

Not a bad weekend for men and women's hoops

You'll be hard-pressed to find a weekend that went better for Oregon basketball than this past weekend's sweep of the Washington schools.

The women crushed the No. 15 Huskies Thursday night at McArthur Court and did equal damage to the Cougars Saturday night.

Meanwhile, the men were doing the unthinkable. First, they broke a 27-game Pacific-10 Conference road losing streak with a win over lowly Washington, and then managed to embarrass a Washington State team that was still in contention for an NCAA Tournament berth, that was until it lost to the Ducks.

Four games. Four wins.

That hasn't happened since the 1986-87 season.

The women are now tied for second, yes, second in the Pac-10 with a 9-3 conference record. The men are not quite as high up, but their two wins this past weekend almost assured them a finish of no less than eighth in the conference.

For the women, Thursday's win over Washington proved that their victory over the proud Huskies earlier this season in Seattle was not a fluke. Saturday's victory was a game the Ducks were supposed to win, and they handled the over-matched Cougars the way a top Pac-10 team should have. Quick



DAVE CHARBONNEAU

and easy. Ship 'em in and ship 'em out.

For the men, the weekend's victories were a redemption of sorts. Not only did the Ducks put an end to two years worth of misery on the road, but the wins also came at a time when the Oregon basketball program was experiencing one of its most embarrassing stretches since Jer-

ry Green took over as head coach before last season.

In the three weeks leading up to the Washington games, two Oregon players had been suspended and another two were giving Oregon State fans the bird. Things were getting so bad that last week Green changed his policy for media wanting to interview him.

Well, if there's any way to make the media forget about something you just don't want to talk about, the best thing to do is win. And the Ducks won.

Twice.

Six games remain for both teams. The women play Arizona, Arizona State, USC and UCLA on the road, and Stanford

and California at home. The men play the same teams, but the sites are the opposite of the women.

If the women win, say, three of those, they will have a very good chance of making the NCAA Tournament. Once that happens, Oregon could get a home game here in the first round of the tournament.

The men? Well no tournament is in their future. At least not this year. But this is a magic weekend. Arizona comes to town Saturday, and you know what that means.

I smell an upset.

Dave Charbonneau is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

Hockey falters early, falls to WWU

By Mark McTyre
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon hockey team tried to rebound this weekend against Western Washington after a disappointing 7-1 loss to San Jose State, but once again the Ducks fell far short of a victory. The official scoring sheet tells it all: Western Washington-50 shots, Oregon-19 shots.

From the start Western Washington took control, scoring three goals in the first ten minutes of play. The third goal for Western Washington came on an Oregon power play when Paul Kogness made a great pass from the corner to the front of the goal where Paul Hough put it past Duck's goalie Tom Bahls.

Trailing 3-0, Oregon forward Mark Adams scored on the same power play after receiving the puck from defenseman Dave Tisiot. Following Adams' goal, Western Washington scored a goal with 34 seconds left in the first period to take a 4-1 lead.

During the intermission between the first and second periods, Oregon head coach Paul Rutherford told his players, "Hit harder, next time out (on the ice). Everybody get one good check in."

For the rest of the game the Ducks were hitting harder and putting Western Washington players into the boards. Although the fans loved the aggressive style the Ducks brought to the ice for the rest of the game, the scoreboard didn't reflect that this was helping in any way.

Western Washington stretched its lead out to 6-1 before the Ducks could score again. At the 3:41 mark of the second period Oregon had a two man advantage, and within six seconds the Ducks had scored. Adams fired a slap shot from the blue line straight for the goal where Oregon's Sean Schoppe made a great redirection for the score.

The Ducks trailed 7-2 entering the third period after Western Washington closed the second period with another goal, this time on Oregon goaltender Richard Densmore. Western Washington added two more on Densmore before the game was over. For the time Densmore was between the irons, he did an outstanding job of stopping 22 out of 25 shots. For the Ducks, Jon Skidmore added a goal on a howitzer from just inside the blue line to make the final score 9-3.

The Ducks will play their final two home games next weekend against Washington State.

'O' my, Williams hot shooting is honored

Oregon junior guard Orlando Williams has been named the Hertz Car Rental/Pacific-10 Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Week for Feb. 14-20, commissioner Tom Hansen announced Monday.

Williams earns this honor for the first time in his career and is the first Duck to be given the award since Antoine Stoudamire on Feb. 10, 1992.

A 6-foot shooting guard from Portland, Williams led the Ducks to their first conference road sweep since 1990 with 65 points in the two games. In 86-71 win at Washington on Thursday, Williams hit for 25 points

and added eight rebounds and three assists.

In Oregon's 98-87 win at Washington State Saturday, Williams unleashed for 40 points, equaling the top effort in the Pac-10 this season and tying the fourth-best performance in school history. In that contest, Williams also equaled a school mark for three-pointers, with seven, and added four rebounds, three assists and a couple of steals.

Oregon, now 8-13 overall and 4-8 in league play, swept a conference road trip for the first time since February of 1990, which also came at the Washington schools.

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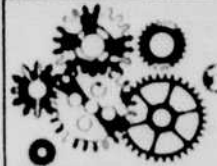
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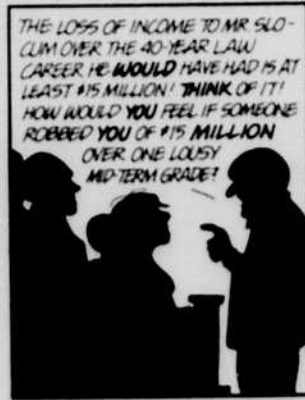
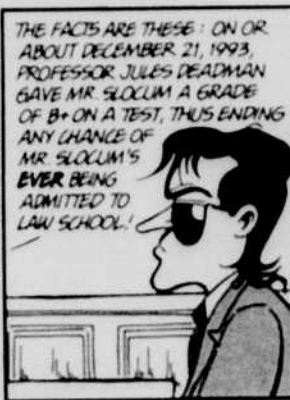
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