

Ducks' hot streak continues in Spokane

■ **HOCKEY:** Oregon won two games and tied another for a winning weekend

By Alex Pond
Freelance Sports Reporter

It doesn't seem to matter where the Oregon club hockey team plays its games these days. After opening the season with four home games and compiling a 3-1 record, the Ducks traveled to Spokane last weekend for their first road trip of the year and came away with two wins and a tie to improve to 5-1-1 for the season.

Oregon continued its winning ways with an impressive game Thursday night against Northern Arizona. The Ducks got tremendous balance as five players scored and nine dished out assists on the way to an 8-1 victory.

"We'd never played them before, and we really hadn't heard anything reliable about them, so we were kind of coming into this game blind," assistant captain Robert Wasson said. "Our goal

was just to play the game the way we know how to, the way we know works, and hope for the best."

The real test would come Friday night against league rival and chief nemesis Washington State. The teams split a two-game series two weekends ago in games that were rough and filled with penalties.

This would be the last time during the regular season that the Ducks and Cougars would face off, and the game potentially could determine a playoff spot in February.

Wasson said before the game that a win would go a long way toward establishing Oregon as a serious playoff contender.

With an impressive but scoreless first period that saw the Ducks completely dominate play, it looked as though Oregon was well on its way toward establishing that presence.

The game was in stark contrast to the previous night against Northern Arizona, with both teams being equally matched and

skating hard to determine the outcome. Goaltender Keith Barbato was solid in the net, and the Ducks were able to get the scoring they lacked in their first two games against Washington State.

That was not enough, though, to overcome questionable officiating and an offensively opportunistic Washington State team as the game ended in a 4-4 tie.

"The refs dogged us on quite a few calls," Wasson said. "And [Washington State] is too good of a team not to take advantage of it. I never like to blame the refs for us not winning a game, but they really blew it tonight."

The call that really drew the ire of the Ducks came in the middle of the third period and allowed the Cougars to tie the score.

While the referee kept his eyes away from the play, Barbato made a great save of an attempt on a breakaway.

The referee then blew the whistle to call a penalty, and confusion broke out as Washington State players said they scored, claiming that Barbato was behind the goal

line when he made the save. Oregon players protested in vain as the referee sided with Washington State and allowed the goal.

"The ref allowed a goal that never went in," forward Seth Prouser said. "It's as simple as that. He blew the entire game and cheated us out of a win."

Oregon would go on to take out its collective frustrations Saturday night against Idaho in the final game of the trip. After using the first period to warm up their road-worn bodies, the Ducks took control in the second period and never looked back, ending the game and the long weekend with an impressive 7-3 win.

Center Dan Helm led the charge against Idaho with a hat trick, and Barbato turned in another solid performance in net.

Coach Ham was said he was pleased with the road trip.

"Having a .500 record on the road is good, but to go unbeaten on the road is excellent," Ham said. "I'm really proud of my guys and the way they handled themselves this weekend."

Frank: Five overtime games highlight Pac-10 season

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of 6-1. As a result, Pac-10 officials were forced to select Southern Cal as its choice for the trip to Pasadena based on facts other than its outright conference title.

While the benefits for the extra period are abundant, some may argue against it, saying that the new overtime session causes bloated stats and that those stats should not be counted toward season statistics.

But the fact of the matter is, fans love stats like the ones the Cal-Arizona game produced. They love it when quarterbacks throw for 500-

plus yards or score 50-plus points. It makes the game fun to watch.

And all the statistics and points accumulated in overtime are no different than the statistics and points accumulated in the NFL overtime, or the NBA overtime, or for that matter, extra innings in baseball, which all count toward season statistics.

Others may say that ties are what made college football different from the NFL. That it is what made the college game so much fun.

Wrong.

Ties were the evil of the college game. They

caused problems in final standings and rankings. When the NFL took on the two-point conversion rule a few years ago, so went one of the major differences between college and pro football.

After five overtime contests in the Pac-10 in the first 12 weeks of the 1996 season, we can all now hope for the overtime period to come into effect during a bowl game.

Ryan Frank is a sports reporter for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

Former Rebel arrested

■ **MURDER:** Richie Adams implicated in teen-ager's death

By Larry McShane
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Richie Adams' sneakers once carried him toward a pro basketball career. Now, police say, a bloody size-13 1/2 basketball shoe implicates the fallen star in the beating death of a 14-year-old girl.

Adams, who during his glory days at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas played for coach Jerry Tarkanian, is accused of stalking and killing the youngster, thereby completing his slide from hot prospect to prime suspect.

Adams exploded out of Benjamin Franklin High School in Harlem and found national basketball fame between 1981 and 1985, twice being named the Pacific Coast Athletic Association player of the year at UNLV.

The 6-foot-9 star from the Bronx was a defensive genius — nicknamed "The Animal" for his intensity — whose shot-blocking and rebounding drew comparisons to a young Bill Russell.

"If he hadn't become his own undoing, this is a guy who could have played in the NBA, had a good career," said New York talent scout Tom Konchalski.

Drafted in the fourth round by the Washington Bullets in 1985, Adams was arrested a day later for stealing a car off the Bronx streets. After that, the Bullets never even invited him to training camp, and the rest of the NBA ignored him.

Adams joined a long line of New York City playground stars — like Earl "The Goat" Manigault, who got hooked on heroin, and Karlton Hines, who was shot to death in a drug dispute — in learning it takes more than a good game to make it.

He played some professional ball in South America but was inexorably drawn back to the Bronx. There, years after the NBA gave up on him, Adams still had some celebrity on the local courts — and a taste for cocaine.

Supporting his habit by way of thievery, Adams was arrested twice in 1988, for mugging a woman at a cash machine and purse-snatching. A 1989 conviction for larceny and armed robbery led to a five-year prison stretch.

"I was a hoodlum," Adams confessed during a 1991 jailhouse interview. He was paroled in 1994 and returned again to the Bronx.

Friends say there was never any sign that Adams — happy-go-lucky off the court, intense on it — was capable of murder. Authorities disagree.

Norma Rodriguez's chest was caved in and she suffered neck and head injuries. The teen-ager's battered body was discovered Oct. 15 in a housing project hallway one floor below where Adams, 33, was living with his mother.



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