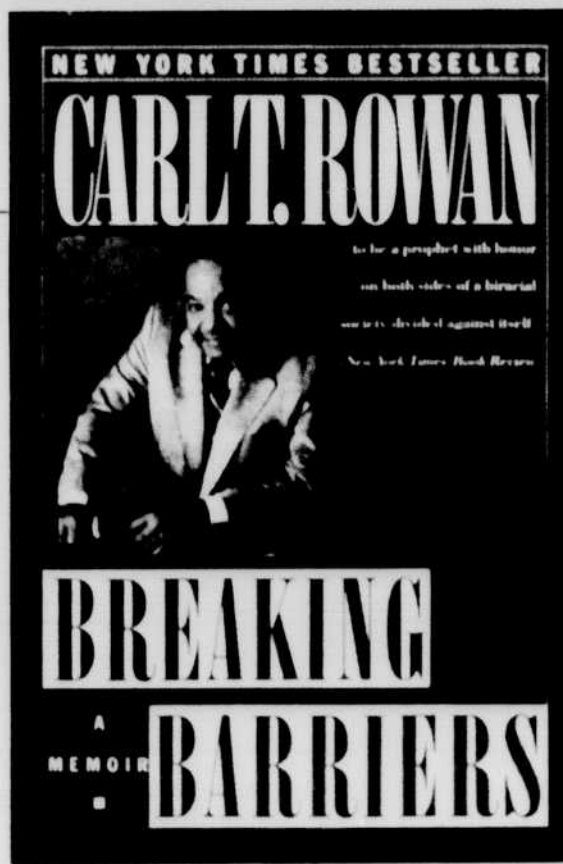
"It's frustrating because we could be so much better," Wallenborn said of the Ducks' injuries. Sporchich, who hasn't played a minute yet this Pac-10 season, is expected to return in some capacity this weekend to the Oregon lineup. But since Sporchich injured her foot in late December, it has been Wallenborn leading the way for the Ducks. After Wallenborn scored a game-high 22 in a 74-57 loss to Stanford last Saturday, Cardinal coach Tara VanDerveer expressed relief she would only have to face Wallenborn one more time.

"Staci Wallenborn ... I'm glad she's a senior," VanDerveer said.

But the Ducks probably aren't as happy. If Oregon visits a postseason tournament, Wallenborn will be a big reason. If the Ducks aren't playing after the regular season, only Wallenborn and fellow senior Marne Smith won't get a shot again.

"Knowing my luck, they'll probably go to NCAAs next year if we don't this year," said Wallenborn, who was part of Oregon's 1987 NIT championship team. "I really want to go this year, but I don't want to get my hopes up too much."

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BREAKING BARRIERS
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By Carl T. Rowan

As a witness, participant, and outspoken leader, Carl T. Rowan has been at the pulse of our nation's stormy race relations since the 1950s. Compelling and hard-hitting, *Breaking Barriers* recounts Rowan's rise from abject poverty in McMinnville, Tennessee, to a career at the forefront of power and social change. In eye-opening detail, the prize-winning writer tells of his struggle to become one of the first fifteen black Navy officers during World War II; and of being one of the first black reporters on a major newspaper in the 1950s, where he stunned America with his exposés on the Jim Crow South.

Rowan continued breaking barriers when he moved into government in 1961. He served as ambassador to Finland in the Kennedy administration in 1963, and under President Johnson in 1964 he became the first black ever to sit in the Cabinet and on the U.S. National Security Council.

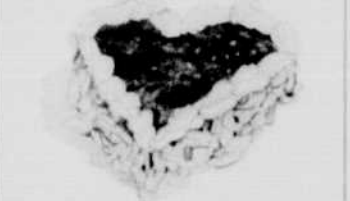
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