

# Women look for victory in War

By Steve Mims  
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team is back in Eugene to begin a three-game home stand in search of its first conference victory of the year.

Oregon began the season 6-3 in pre-season, but have lost nine games in a row and are 0-8 in the Pacific-10 Conference as it prepares to face Oregon State in the Civil War Friday night at McArthur Court.

The Ducks have lost 12 consecutive conference games, but will look to snap it against the Beavers. Oregon's last conference victory came against Oregon State last year on February 26th.

The Ducks have dominated the Beavers the past seven years, winning 14 of their last 15 games against their in-state rival. The Beavers were picked to finish last in the Pac-10 in the pre-season coaches poll but have played better than expected and are 3-5 in the conference.

Oregon State is led by three freshman, including forward Tanja Kostic who is second in the Pac-10 in scoring at 19.2 points per game and is also averaging 8.6 rebounds. Joining Kostic on the front line is fellow freshman Anette Mollerstrom, who is averaging 14 points per game.

"Oregon State is playing a lot better than people thought they would before the season start-

ed," Oregon head coach Elwin Heiny said. "The addition of Mollerstrom and Kostic has not only made them better than a last-place team, it has made them one capable of battling for a top spot. They are a very physical and an aggressive defensive team and those are the type of teams that have made us play poorly."

Oregon had played well enough to be in all of their conference games, until last week's trip to Arizona. The Ducks shot 45 percent in their 79-70 loss to Arizona last Thursday, and followed that with 28 percent shooting when they were blown out 79-42 against Arizona State Saturday.

The Ducks were ranked ninth in the country in field goal percentage entering last week's games, but are averaging only 44.3 percent in Pac-10 games.

"Once this year, we were a very good shooting team," Heiny said. "We've got to return it to that point. One night we are a very capable team, other than a couple of spurts, and the next we aren't. We have got to put it together for 40 minutes, whatever it takes."

Individually the Ducks have struggled as well, with no player averaging more than 14 points or eight rebounds per game. As a team, Oregon has been outscored by an average of 14.4 points per game in Pac-10 play.

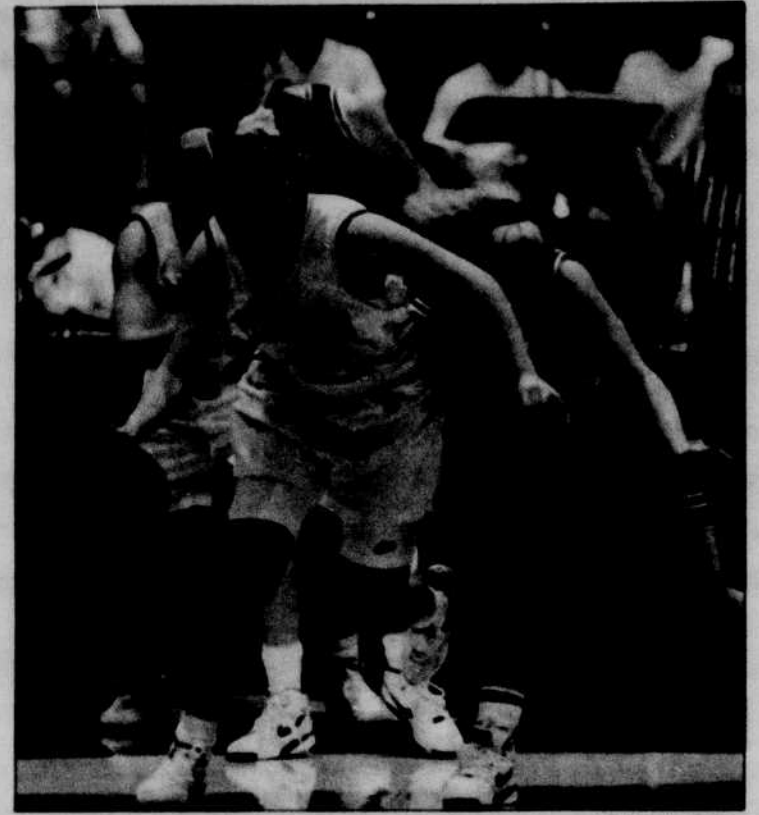


Photo by Jeff Paslay  
Cindy Murphy and the rest of the Ducks will try and get their first Pac-10 win of the season in the Civil War Friday night at McArthur Court.

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