

# BASKETBALL



## The Road Starts Here

Oregon tests its No. 17 ranking against Washington State

Kris Henry  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The 17th-ranked men's basketball team can add to its most successful start in 20 years when it takes on Washington State tonight at 7 in Pullman.

The Ducks have won eight straight games — the most since 1975-76 when they won nine in a row — and face a gritty Cougar team that upset Arizona and Arizona State in their previous home contests.

### OREGON BASKETBALL

Oregon at WSU, tonight, 7 p.m.



Next: Oregon at Washington, Saturday, 7 p.m.

Notable: The Ducks have won eight straight games on their way to a 11-1 record and a No. 17 ranking in this week's Associated Press poll.

Oregon, 11-1 overall and 3-0 in conference, is in a position to remain atop the Pacific-10 Conference with a victory, and controls its own destiny as the team climbs the top 25 national rankings.

"There's two things we've tried to do since we've been here," Oregon head coach Jerry Green said. "One is to try to get better every day — and I do think we're better.

"And No. 2 is to try to gain some respect. I do think we've gained respect internally from our players, and they have a lot more confidence than they did before. I think we're also gaining respect externally from the people who follow our basketball team."

Respect is something the Cougars (6-5, 2-2) gained early when they dismantled two nationally ranked programs in their first two games of the league season.

Washington State has had to settle for the middle of the Pac-10, though, after losing to UCLA and USC on the road last week. But the Cougars will be looking to close the conference gap with a win over Oregon.

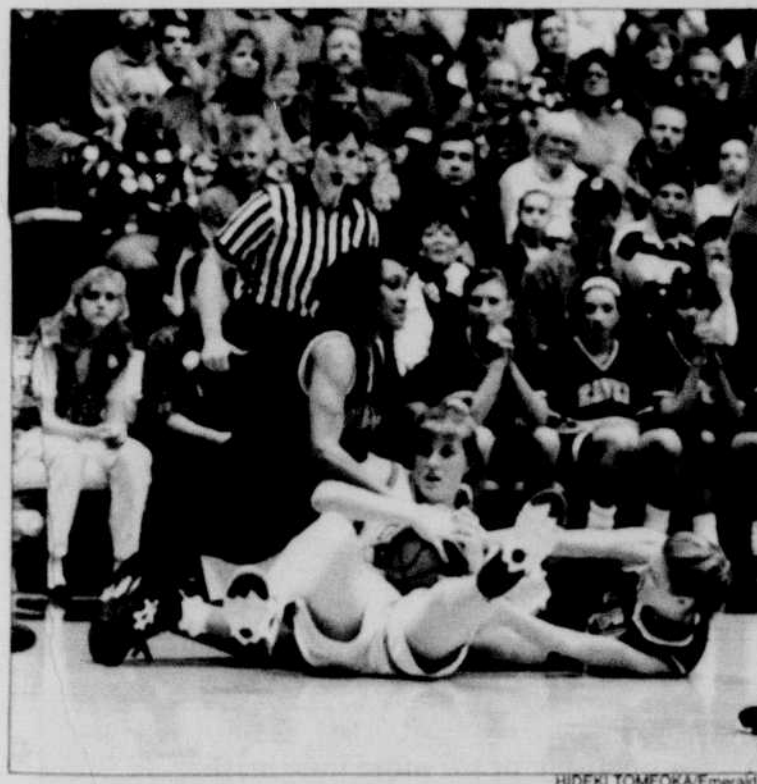
Oregon split meetings a year ago with the Cougars, winning at Pullman, 98-87, but losing a heartbreaker



Providing he stays out of foul trouble, Jeff Potter and his aggressive rebounding could help the Ducks leave Pullman with a victory over Washington State.

Turn to BASKETBALL, Page 8

## Ducks put to the test against visiting Cougars



Recent strong defense could help the surging women's basketball team beat Washington State tonight at 7:30 p.m. at McArthur Court.

Mark McTyre  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team is on a roll, having won four of its last five games. At stake tonight against the visiting Washington State Cougars is a second-place ranking in the Pacific-10 Conference.

The Ducks (9-3, 2-1) will attempt to extend their three-game home-court winning streak against the Cougars (9-4), who are peaking as they visit Oregon.

The Cougars snapped a three-game losing streak in a big way as they took a pair from UCLA (85-80) and nationally ranked USC (61-60) last weekend at home.

The main reason for the Cougars' resurgence has come from their proficiency on the offensive end of the court. The Pac-10's second-best scoring contingent (79.0 avg.) has benefited from four regulars shooting better than 50 percent from the field and a trio of double-digit scorers.

Heading the pack of Cougars has been guard/forward Jenni Ruff's 13.8 points and 4.5 assists

per game, with Kireen Ellis adding 13.6 points and a team-high 6.3 rebounds per contest.

"I'm not sure our kids knew what Washington State was capable of until they beat USC, but they do now," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said.

The Ducks will rely on a strong defense to stop the Cougars. Defense has been the key to Oregon's success, with the team leading the conference in field-goal percentage defense (38.8 percent) and ranking fourth in scoring defense (65.0 average).

Along with a strong defensive game plan, the Ducks also will be looking for the same productivity they have been receiving from their offense.

Arianne Boyer, Sally Crowe and Renae Fegent have remained as the consistent scoring trio for the Ducks. The three have combined to average 47.6 points a game in conference play.

Boyer and Crowe have already been compared to the elite in Oregon history. Few Oregon standouts have possessed the

Turn to TEST, Page 8

THURSDAY

January 19, 1995  
Volume 96, Issue 80

### MEN'S HOOPS

Scoring	G	PTS	AVG
Stoudamire, ARIZ	15	326	21.7
Hoff, OSU	12	248	20.7
Barry, OSU	12	238	19.8
E. O'Bannon, UCLA	10	198	19.8
<b>Williams, ORE</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>18.3</b>
Cross, STAN	13	237	18.2
Orr, USC	14	253	18.1
Fontaine, WSU	11	188	17.1
Bennett, ASU	15	252	16.8
Buckley, CAL	12	193	16.1

Rebounding	OFF	DEF	AVG
Wilson, USC	64	83	10.5
Hendrickson, WSU	37	74	10.1
Owes, ARIZ	29	103	8.8
E. O'Bannon, UCLA	25	60	8.5
Young, STAN	40	68	8.3
Hoff, OSU	33	58	7.6
Bennett, ASU	36	73	7.3
Orr, USC	34	62	6.9
Barry, OSU	16	65	6.8
Poppink, STAN	32	55	6.7

Assists	G	AST	AVG
Stoudamire, ARIZ	15	108	7.2
Ellison, WSU	10	66	6.6
Edney, UCLA	10	62	6.2
Capers, ASU	15	92	6.1
<b>Wilkins, ORE</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Knight, STAN	12	68	5.7
Gardner, CAL	12	67	5.6
Murray, USC	14	66	4.7
Hamilton, WASH	10	45	4.5
Harris, USC	14	58	4.0

### PAC-10 SLATE

Thurs, Jan. 19	UCLA @ Arizona
	USC @ Arizona St.
	Stanford @ Cal
	Oregon @ Washington St.
	Oregon St. @ Washington
Sat, Jan. 21	USC @ Arizona
	UCLA @ Arizona St.
	Oregon @ Washington
	Oregon St. @ Washington St.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The toughest thing to do in the Pac-10 is to win on the road on Saturday after losing Thursday.

— Bill Frieder  
Arizona State head coach