

Center of Attention

Sara Wilson began last season hoping to establish herself as one of the best players in the Pacific-10 Conference.

One year, and a foot injury later, Wilson is looking to do the same thing this year.

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

Wilson, a 6-foot-3 junior, is Oregon's starting center and, along with forward Debbie Sporcich, she is expected to be the focal point of the Ducks' offense. Wilson was in the same situation last year after coming off a freshman season in which she averaged 6.8 points and 4.9 rebounds per game, but a variety of injuries and illnesses allowed her to play in only 15 of Oregon's 28 games.

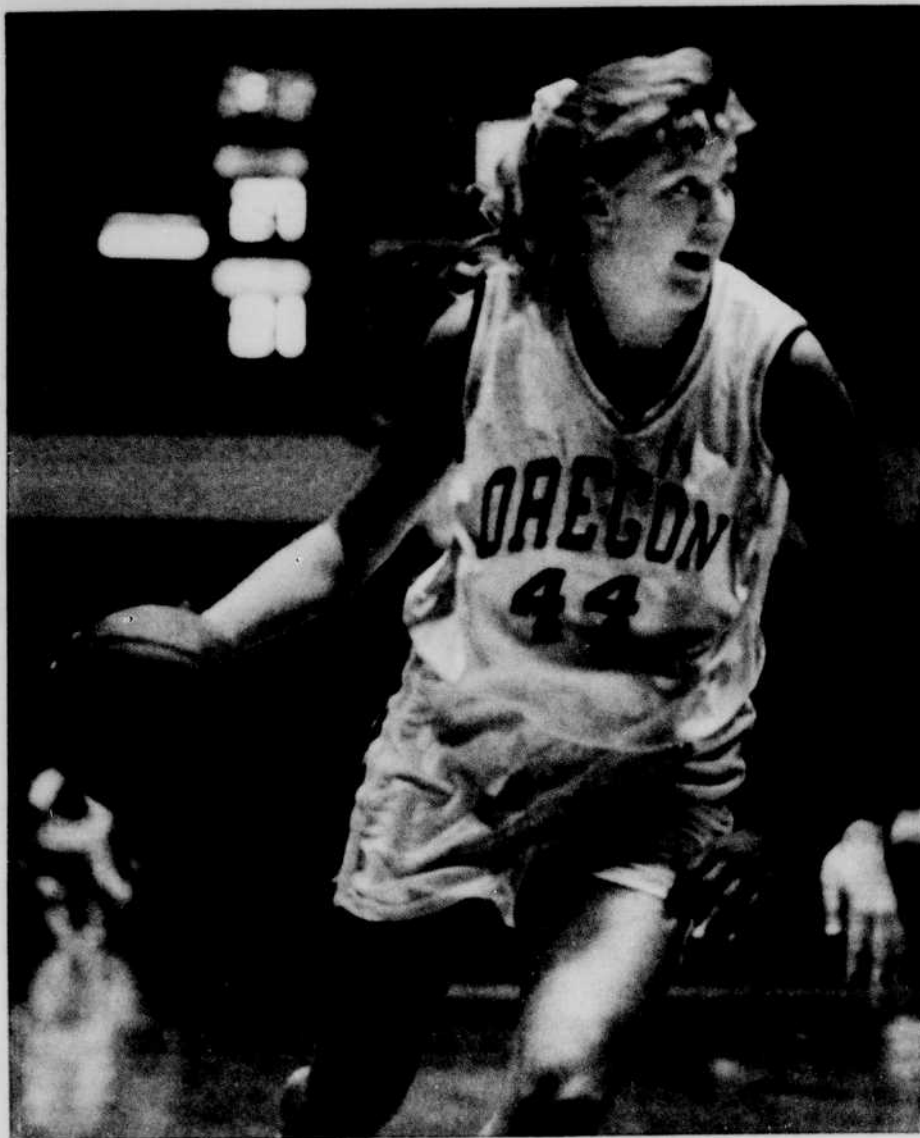
"It is unbelievable how frustrating last season was," Wilson said. "It was sort of a wasted season because I was never able to reach my potential. I have a new attitude this year to make

the most out of my talents."

Wilson came to Oregon after being named 1988-89 prep player of the year by *The Los Angeles Daily News* and *The Los Angeles Times*, and she showed flashes of brilliance during her freshman campaign, including a 28-point effort against UCLA.

Wilson was forced to sit out Oregon's first eight games of the 1991-92 season with mono-nucleosis and a stress fracture in her right foot. Wilson returned to average 9.1 points and 5.8 rebounds per game before a stress fracture in her left foot ended her season prematurely.

Oregon coach Elwin Heiny calls Wilson one of the hardest



File photo
Oregon's Sara Wilson is determined to stay off of the injury list this season.

working women in college basketball.

"She can get up and down the court quickly and has the ability to score and maneuver down low," Heiny said.

Last summer, Wilson returned to play basketball, joining the United States Junior National Team that won the silver medal in the Junior World Championships qualifying tour-

namment. Wilson averaged 6.6 points and 4.8 rebounds for the team.

"That was a great experi-

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