

Confident Ducks try to stop another skid

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Editor

Every time the Ducks break a losing streak, another one pops up.

The men's basketball team broke a 20-game, Pacific-10 Conference losing streak last weekend when it swept the Washington schools at McArthur Court.

Earlier this season, Oregon broke a 17-game Division I losing streak.

Tonight the Ducks will try to end the final streak hanging over their heads — a 22-game road skid against Division I teams — when it faces Arizona State in Tempe.

Then Oregon will take on fourth-ranked Arizona Saturday.

The Ducks (2-11, 9-16) have not won a road game against a Division I foe since Feb. 3, 1991, but Oregon coach Jerry Green said his team is confident after breaking into the win column after last weekend.

"The players seem to be feeling good," he said. "At Tuesday's practice, we were looser and more energetic than usual."

Arizona State (7-5, 14-7) is in a battle for second place in the Pac-10, and Green said they are a virtual shoe-in for the upcoming NCAA tournament.

"I don't think there's any question they will make it to the NCAAs," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if they crack the top 20 pretty soon."

The Ducks could make the second prediction to come by if they were to knock off the Sun Devils Thursday.

Arizona State buried the Ducks earlier this season 99-84 at McArthur Court, as Sun Devil guard Stevin Smith broke a Mac Court record with 10 three-pointers in the game.

Green said if Oregon is to have a chance against Arizona State, Smith will have to be con-

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Women face ASU, UA in Mac Court finales

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team will begin its final home stand tonight when the team faces Arizona State at 7:00 at McArthur Court.

The Ducks have rebounded from a slump that saw the team lose its first ten Pacific-10 Conference games and go on to win two of the last three games.

"One reason for our turnaround is our understanding that our posts need to see the ball more," Oregon head coach Elwin Heiny said. "Once they get it, they have been more consistent at either drawing the foul

or getting a good shot."

Forward Debbie Sporcich has recovered from an ankle injury that sidelined her for six games earlier in the season and has just hit her stride. Sporcich is averaging 18.2 points and 10.6 rebounds per game over the past five games and was named Pac-10 co-Player of the Week two weeks ago.

Sporcich leads the Ducks in four categories, including points (14.9 points) and rebounds (8.8 rebounds), and is second in the Pac-10 in field goal shooting at 61.3 percent. The 6-foot-4 forward is on pace to break ex-

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