

Hockey plays Walla Walla after stretch run in Pac-8

■ **CLUB SPORTS:** Hockey hosts two non-league games this weekend

By Alex Pond
Freelance Sports Reporter

After three consecutive weekends of grueling Pacific-8 hockey league play, the Oregon Club hockey team gets a bit of a reprieve this weekend when Walla Walla College comes to town. The two teams play Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at noon, both at Lane County Ice Arena.

The Ducks (14-5-1) survived the stretch run in the Pac-8 by winning four of their last six league games to finish 7-5-1 in league play and put themselves in a position to make the Pac-8 tournament.

Oregon comes into this weekend fresh off a two-game sweep of Washington on the road.

"We had two good games," head coach Nick Ham said. "We went for it, and the guys played up to their potential the

whole time."

Now that the most important stretch of the season is over, the Ducks seem to welcome the opportunity to play a non-league game at home with less pressure than in recent weeks.

"These should be fun games for everybody to play and watch," Ham said. "It gives us an opportunity to play some of the guys that haven't played yet this year or haven't played a lot this year."

Not that the Ducks are taking Walla Walla lightly, however.

"They're a good team," Ham said. "But Walla Walla tends to have a little bit weaker team because of the lack of accessibility for them to get ice time."

Still, the team is very confident right now and was very loose this week in practice.

"The practices were relaxed," Ham said. "We worked with the guys who haven't played a lot all year. We're still playing to win but all these guys deserve a shot to be on the ice."

Women to visit ailing Bruins

■ **PREVIEW:** USC, Washington and WSU finish four game road trip

By Ryan Frank
Sports Reporter

For a team that has lost two of its last four games, including one at home, a four-game road trip is not exactly what the doctor ordered.

After losing at Stanford two weeks ago, the Ducks suffered their first home loss of the season to Arizona last weekend and now open a four-game road swing tonight at UCLA that could decide its postseason fate.

"It is a turning point, definitely," Oregon guard Cindie Edamura said. "It's rough."

Playing on the road is always rough and the two places we are going are intimidating."

Following its game against the Bruins, Oregon plays at USC on Sunday, then travels to Washington and Washington State next week.

"I think it is a difficult two weeks and not being able to look forward to a homestand in between two road trips is difficult," Oregon head coach Jody Runge

said.

When Oregon opens its road swing at UCLA tonight, it will be playing only its third road game of the Pacific-10 Conference season, but it could have some extra motivation.

In their last meeting with UCLA in 1996, the Ducks lost, 83-64, for the first time in seven meetings with the Bruins.

But this year's UCLA team has taken on a little different look from last year's team.

The Bruins (8-8 overall, 2-5 Pac-10) lost their top four scorers from a year ago, including 1996 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Erica Gomez. Gomez suffered a season-ending knee injury before the start of the 1997 season, and UCLA has had a difficult time replacing her 11.8 points and 6.5 assists per game from 1995-96.

The Bruins come into tonight's contest struggling as of late, losing their last three games and five of their last six. And unfortunately for head coach Kathy Olivier, the Bruins are not deep in experience with three true freshman slated to

start against the Ducks.

But it is one of UCLA's freshman who is leading the team in scoring and rebounds. Forward Maylana Martin is averaging 18.9 points, 6.7 rebounds and 2.5 steals per game this season.

"They're very athletic and they're very talented at all positions," Runge said. "They're big and strong inside. I think the only thing they are lacking is the experience, but for freshman, they are playing very well."

Second-place Southern California (12-4, 6-1), like UCLA, lost its 1996 Pac-10 all-freshman point guard, Erica Mashia, for the season to a hip injury. But unlike UCLA, the Trojans have been able to replace Mashia.

"I think it is affecting UCLA a little differently than USC," Runge said. "USC has some other point guard candidates who have played the point."

Guard Kristin Clark has been the one to step up and fill Mashia's role. Clark's 11.9 points per game has complimented Naismith Player of the Year candidate Tina Thompson's 22.5 points and 10.8 rebounds per game, both Pac-10 highs.



UO tennis faces Cougars at home

■ **WOMEN:** Oregon will also play UC Santa Barbara in Eugene on Sunday

By Joel Hood
Freelance Sports Reporter

Weather will not be a factor when the Oregon women's tennis team makes its Pacific-10 Conference debut Friday against the Washington State Cougars. The courts at the Eugene Swim and Tennis Club are covered.

Today's match will be the first team competition for the Ducks who began singles play in the fall.

Last season, Oregon finished up with a 12-9 overall record, good enough for a third place finish in the Pac-10 Northern Division. This season, however, Oregon coaches feel as though they can compete for the league title.

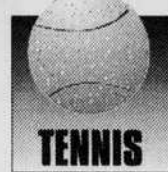
Washington State began its conference schedule last weekend with a 7-2 loss to UCLA. Despite the

opening day loss, the Cougars are still ranked in the nation's top 50 and should prove to be a good measuring stick for this young Ducks team.

Oregon will suit seven players for Friday's match including two newcomers to its program. Alina Wygnowska comes to the Ducks from Gdynia, Poland, after a brief stint on the country's national team. Wygnowska saw her first action for Oregon last weekend at the Pac-10 Indoor Championships in Seattle.

Even though Wygnowska lost in the opening round of the tournament, she was around long enough to impress the Oregon coaching staff.

Oregon's season continues Sunday against UC Santa Barbara at the Willow Creek Racquet Club. UC Santa Barbara will come into the match with an 0-3 record but is still ranked in the nation's top 75.



oregon
daily
emerald
worldwide



<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ode>



Complete Selection of
Skis • Boots • Clothing
Cross Country Ski Rentals

Berg's Ski Shop

Mon - Sat 10-7 • Sun 12-5
13th & Lawrence • 683-1300

Turn Your World
Upside Down

That's what Jesus did, He turned the world upside down....
Come and learn about turning your world upside down at a Faith Center College-age Bible study. It's January 31st, at 7:30 p.m., in the Ben Linder room (ground floor of the EMU). See you there!

HOUSE
RECORDS
258 E. 13TH EUGENE, OR 541-342-7975

BUY • SELL • TRADE
CD • VINYL
NEW • USED
HARD TO FIND
SPECIAL ORDERS

Used up all of your favorite

DUCK
BUCKSTM ?

Don't worry.

We have plenty.

Stop by suite 300 EMU.

Oregon Daily
Emerald
your guide to the UO community