

# BASKETBALL

1993 PAC-10 PREVIEW

## Oregon hoop teams open Pac-10 seasons

Men at 7-5, but team inconsistency worries Oregon coach Green

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Editor

No one can argue that the men's basketball team hasn't improved from last season under new head coach Jerry Green.

Oregon already has more wins this season than it had all of last season, and the players are showing confidence and enthusiasm that was lacking during the Ducks' 1991-92 campaign.

An argument can be made, however, as to whether the Ducks will be able to improve on last season's 2-16 Pacific-10 Conference record.

Even Green isn't sure what to expect from his team when it opens the Pac-10 season tonight at California.

"We've won only one Pac-10 road game in the past five years," Green said. "I don't know if we're ready. All I know is we've got to play more consistently as far as our work habits go. We're trying to break some bad habits."

The 7-5 Ducks have won six of their last seven games. Not only that, but they have defeated a top 25 team (Brigham Young), overcome a 42-point performance by NBA-prospect Vin Baker to defeat Hartford, and won convincingly over a host of Division II teams.

Given all this, Green is still wondering when his team is going to start playing the way he wants them to — "unbelievably hard, and unbelievably unselfish."

"We get leads in games," Green said, "and then we have a game slippage. We start playing what I like to call, 'Cadillac-country club basketball,' where our players start to try and do too much by going one-on-one instead of playing team basketball. This team has game slippages more than any team I've ever been associated with."

Welcome to Oregon, coach.

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Oregon guard Antoine Stoudamire has helped the Ducks win more games so far this season they did than all of last year.

Photo by Michael Shindler

Women open Pac-10 play with star Sporcich on the bench

By Steve Mims  
Emerald Sports Reporter

It's deja vu all over again for the Oregon women's basketball team as it prepares for the 1993 Pacific-10 Conference season.

The Ducks are once again nursing injuries in the front court, one season after injuries to post players Debbie Sporcich and Sara Wilson left the two able to play only a few games together. This year it is once again Sporcich nursing an injury, and she will be joined on the sidelines at the beginning of the conference season by 5-foot-11 forward Cindy Murphy.

"Definitely this is frustrating," Oregon head coach Elwin Heiny said. "The big question now is what can we do to make the best of what we have and see if we can win some games."

Sporcich missed 10 games a year ago with a stress fracture in her left foot and on Monday was officially diagnosed with a stress fracture in her right ankle. Before the injury Sporcich was leading the team in scoring (16.4), rebounding (10.0), blocked shots (6), free throw percentage (88%) and field goal percentage (62.5).

Heiny said he hopes to have Sporcich back in the lineup in three weeks.

Murphy's foot injury came as a surprise to Heiny when he found out on Tuesday, but he said she is expected to return after this weekend.

The losses of Murphy and Sporcich has put added pressure on the Ducks' perimeter game, but the guards have responded nicely. Point guard Missy Stowell has led Oregon in scoring in three of the last four games, boosting her scoring average to 15.6 points per game, second on the team.

"Missy has played very well," Heiny said. "She has really stepped up her

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## Big shocker; Bruins, 'Cats teams to beat in Pac-10

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Editor



Last season, USC was the team that was able to nudge its way into the Pacific-10 Conference elite.

This season, Oregon State, California and Arizona State all have the possibility of making some noise in the conference.

But the one thing that is a given coming into the Pac-10 season is the fact Arizona and UCLA are, as always, the teams to beat.

Whether the Pac-10 will be able to dump its traditional crummy showing in the NCAA tournament remains to be seen. There could be as many as six teams to make the tournament this season, but it looks as if no team from the Pac-10 really deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as Duke, Kentucky and Indiana.

Here is a team-by-team analysis, in predicted order of finish, of the Pac-10 season, which begins tonight.

**1. UCLA** — Some may feel the losses of Don MacLean and Tracy Murray may be too much for the Bruins to overcome, as the two accounted

for nearly a third of UCLA's offense last season. But the Bruins remain rich with young talent, including junior guard Shon Tarver, who is just waiting to blossom.

Tarver will be joined by returning starters Mitchell Butler and Tyus Edney. UCLA could also have a formidable center in Czechoslovakian Richard Petruska, who sat out last year after transferring from Loyola-Marymount, where he averaged 16 points and seven rebounds a game.

Joining him in the front court will be seven-footer Ed O'Bannon. With the weak crop of centers in the Pac-10 this season, the sophomore could have a great year.

The only problem with the Bruins is a lack of depth. They have four freshmen and three sophomores on their roster.

**Pac-10 Prediction: 16-2**

**2. Arizona** — The Wildcats had their share of losses to graduation as well. Sean Rooks and Matt Othick are both gone, but returning is senior forward Chris Mills. Mills averaged 16 points and seven rebounds last year.



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## Stanford favored to top women's basketball again

By Steve Mims  
Emerald Sports Reporter



The Pacific-10 Conference, which sent six teams to the NCAA tournament last season, should be among the nation's elite conferences again in 1992.

Stanford, the defending NCAA champion, returns all five starters from last season and is a heavy favorite to win the title again, but the race for positioning within the conference should be tight between the other nine schools.

A lot of individual talent is being showcased as six of the 10 players from last year's all-conference team return, including Stanford's Val Whiting, the 1991-92 Conference Player of the Year.

Here is a team-by-team analysis of the conference in predicted order of finish:

**1. Stanford** — Stanford is the overwhelming favorite to capture its fifth consecutive conference title, and there is good reason why.



Whiting is off to a strong start, averaging 16.7 points and 8.9 rebounds per game, and has a solid supporting cast.

Senior Molly Goodenhour, last year's Final Four MVP, has boosted her scoring average to 14.2 points in the pre-season and will team with Christy Hedgpeth in the backcourt.

1991-92 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Rachel Hammer, who averaged 11 points and almost seven rebounds per game a year ago, and Chris MacMurdo will line up with Whiting on the front line. Six-foot-5 center Anita Kaplan, a member of last year's all-freshman team, will provide depth up front.

**Pac-10 Prediction: 17-1**

**2. California** — The Golden Bears have gotten off to a terrific start in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year under head coach Gooch Foster. California lost three starters from last year's NCAA tournament team, but have a cornerstone to



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