

Men look for win against No. 8

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Editor

The Oregon men's basketball team has lost six straight games, is winless in the Pacific-10 Conference, and is playing as bad as it has played all season — not the most opportune circumstances to be confronted by the eighth-ranked team in the nation.

But that is what the Ducks will be faced with tonight when they try to do the seemingly impossible: knock off 11-2 Arizona at McArthur Court.

The Wildcats are in first place in the Pac-10 with a 5-0 record. Oregon is 0-6 and in last place in the conference, and have lost those six games by an average of 13 points.

Since their impressive showing in December's Far West Classic, the Ducks have tumbled in all phases of their game. Assists are down, turnovers are up, and morale is plummeting for Jerry Green's team that surpassed last season's victory to-

tal 12 games into the season.

By the way Oregon has played its first six Pac-10 games, it may not be able to eclipse a seven-win season.

But the Duck players are hoping tradition and a little home-court luck will work in their favor.

Oregon has defeated nationally-ranked Wildcat teams at home two of the last three seasons. A win at home against Arizona would obviously do a lot in boosting the confidence on the Ducks.

"We haven't been real confident lately," Oregon forward Antoine Stoudamire said. "We're looking at this game as a chance to restore that confidence we had after the Great Alaskan Shootout and the Far West Classic."

As was the case last season, it seems as though the Ducks go as Stoudamire goes. Stoudamire shot around 45 percent from the field and averaged 18 points through Oregon's first 15 games, but the senior has struggled the past

three games, averaging only 11 points while shooting under 30 percent.

He and guard Orlando Williams have both been hard-pressed to provide the outside scoring threat on which Oregon depends. Williams and Stoudamire have combined to hit only 40 percent from the field in Pac-10 play.

Stoudamire said he realizes that needs to improve for Oregon to have a chance the rest of the season.

"It's been bad luck that Orlando and I have both started to slump at the same time," Stoudamire said. "I can't remember anytime in my career that I've had three straight bad games. We just have to keep taking our shots as they come and have confidence that they will start falling."

Oregon will need hot shooting and tough defense if it expects to give Arizona a fight. Last season, the Wildcats

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Women take Pac-10 jinx into game at UA

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team had high hopes for the 1992-93 basketball season after going 6-3 in the pre-season, but they travel to Arizona this weekend 0-6 and searching for answers.

The quick start and subsequent fall once conference play begins isn't new for the Ducks, as they have never won less than .667 percent of their pre-season games in the last seven years, but have gone on to winning records in the Pacific-10 Conference only two of those seven years.

In 1990-91, Oregon went 7-3 in the pre-season and bettered that with an 8-2 record the following year, but finished 6-12 in conference play

both years. This disturbing trend began in 1987-88 when Oregon went 7-3 in the pre-season but finished 9-9 in the Pac-10. Two years later, Oregon went 8-3 in pre-season but once again finished 9-9 in the conference.

"I think injuries are the big reason we have fallen off when the Pac-10 season begins," Oregon head coach Elwin Heiny said. "Injuries have been especially tough the past two years."

The injury bug has hit Oregon's inside players the hardest the past two years, with Debbie Sporcich suffering the most. Sporcich missed 10 games during the middle of last season and has played in only nine of Oregon's 15 games this season. The 6-

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