

Oregon travels to Utah with hopes of snapping losing skid

The Ducks take on Utah and Weber State in games seven and eight of a 10-game road trip

By Alex Pond
Sports Reporter

Looking to snap a four-game losing streak, the Oregon women's soccer team heads out on the road again this weekend; this time for a pair of games in Utah.

The games are the seventh and eighth in a stretch of 10 straight road games for the Ducks (3-6).

They face Utah on Friday in Salt Lake City and wrap up the trip Sunday against Weber State in Ogden.

Utah (5-6) is on a two-game winning streak following shutout

victories over Northern Arizona and Texas-El Paso.

"They're very athletic," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "They have some good size in the back, and they've got some good speed and athleticism up front."

The Utes are led by sophomore Staci Burt, the team's scoring leader with 16 points (seven goals and two assists), and goalkeeper Tawni Martineau. Martineau has recorded five shutouts with 32 saves and a goals against average of 1.55.

Utah and Oregon share a pair of common opponents this season, with each team losing to No. 3

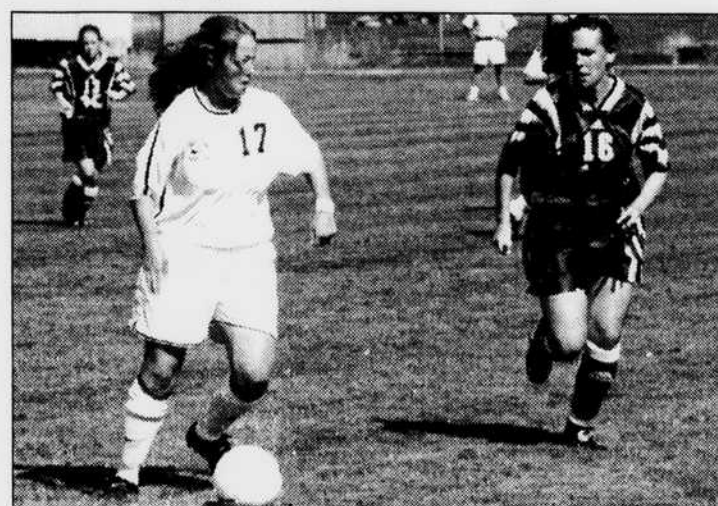
Texas A&M and Baylor during a tournament in College Station, Texas, two weeks ago.

Weber State (9-2) is coming off a 4-0 win over Utah State on Tuesday and has yet to lose a home game this season.

"I don't know that much about them," Steffen said. "From what I've heard, they're athletic and they've gotten some good results."

The Wildcats are led by Tricia Ferrin (14 points on four goals and six assists) and Lisa Anthony (13 points on six goals and one assist).

The Ducks were inconsistent on their recent four-game road trip, nearly upsetting Baylor and Texas A&M, but getting shut out by James Madison and UNC-Greensboro last weekend.



WENDY FULLER/Emerald

Sierra Marsh leads Oregon with six assists. The Ducks are in Utah this weekend for games against Utah and Weber State.

Twenty-eight teams, one goal: beat the Chicago Bulls

All eyes are on the defending champions as NBA training camps open today

By Chris Sheridan
The Associated Press

Michael Jordan will be there, new contract, new shoes and all. Larry Bird will be there, wearing a whistle for the first time in his life.

Also in attendance will be Rick Pitino, bringing the run-and-gun style that was successful at Kentucky to the Boston Celtics. And then there's Kevin Garnett, who will lace 'em up, undoubtedly feeling like the happiest 21-year-old on the planet.

NBA training camps open Friday, signaling the start of a 1997-98 season that begins just like five others have this decade — with everyone chasing the Chicago Bulls.

It's been more than three months since Jordan & Co. walked off the United Center floor with their fifth title in seven years, and the summer was filled with teams either trying to upgrade their talent or find a way to pay for their existing stars.

Such was the case with Garnett and the Minnesota Timberwolves, who finally reached agreement Wednesday night on a six-year extension worth more than \$121 million.

The Denver Nuggets were unable to sign Antonio McDyess to an extension, so they traded the forward to the Phoenix Suns in a three-way deal that sent Wesley Person and Tony Dumas to Cleveland.

When the Celtics assemble in Newport, R.I., Pitino will be working with an almost entirely different team from the Celtics squad that won just 15 games last season.

Pitino will be one of seven new coaches around the league, and none will be more watched than Bird. One of the greatest players to compete in the NBA, Bird will be taking over as coach of the Indiana Pacers. It will be the first time Bird has coached at any level.

"I was demanding of myself as a player, and although I know these guys aren't as talented as I am, I plan to be just as demanding of their effort," Bird said recently.

The Pacers will be holding camp in Orlando, Fla., to reduce the media crush surrounding Bird.

Just a few miles away, Chuck Daly will make his return to coaching as he takes over the Orlando Magic.

Other new coaches will be Larry Brown in Philadelphia, Brian Hill in Vancouver, Mike Dunleavy in Portland, Bill Hanzlik in

Denver and P.J. Carlesimo in Golden State.

McDyess, who adds a considerable amount of frontcourt talent to the Suns' guard-laden roster, was the latest — but not the most prominent — player to change teams this summer.

That distinction belongs to Shawn Kemp, whose trade demand was fulfilled last week when he was dealt from Seattle to Cleveland.

Most of the other player movement this summer came in the free agent market, with the two most lucrative deals going to Brian Williams (Detroit) and Brian Grant (Portland).

A close eye will be kept on injury reports out of Chicago, where Scottie Pippen will be testing his ailing foot and deciding whether to undergo surgery.



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