

Tennis: Tournament scheduled this weekend

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 you can play with the teams in the Pac-10, you can play with most any team in the country." Oregon returns five players from last year's team that finished 12-9, good enough for third place in the Pac-10 Northern Division. But, even though they are an experienced team, they are not a vet-

eran team with only two juniors and three sophomores. The Pac-10 Indoors will give the Ducks a chance to dust off their rackets before they begin a challenging conference schedule on Jan. 31 against Washington State. The match against the Cougars will take place at the Eugene Swim and Tennis Club.

SPORTS



Anderson, Fox, Marsh receive recognition

Freshmen Erin Anderson, Amanda Fox and Sierra Marsh were honored at the Oregon women's soccer team's first annual banquet Jan. 8. Anderson, a forward, received the team's Offensive MVP after leading the Ducks in goals with nine and scoring with 18. Anderson's final numbers were good enough to rank her third in goals and fourth in

scoring in the Pacific-10 Conference.

Fox saved 86 shots while playing nearly every minute of the Ducks' 18 games on her way to the team's Defensive MVP award. The freshman goalkeeper also had a 1.91 goals against average and three shutouts in 1996.

Marsh, a freshman forward, received the Coach's Award for her enthusiasm, hard work and contributions. Marsh scored three goals and had two assists while starting all 18 of the Ducks' contests. She also scored the team's first-ever goal in Oregon's first win of their inaugural season, a 2-0 overtime win over Pacific (Ore.) on Sept. 8.

Big game could set Pac-10 tone

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:
 Oregon visits No. 3 Stanford to battle for Pac-10 lead

By Mark McTyre
 Sports Editor

This is the game of the year. While the Oregon women's basketball team and its coaches will deny the fact, and say, "it's just another game," tonight's meeting in Palo Alto is the biggest matchup to date in this season's Pacific-10 Conference schedule.

The Stanford Cardinal (16-1 overall, 4-0 Pac-10) has not lost a conference game in its last 31 appearances, while the Ducks have opened their season with a 10-2 record, including a 3-0 record in the Pac-10, Oregon's best start in 16 years. The winner will take hold of first place in the conference.

Entering the first of two regular season contests this year, the Cardinal hold a commanding 18-3 series record, winning the last 18 meetings. But unlike recent encounters, Oregon has depth that head coach Jody Runge can depend on.

"They have depth and we have depth," Runge said. "[When we meet] it is going to have to be a great challenge for our players off

the bench to play well. When it comes down to it, it doesn't really matter how I feel, but the win [over Washington] has to help our kids' confidence."

The biggest contributor to Oregon's depth this year is 6-foot-5 center Jenny Mowe. Her rugged play and size is something the Ducks have been missing. Center Renae Fegent believes the addition of Mowe is a big part of the team's success.

"We have a bunch of different line-ups now with Jenny playing," Fegent said. "We can go with a much bigger line-up if we want to, or if one person is not doing their job we have someone else that can come in and do it."

The opportunities are what Oregon has been wanting, considering the Cardinal has a strong starting five that the Ducks will have to contend with.

"All of them are capable of hurting you at any time," Fegent said. "We're going to need a great team defensive effort. We're all going to need to take control of

the players we guard, just as much as [Lisa Bowyer's] going to have to do with [Kate Starbird]." Starbird is Stanford's biggest threat this season, scoring 20.6 points per game, while shooting 52 percent from the floor and 43 percent from three-point range. In Stanford's last game, the senior scored 40 points to lead the Cardinal to a narrow 77-76 victory on the road at Southern California.

Other players for Stanford who figure to play a major role in the contest are Olympia Scott and Naomi Multitauaoepele. Scott is averaging 16 points per game and Multitauaoepele 10. The Cardinal will be without the services of starting forward Vanessa Nygaard, who suffered a knee injury and will be missed this week.

In the past, the Ducks have gone into Stanford games thinking they could win if the Cardinal had a bad night, but now it's a different story.

"In the other games we always thought that if we played our best game, and they didn't play well, that we'd have a chance of beating them," Fegent said. "But I think this year, we're a lot more confident. Even if they do play well we can still have a chance at beating them."

Men's Basketball: Green expects McArthur Court crowd to be a factor

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 and combined for only 16 points off the bench.

But, despite the fact Young spent last year on the bench while rehabilitating his back, he has already made an impact for Stanford two weeks into the Pac-10 season. The 7-foot-1 sophomore is averaging eight rebounds per game and leads the team in scoring with 17 points per game.

Although the inside position will be important for both teams, it is the battle of the guards that is always a factor in the Stanford-Oregon matchup. Knight and Wilkins are considered to be two of the best point guards in the conference and the nation and both coaches acknowledge this.

"I think it's a huge matchup mainly because each one of them plays such a vital role for their particular team," Oregon head coach Jerry Green said. "The big difference in my opinion is that Brevin

has gotten the majority of the publicity where Kenya has not, for some reason. But I think Kenya and Brevin are two of the most outstanding true point guards, and they are veteran players in the league."

"I think Kenya provides for Oregon the same types of things Brevin provides for us," Stanford head coach Mike Montgomery said.

The numbers of the two guards are remarkably similar, with Wilkins averaging 16.3 points, 3.6 rebounds and 5 assists per game and Knight averaging 16 points, 2.3 rebounds and 7.6 assists.

The Ducks will not only need Wilkins to play a good game against Knight, but they will also have to overcome some mistakes that occurred in their two losses. Against both Washington State and Washington, Oregon got off to a slow start and had difficulties catching up. Green hopes this

won't be a big problem tonight. "We reminded them of the fact that they weren't ready to play starting out and would get 11 or 14 down before we decided to get into gear," Green said. "But the other thing that creates problems for us is that our offense is so quick so early in the possession. Our average possession time against Washington State was 12 seconds, and it takes about four or five seconds to get the ball down the court."

Green also recognizes the advantage Oregon will have with the home crowd.

"McArthur Court is probably the greatest place in the country to play basketball where everybody has an integral part in the outcome of the game," he said. "By being so tight and so confined [the crowd] is going to be a factor. I expect every seat to be full Thursday night and I expect everybody to be into it."

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