

Oregon skaters search for first victory

Chris Metz
Oregon Daily Emerald

After a disappointing two-game sweep at the hands of the Stanford Cardinal, the Oregon club hockey team returns to action Friday night for the first of a two-game set with the Washington State Cougars.

The Ducks are 0-2 after the opening losses to the strong Cardinal skaters, losing 8-2 on Friday and 6-2 Saturday. Coach John Ayotte was disappointed with the losses and felt that the Ducks didn't play to their potential, but is happy with their effort so far in the early season.

"I don't think there's a lack of effort," Ayotte said. "We've got some guys that are real hard workers. We just didn't use our speed to our advantage."

Penalties and early mistakes plagued the Ducks in the weekend series with the Cardinal, something that the team hopes to put behind them in the upcoming games against Wash-

ington State.

Coordinator Dave Tisiot said that if the Ducks can improve their discipline and get more quality ice time together as a team, they should at least stay competitive.

The nature of club sports makes it hard to keep a consistently good team together, especially in a specialized sport such as hockey. Tisiot thinks that this year's version of the skating Ducks compares favorably to those of the past and is probably better than last year's team that played well against Washington State.

The Ducks have been led offensively in the early going by Greg Schuttenhelm, whose two goals in last Saturday's contest was the only offense the Ducks could muster in the game. The offense in last Friday's game came from the sticks of Mark Adams and Sean Schoppe.

Both games this weekend start at 10:15 p.m. at Lane County Ice.



GARY GRASS/EMERALD

The Ducks were hindered by penalties in their season openers, but they hope to utilize their physical style of play this weekend.

Brooks wary of Wildcats, prepares for challenge

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When the Ducks take the field Saturday against the 11th-ranked and once-defeated Arizona Wildcats, an unexpected sense of urgency will prevail on the turf of Autzen Stadium.

Oregon head coach Rich Brooks has led his team to a 3-1 Pacific-10 record this season and, considering last year's offensive meltdown at the hands of the powerful Arizona defense, this year's battle should provide the soaring Ducks with their biggest challenge yet.

After last week's emotional victory over the Washington Huskies, a letdown going into this week's crucial game is always a concern, but Brooks is banking that the Ducks will feed off last week's win and produce an equally impressive effort.

"I'm hopeful that they understand all the hard work and effort they've put into it," Brooks said. "It's a great opportunity for us this weekend."

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Independent commission backs NCAA rule change

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saying that student-athletes are capable of meeting any challenge, members of an independent commission attempting to reform college athletics want university presidents to resist efforts to weaken academic standards.

After meeting all day Monday, members of the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics announced their support Tuesday of new NCAA rules designed to raise academic requirements for new student-athletes.

"The Knight Commission has unbounded faith that all young athletes, including African-American athletes, will rise to the challenge of higher standards in the same way they have met challenges on the field," said commission co-chairman Rev. Theodore Hesburgh. "In fact, we believe they will meet this challenge as they met the higher standards enacted in 1982 under

Proposition 48."

Proposition 48, which went into effect in 1986, requires prospective student-athletes to earn a high school diploma with a minimum grade point average of 2.0, have taken at least 11 approved "core" courses and scored at least 700 on the SAT.

Under the terms of Proposition 16, students entering college would need to have earned a 2.5 grade point average in high school, taken 13 core courses and have at least a 700 on the SAT or have a 2.0 grade point average, taken the 13 core courses and at least a 900 on the SAT.

"The only plausible excuse for delaying Proposition 16 would be for minor technical reasons, such as allowing the College Board more time to integrate the standards into their testing program," Hesburgh said, referring to efforts by some to have the rule weakened or eliminated alto-

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Pac-10 full of surprises halfway through the schedule

The Pacific-10 football season is near the halfway point going into this weekend's action. While a few teams have played up to expectations, the conference in general has seen many surprises.

Leading the list of surprises, on the disappointing side, the defending conference champion UCLA Bruins have played nothing short of abysmal so far this season, posting an 0-5 record in the conference and mustering only two wins. The loss of J.J. Stokes to an injury has been a crushing blow to the team that went 6-2 in conference and 8-4 overall last year. No doubt the natives are getting restless in Los Angeles as head coach Terry



CHRIS METZ

Donahue has failed to get a pre-season favorite to win the Pac-10 into the position to do so.

One of the biggest surprises for the better has been the play of the Ducks, who face a crucial mid-season battle with the conference-leading Arizona Wildcats this weekend. The Ducks have been powered by a defense

that ranks second in the Pac-10 in passing efficiency and third in rushing defense. The surprising Ducks rank 17th nationally in rushing defense, giving up a stingy 109 yards per game, and rank 19th in the nation in passing defense. The Ducks were picked by many to finish in the cellar of the competitive West Coast conference, but Rich Brooks and company have proved the critics wrong with upsets over Washington and USC to their credit.

"It's obviously a surprise that Arizona and Oregon are playing a game of this magnitude," Brooks said about this weekend's game against the conference leaders, "not from the Ari-

zona standpoint but from ours."

Stanford and Washington State have basically swapped spots in the conference when compared with most preseason predictions. It was generally thought that the Bill Walsh-led Cardinal would rebound from last year's disappointing season and rise to the upper half of the division. It doesn't look like it will happen this year, as the Cardinal are currently 1-3 in the conference and still have to face UCLA, Washington and Oregon in the weeks to come.

It was well-documented that Washington State was going to have a solid defense in 1994, but

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THURSDAY

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Sports Shorts

Thomas wins second straight AL MVP

NEW YORK (AP) — Frank Thomas, close to a Triple Crown when the strike started, Wednesday became the first player to win the AL Most Valuable Player award in consecutive seasons since Roger Maris.

Thomas, a unanimous winner last year with the Chicago White Sox, received 24 of 28 first-place votes this year. The first baseman was the 11th overall MVP winner to repeat, and the first in the AL since Maris in 1960-61.

A rare combination of power and patience at the plate, Thomas was third in the league in batting at .353, second in home runs with 38 and tied for third in RBIs with 101.

New concerns arise over concussions

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Warren Moon remembers the feeling, even if he can't remember much about the game.

Moon slammed his head on the artificial turf during a 1992 game at Pittsburgh, suffering one of the three concussions he's had playing football.

"I lost about 20 minutes of that game, and I still don't remember," Moon said Wednesday. "It was a very scary experience, having no control over yourself. Even when I did start remembering things, I remember feeling really cold and shivering. It was a very, very weird feeling."

The retirement of Chicago running back Emmitt Smith last week and the injury to Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman on Sunday have aroused concern about concussions.

The mind-scrambling head injuries have shortened several players' careers and left some longtime veterans perpetually groggy. The list includes Hoge, Al Toon, Lynn Swann, Roger Staubach and Harry Carson.

Bowling alley sues Sports Illustrated

HAMPTON, Va. (AP) — The owners of a bowling alley that was the site of a chair-throwing brawl involving former prep basketball star Allen Iverson are suing Sports Illustrated over an article about the case.

Circle Lanes Inc., now known as Spare Times, is seeking \$350,000 in punitive damages and \$350,000 in compensatory damages from the magazine, which is owned by Time Inc. of New York.

Also named in the suit was former Sports Illustrated reporter Ned Zeman, who wrote an October 1993 article entitled "Southern Discomfort" that chronicled the brawl and subsequent charges against Iverson and others.

Hampton attorney David Montague filed the lawsuit in Circuit Court this month on behalf of Jeff Sweeney of Colonial Heights and Fred Bowker of Manassas.

The bowling alley owners contend that the magazine article has hurt their business.