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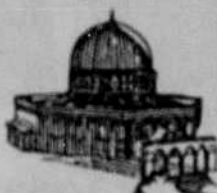
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Club Sports has busy weekend

■ **SPORTS:** Oregon's hockey, soccer and badminton teams face challenges this weekend

By Ryan Frank
and Jason Lewis-Berry
Freelance Reporters

For the first time this term, the Oregon hockey team will play in the state of Oregon. On Jan. 19 and 20, California will come to town for back-to-back 8:30 p.m. games at Lane County Ice.

Cal was 5-1 and tied for first place in the Pacific-8 Club Sport Conference at the end of last term and is widely regarded as one of the top teams in the Pac-8 this season. Oregon right wing Seth Prouser said.

"We have not had success with powerful teams," Prouser said. "If we take these two, there won't be any bigger wins."

After splitting a two-game series Jan. 13 and 14 against Western Washington, the Ducks, who are 5-8-1, are looking to rebound with a sweep.

"There is no way we will be satisfied without two wins," Oregon defenseman Robert Wasson said. "We are very confident that we can do it."

With the return of center Greg Schuttenhelm from a three-month

absence for academic reasons, Oregon will receive an extra punch on the offensive end, Wasson said.

At Western Washington, four Ducks suffered injuries, but three of them will play against Cal. Forwards J.T. Mackey and Jason Khan will not be playing because they are not full-time students and are not allowed to play in conference games.

"Since everyone should be healthy we will be expecting the best out of everyone," Prouser said.

Playing their best has become a recent trend for Robert Achs and forward Jordan Weiner. Both have picked up their offensive play for the Ducks. The extra scoring has taken the load off the usual scorers, Brendon Malia, Flint Doughtchak and Sean Schoppe.

"When Achs and Weiner are in the game at the same time, it is amazing to watch them play," Wasson said.

...
The Nordic ski team, which is in its first year of operation, will train on snow for the first time Jan. 20 when the team heads east to Mount Bachelor. They have been training on dry ground since October.

...
The men's soccer team hits the field Saturday and Sunday at Autzen Stadium to compete in the

Java Cup. The Ducks will field two teams at the open tournament, which annually draws many of the region's finest teams.

Oregon regards the Java Cup as a competitive way to kick-start the season, leading up to the indoor season.

"There's usually a lot of good teams," said team coordinator Greg Labavitch. "It's a really good tournament."

Each team will consist of nine members, with five players on the field at a time. Labavitch predicts games will be fast-paced because of Autzen's artificial turf.

"We hope to win [the tournament]," he said. "With two teams we have a better chance."

Oregon's indoor season starts Jan. 29 in Salem.

...
Four members of Oregon's badminton team travel to Portland today to play in the three-day Oregon Open. The Ducks will compete against athletes from Oregon, Washington and California.

Oregon boasts the state's top-ranked badminton player, Jason Lee.

"Jason has a good chance of winning his division," team coordinator Phil Duckworth said, "but it all depends on who comes from other states."

McTyre: Runge should have cleaned up suspension fiasco earlier in week

■ **Continued from Page 11**

some unfathomable way they were focused, the only day they had to concentrate on the opponent at hand was Wednesday, when Boyer returned to the team and practiced. And even then, the media was still trying to get the scoop on what the reasoning was behind the suspension.

To make things easier on everybody, Runge should have cleaned this whole mess up earlier, instead of letting it carry on.

Another obstacle for the team was Boyer's inability to play the minutes she did. How can any coach expect a player to run up and down the court for 34 minutes when the last time that player was in an actual game situation was seven days ago?

You can't.

And finally, to add more salt to the wound, the Oregon coaching staff decided to implement a new offensive scheme to their plans in the hopes

of throwing off Stanford's defensive tactics.

The move would have been a great decision but it ended up being the wrong time. And Runge did agree on that one.

"We did put in a new offense," Runge said after the Ducks loss. "Maybe all of us weren't ready to run it the way we will be once we get it in our mind that we don't have to think about it as much when we're doing it."

This column isn't in anyway meant to bash Runge whatsoever. I've admired her as a coach for the success she has had at Oregon, but I just believe she made a lot of poor choices this week that all came back to haunt her last night. To win a Pacific-10 Conference title you have to eliminate these mistakes.

All I can say is, "Ooh Runge!!!"

Mark McTyre is the assistant sports editor for the Emerald.

Wrestling: Ducks hard work pays off

■ **Continued from Page 1**

But Tanner is possibly the biggest key to the Ducks' success, going 16-2 and picking up three pins on the year after recording a 10-12 record prior to this season.

"It is probably one of the best teams in terms of chem-

istry that I have coached at Oregon," Finley said. "It is a fun team to coach."

According to assistant coach Chuck Kearney, the determination of the team is what has helped the team the most.

"The work ethic of this team from top to bottom is so

good," said Kearney, adding that on any given day off, eight to 10 guys usually work out regardless. "It has been a lot of fun to coach because of that. And that rubs off on the younger guys, when Kevin and some of the older guys have that attitude."

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