

Plenty at stake in Pac-10 opener

Kris Henry
Oregon Daily Emerald

It would seem tonight's action in McArthur Court has enough storylines to compete with any of your modern-day soap operas.

Greenball will be looking to make it a perfect three-for-three in upsets this week when the men's basketball team takes on second-ranked UCLA (6-0) tonight at 7:05.

The No. 1 and No. 3 teams this season, North Carolina and Arkansas, were both upset on Wednesday night, leaving the Bruins a clear path to the top ranking provided it can clear the Oregon obstacles.

And that task will be easier said than done, according to Oregon head coach Jerry Green.

"If I were UCLA," Green said before the season about the prospect of facing the Ducks in the Pac-10 opener, "I would be shaking in my britches."

Green should not be confused with anyone from the psychic hotline with this preseason announcement, since his confidence was placed solely on the final game of last season.

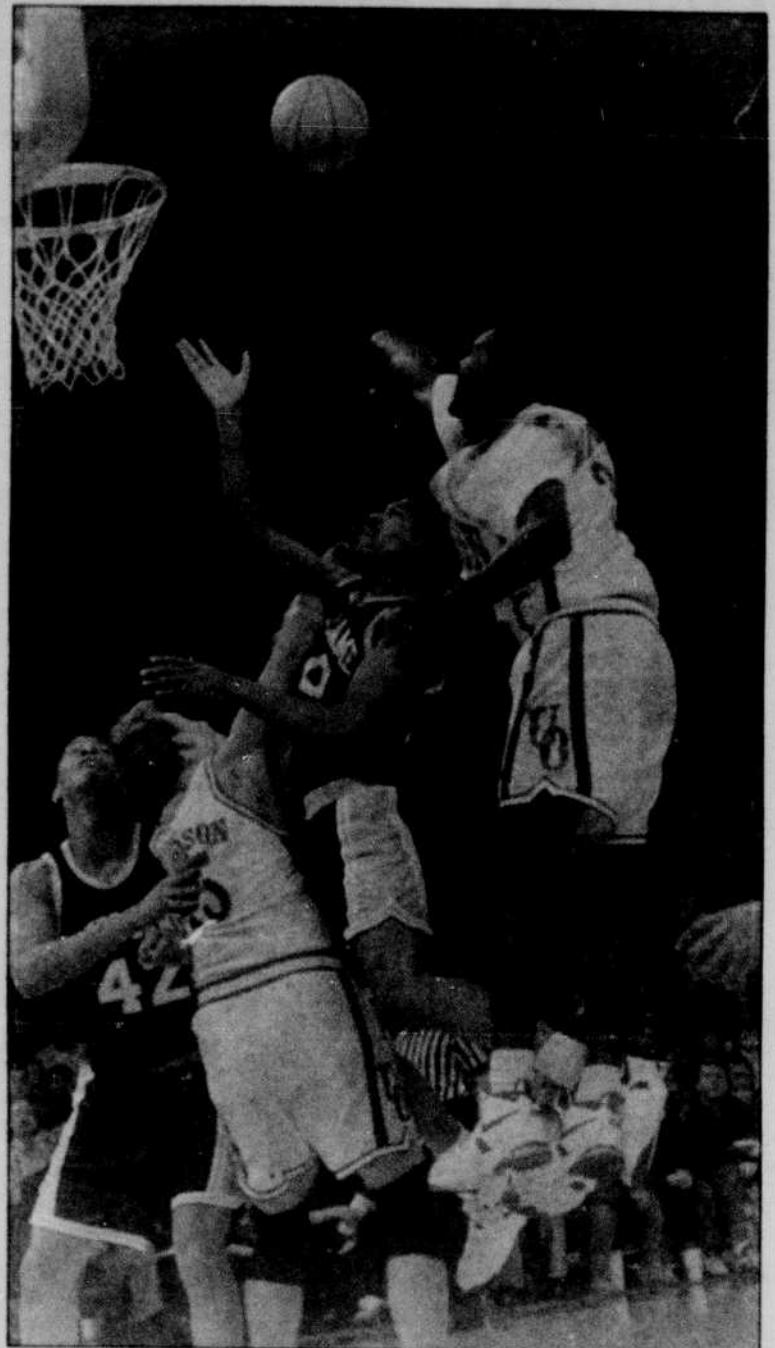
By now it should be ingrained in the minds of Greenball fans. Right from when Kenya Wilkins brings the ball up the court to when Zach Sellers collects the rebound and deposits a basket to upset the nationally ranked Bruins, 80-79.

Oregon will be looking to "Pack the Mac" and duplicate the shocking upset in Mac Court, only this time with more riding on the game than a positive feeling over the summer.

The Ducks enter the game with their best record in 18 years at 8-1, and have received a few votes in the latest poll of top 25 basketball teams. An upset of the undefeated Bruins could garner the Oregon program some more national attention.

With a victory, the Ducks could boast back-to-back triumphs against UCLA for the first time since 1983-84. A victory would also be the first over a team ranked this high by Oregon since a 1989 win over second-ranked Arizona in Eugene.

Four UCLA starters average in double figures in scoring and Tyus Edney has already set a school and Pac-10 mark with 11 steals in one game earlier this season. The O'Bannon brothers, Ed and Charles, set the pace for the powerful Bruins on offense.



GARY GRASS/Emerald

Oregon's Henry Madden fights off George Washington's Nimbo Hammons in first-round action at the Far West Classic.

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UCLA STARTERS

- F - Charles O'Bannon, #13
6-7, 205, So.
- F - Ed O'Bannon, #31
6-8, 217, Sr.
- C - George Zidek, #25
7-0, 250, Sr.
- G - Cameron Dollar, #5
6-2, 173, So.
- G - Tyus Edney, #11
5-10, 152, Sr.

OREGON STARTERS

- F - Jamal Lawrence, #15
6-2, 168, So.
- F - Aaron Johnson, #45
6-9, 228, Sr.
- C - Jeff Potter, #24
6-9, 233, Sr.
- G - Kenya Wilkins, #10
5-10, 154, So.
- G - Orlando Williams, #21
6-2, 207, Sr.

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