# Ducks, Beavers limping to Civil War

By Dave Charbonneau

Oregon's Don Monson and Oregon State's Jimmy Anderson are nearing the end of what will probably go down as the most difficult season of their careers, past or future.

Their teams will meet Saturday at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis at 7:30 p.m., as the Ducks and Beavers engage in round two of

was supposed to be a real challenge to the elite in the Pacific-10 Conference. In fact, Oregon was picked by most to finish last, and Oregon State was predicted no better than a middle-of-the-pack finish.

But what has happened in the last three months is something no team, let alone a single coach, ever wants to deal with.

The Ducks are currently in last place in the Pac-10 with a 2-13 league record and a 6-18 overall mark. Oregon has lost 13 of its last 14 games, and if the Ducks lose their final three games, they will have accumulated more losses than any team in Oregon basket-

Attendance is way down - the lowest it's been since 1983 - and there's a question cused about whether Monson will be back next

Although injuries can be mostly to blame for the putrid season the Ducks are experiencing, the weight has fallen squarely on Monson's shoulders.

in, especially with all the injuries," Ander- wasn't performing well.

Anderson also said that no matter what the public thinks of Monson, his colleagues hold Monson in high esteem.

"I have nothing but high praise for coach Monson," he said. "Coaches around the country know that when they're playing a team coached by Monson, they better come in with their belts strapped on.

Monson is having his worst year as a At the start of the season, neither team coach but is still able to find positives in his kids," as he often calls his team.

> Tve always said the fun comes with winning," he said. "But the most positive thing has been the players. They've stuck together and haven't pointed fingers at one another."

> Anderson's struggle this season may even be tougher than Monson's.

> Although the Beavers are faring better than Oregon with a 6-9 mark in the Pac-10 and 14-14 overall, Anderson has had much to cope with, too.

> When Oregon State's Ernest Killum died in January, many people wrote off the Beavers for the rest of the season. But somehow, Anderson was able to keep his players fo-

> Killum's death was the most tragic, but it was by no means the only setback the Beavers faced this year.

In December, starter Chad Scott was dubbed academically ineligible and kicked off the team. And just recently, starter Mario "It's very unfortunate the situation he's Jackson quit the team because he felt he

Anderson is impressed with the way his team has hung tough, though.

We're playing good basketball, and we're surviving," he said. "The players should be given a lot of credit because they're staying focused and proving that we're a respectable team."

In fact, Oregon State may still have a shot at earning an invitation to the National Invitational Tournament.

"We have to win at least two of the next three games," Anderson said. "We'll have a winning record and our schedule strength will show that we're a deserving team.

Despite the shot at the NIT, Anderson said he hopes he never experiences another season like this one.

"It's like putting two or three seasons into one," he said. "It's very trying and it's very difficult. You just hope you're never faced with a similar coaching situation."

In the last meeting of the two teams on Feb. 8, Oregon snuck by Oregon State at McArthur Court, 64-63. It is the Ducks' only victory in their last 14 games.

In the game, Oregon forward Antoine Stoudamire scored 34 points and forward Jeff Potter gave Oregon State center Scott Haskin fits inside. Monson hopes the Ducks can do the same thing on Saturday

"Our biggest concern is Haskin," Monson said. "If he touches the ball enough times, he'll hurt you."

### Tennis team to compete

The Oregon women's tennis team will have its first home matches of the year today and Saturday at the campus courts.

The Ducks, 6-7 overall, will face off against Portland (3-4) and Portland State (0-5) beginning at 2:30 this afternoon. Pacific Lutheran visits for an 11 a.m. meeting Saturday with Oregon.

In case of inclement weather, the team will play at the covered courts.

This afternoon, six singles and three doubles will be played simultaneously. Oregon's top three singles players will play the top players from Portland State while Oregon's one, two and three doubles teams will play Portland.

Then, four through six singles players will play Portland, and one through three doubles will play Portland State. Singles matches one through six against Portland will conclude the doubleheader.

Saturday's match will be standard with six singles matches followed by three doubles matches.



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## Injured Cold Ducks face Gonzaga in final

By Doug Carter

The Oregon club hockey team takes to the ice for the final time this weekend when it hosts Gonzaga on Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m. at Lane County Ice.

Following five intense months of hockey, the Cold Ducks, 5-5 at home and 6-10 overall, are eager to close out the year with a couple of solid games and then let spring break act as a remedy for their aching bodies.

In a year that has seen most Oregon sports teams riddled with injuries, the club hockey team has found little shelter from the plague of wounded competitors.

Although the Cold Ducks have been fortunate enough to avoid any serious injuries, nearly every skater is hampered by some physical discomfort going into the Ducks' final se-

We only have three guys right now that are injury-free," said team captain Scott Brown Wednesday. The list of pain grew Thursday, when wing Tom Lerra pulled up lame during practice. Lerra, who is experiencing pain when trying to push off his left leg, is listed as questionable for the weekend.

Because of a lack of funds, the Cold Ducks will not compete in any playoffs this year, leaving the team's four seniors

goalie John O'Donnell, wing Mike McHugh, center Ned White and Lerra - with two games to play at the collegiate

"We'd like to end (the season and their collegiate careers) on a good note," Brown said.

But playing Gonzaga will be no leisurely skate in the park for the home team. The Ducks learned that lesson last year when Gonzaga stole two games on Oregon's home ice, both by the score of 4-3.

The two teams didn't meet in Seattle as expected earlier this year. Washington didn't invite Gonzaga to its weekend tournament in January because of the bloody ruckus that followed the Huskies' sound beating of the Bulldogs in their last con-

A Washington player was reportedly sent to the hospital after several Gonzaga players jumped him in his own penalty box. The brawl was started after the Huskies had put the game out of reach.

During the post-game handshakes with the Huskies two weeks ago, the Ducks were warned of the potentially feroclous nature of their final oppo-

"As I was going through the (post-game) line, a couple of Washington players said 'watch your back against Gonzaga," defenseman Mark Liebert said after the Ducks split the weekend series with the Huskies.

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