



ON THE TUBE

Men's College Basketball
Maryland at Duke
ESPN (34), 4:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Oregon looks to continue winning streak in L.A.

■ **PREVIEW:** The Ducks will attempt to avenge an earlier season loss to USC during this weekend's game

By **Andrea DeYoung**

Assistant Sports Editor

It's the last road trip of the 1996-97 regular season for the Oregon men's basketball team.

The Ducks (16-8 overall, 7-8 Pacific-10 Conference) head to Los Angeles to take on

Southern California and UCLA, looking for a season split with the Trojans and a series sweep of the Bruins.

The weekend begins with a game at the Los Angeles Sports Arena tonight against USC. The Trojans are 14-9 overall and tied for third in the Pac-10 with a 9-5 conference record. But they are also on a two-game losing streak, suffering defeats at Arizona and UCLA in the last two weeks. USC had previously won five straight, beginning with a win at Oregon State two days before the 79-

69 victory over the Ducks.

When the Trojans were in Eugene in early February, Oregon was coming off an emotional victory over UCLA.

The Trojans took an early eight-point lead in the game, but the Ducks recovered with a 28-6 run with seven minutes to play in the first half. Although the lead dwindled, the

Ducks took a six-point lead into the locker room at halftime.

The lead went as high as 12 in the first few minutes of the second half. But Oregon was hindered by the loss of Kenya Wilkins, who suffered back spasms in the game, causing him to only play 25 minutes, score only three points and dish out only two assists.

The Ducks were probably hurt the most in the final minutes of the game when

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Ducks gun for second place

■ **WOMEN:** A win over visiting Southern California tonight would put Oregon in second place with just two games remaining

By **Ryan Frank**

Sports Reporter

Second place in the Pacific-10 Conference will be on the line tonight when the Oregon Ducks tangle with Southern California at McArthur Court at 7 o'clock.

After sweeping the Arizona schools last weekend, the Ducks (18-6 overall, 11-4 Pac-10) find themselves in sole possession of third place in the conference with three games remaining on their schedule.

If the Ducks win their final three games, they would be in a second-place tie with the Trojans (17-6, 11-3) at 14-4, assuming USC does not lose after tonight's game.

"I think winning three games is very, very important," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said.

If the Ducks can beat USC, which is No. 14 in the power ratings, and then defeat UCLA and Oregon State, there would be a chance they could host the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament.

In order for that to happen, the Ducks must receive one of the top 16 bids from the NCAA selection committee.

"Our goal right now is to win all three of our games and go into the tournament winning eight of our last nine, that would be tremendous for us," Oregon forward Arianne Boyer said.

However a win over USC, the first step in Oregon's mission, will not come easy.

After getting thumped by Arizona at

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Oregon forward Arianne Boyer scored 20 points in the Ducks' 73-65 loss to the Trojans in Los Angeles earlier this month. Boyer comes into tonight's contest averaging 14.8 points per game.

CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

UO must sweep for NCAA bid

■ **POSTSEASON:** Winning two in Los Angeles would greatly increase the Ducks' chances to make it to the postseason

By **Chris Hansen**

Sports Reporter

The Ducks have been in a must-win situation for much of the second half of the Pacific-10 Conference season this year, but now the pressure is really on.

The Oregon men's basketball team is sitting on the NCAA Tournament bubble with only three games left. And with a 16-8 overall record, chances are the Ducks will need to win all three games to make it to the Big Dance.

But trying to speculate as to which bubble teams have a better chance than the others is futile. No one really knows what makes the NCAA Tournament selection committee tick; therefore, no one really knows what it will eventually do.

Even on the Oregon team, different people have different ideas about what it will take for the Ducks to get an invitation to the 64-team field. But all agree that getting a sweep in Los Angeles couldn't hurt.

"I think we need to run the table to get to the NCAA," Rob Ramaker said. "We've left ourselves in a bit of a predicament by not winning the games we probably should have in the Pac-10 season. There are a lot of good teams in the Pac-10, and I don't think they will take six teams to the tournament."

"If we win all three," Kyle Milling said, "I think we are pretty much a lock. Our mind set isn't to go down there and split, but to go down and win both."

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Men's Club Volleyball plays in Civil War match this weekend

■ **CLUB SPORTS:**

Oregon and Oregon State battle it out for league lead

By **Rob Moseley**
Freelance Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's club volleyball team begins its stretch run this weekend with a match versus co-league leader Oregon State in Corvallis on Friday.

Oregon State and Oregon are deadlocked atop the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Volleyball Association (PIVA) with matching .500 records. The Beavers stand at 2-1 in league play, while the Ducks bring a 4-2 record into the match.

Oregon faces an uphill climb after losing swing hitter Patrick Wallace to injury. Wallace, who leads the team in kills with 96, sprained his knee while

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hitter for the next three to four weeks. The setter position will be manned by Marco Peter.

With postseason play a little over a month away, it's gut-check time for Oregon. Two wins in their final four matches should be enough to keep the

skydiving on Feb. 16.

"This injury has definitely affected our team," head coach Andrew Isogai said. "Pat was our most consistent go-to player."

Setter Brian Riehm, the team leader in assists with 239, will attempt to spell Wallace at swing

Ducks in the PIVA-South Division's top four teams, thereby guaranteeing a spot in the playoffs.

Two of those matches are against Oregon State, which the Ducks have yet to face this season. The other two are rematches; Oregon attempts to avenge its season-opening loss to Portland State and repeat its success versus Pacific.

Isogai likes the team's chances in the post-season. Oregon entered the season relying on young players who faltered early. But with a full season of collegiate competition behind them and the return of Wallace in mid-March, the odds of success in the April 5 PIVA Championships are good.