



Photo by Michael Shindler
 Staci Wallenborn's drive to the hoop couldn't save the women Ducks from their fifth consecutive homecourt loss in a game against Arizona Saturday at Mac Court.

Oregon falls to Wildcats for fifth home loss in a row

As the saying goes, there's no place like home.

Unfortunately for the Oregon women's basketball team, it proved false Saturday when the Ducks fell to Arizona 76-74 Saturday night at McArthur Court. The loss marked the first time in coach Elwin Heiny's 16-year career that Oregon has dropped five consecutive games in Eugene.

Arizona's win — its second Pacific-10 Conference victory of the year — dropped Oregon to 13-10 overall and 5-8 in the Pac-10. The Wildcats improved to 8-14 and 2-10.

Oregon crumbled at the end of the contest to lose the game. The Wildcats scored the final eight points of the game, and the Ducks missed out on some prime chances to change the

outcome.

Guards Vanessa Selden and Missy Stowell each missed the front end of free throw opportunities in the final 46 seconds that would have kept the Ducks in the game.

Debbie Sporcich led Oregon with 14 points as all five Duck starters finished in double figures, but the Oregon bench produced only 12 points. The Wildcats' reserves accounted for 27 points of Arizona's total.

Arizona also outshot the Ducks 56 percent to 46 percent in the game, including a 62 percent shooting performance in the final 20 minutes.

The Ducks will try to exorcise its homecourt demons Wednesday night when they host Oregon State at Mac Court at 7:30.

Cold Ducks win one, lose one to Huskies

By Doug Carter
 Emerald Contributor

The Oregon club hockey team switched its mask over the weekend, trading in Saturday's game-face of intensity for the lackadaisical facade it displayed Sunday morning at Lane County Ice.

With the support of Saturday night's raucous crowd, the Cold Ducks took their game to a higher level and handily disposed of Washington, 4-1. But on Sunday, the Ducks came up empty on their search for some residual intensity, suffering their first shutout on home ice this year, losing 2-0.

Oregon came out with hopes of a weekend sweep but gave up what proved to be the game-winning goal a minute-and-a-half into the contest. A series of delays and penalty calls against the home team prevented the Ducks from mustering many chances of scoring in the opening period.

"We need to get out and get in a rhythm," Duck wing Mike McHugh said. "It seemed that once we got going again (after a delay), we were cold."

The first period on Sunday was long and even a little too frigid for the Cold Ducks, who were forced to play short-handed three times in the first 15 minutes of action.

Two lengthy stoppages of play, one to tape a fallen pad back onto the boards and another for the officials to sort out penalty calls, resulted in a 45-minute first period.

Washington doubled its lead on a power-play goal with 1:13 remaining in the first period. Although the goal concluded the game's scoring, the Ducks got plenty of scoring opportunities in the second and third periods, putting a total of 33 shots on the Husky goal for the game, but they just couldn't find the net.

"We like to build up and maintain some momentum in the game, but there was nothing there to start the fire," center Paul Paquin said after Sunday's letdown.

Duck goalie John O'Donnell repeatedly denied blasts from the point and rebounding barrages by Washington attackers in the final two periods and finished with 28 saves. But even O'Donnell's business-as-usual approach couldn't spark Oregon.

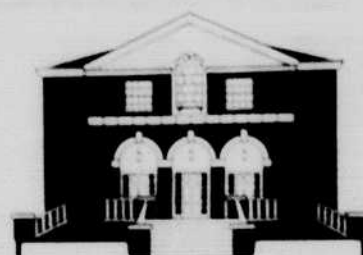
"They set the tempo by playing good solid hockey from the start," center Richard Tucker said of the Huskies.

The scene was far livelier during Saturday's contest. A crowd of about 800 fans, including representatives from Oregon's other club sports teams and first-timers wearing shorts, filled the arena with spirit and noise.

"That's the most vocal crowd we've had," defenseman Mark Liebert said after the Ducks' 4-1 victory. "It's hard to lose in front of a crowd that loud."

Oregon started sluggish but ignited the crowd when Liebert put the Ducks in

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Men's tennis team nabs win, 8-1

The Oregon men's tennis team rolled over Pacific Lutheran Saturday 8-1 at the campus courts.

The win improved the Ducks' overall record to 7-9.

"The one through seven positions were real solid," assistant coach Wade Judy said. "Every-

body had a good match."

Lee Kirner, the Ducks' No. 1 player, cruised past Pacific Lutheran's Brian Bensen 6-3, 6-1. The Ducks' only loss came at No. 3 doubles.

Oregon is now off until March 23 when the Ducks visit California for a match with Loyola Marymount.

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