

NBA
New Jersey at Boston,
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OREGON BASKETBALL

Ducks' season gets under way

The men will travel to Utah to face a Brigham Young team that lost to WSU on Wednesday

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

Ready or not, the men's basketball regular season starts tonight for Oregon as the Ducks open on the road against Brigham Young.

"You would hope the team's ready to play because they know now these games are counters," head coach Ernie Kent said. "You think you're ready, but only time will tell."

Although Oregon will be facing a less-than-stellar Cougar team that finished 1-25 last season and lost Wednesday 78-49 to Washington State, which is predicted to finish in the bottom half of the Pacific-10 Conference, Kent is cautious about starting the season away from the friendly confines of McArthur Court.

"You're going into a hostile environment on the road, which should get your attention," Kent said. "But generally speaking, when teams go on the road they lock in better, the intensity comes up and they perform at a higher level. I'm looking to see if this team is in position to have that type of growth within it."

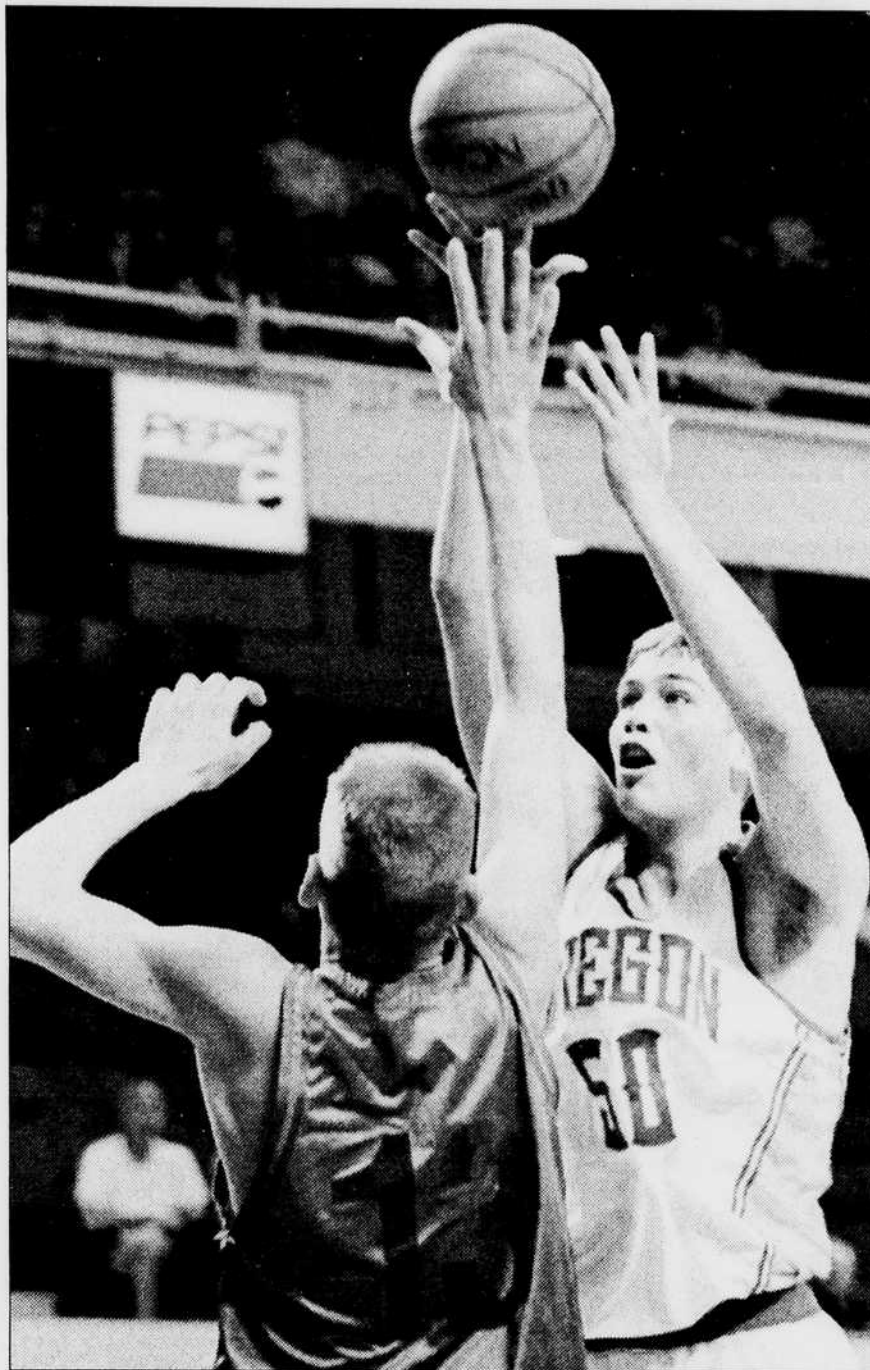
The team experienced what can only be termed marginal growth in its two exhibition victories over teams from Russia and Australia.

The Ducks beat Russia's Central Army Sport Club 89-54 on Nov. 8. Then they defeated the Outback All-Stars 85-76 four nights later in a game that featured sloppy play on both sides, as evidenced by a combined 48 fouls and 45 turnovers between the two teams.

Senior forward Henry Madden shot a combined 17 for 24 in the two contests (70.8 percent), on his way to averaging 20.5 points in 22 minutes per game.

Sophomore A.D. Smith, who redshirted last season, led the team with 20 rebounds in the two games, while sophomore Yasir Rosemond, a junior college transfer, dished out five assists in each contest.

Turn to MEN, Page 13A



CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

Senior Mike Carson and the rest of the Oregon men's basketball team begin the regular season Friday night against Brigham Young in Provo, Utah.

Oregon closes out season with WSU, UW

Following their first Pac-10 win of the season, the Ducks go on the road to face the No. 12 Cougars and No. 16 Huskies

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

This weekend marks the turning point from fall to winter for Oregon sports, as the men's and women's basketball teams begin their regular seasons, while the football and volleyball teams finish theirs.

The volleyball team winds up what, so far, has been a 9-19 season overall and 1-15 in the Pacific-10 Conference. The lone victory came on Saturday as the Ducks defeated Arizona State in a thrilling five-game match.

"We feel good about the win, but the last thing I want to have happen is for us to be satisfied," head coach Cathy Nelson said. "We have two opportunities this weekend to get more wins. It's not going to be an easy task, but it's an opportunity."

The Ducks open their final weekend of play at No. 12 Washington State, a team they haven't faced since the second match of the Pac-10 season on Sept. 20, when the Cougars took a four-game win.

"That's one thing I don't like about this Pac-10 schedule," Nelson said. "The teams you see first are the teams you see last."

Washington State is 22-6 overall and 10-6 in the Pac-10 but has lost two of its last three

Turn to DUCKS, Page 12A

Wrestlers eye No. 6 Arizona at tournament

The Southern Oregon Open will give the No. 22 Ducks a chance to improve their Pac-10 and national rankings

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

The stakes will be raised for the Oregon wrestling team this weekend as it continues its march toward the Pacific-10 Conference crown.

The Ducks will resume action Saturday in Ashland against several Pac-10 teams in an unconventional format at the Southern Oregon Open, a tournament that highlights the individual as much as the team.

At stake for the No. 22 Ducks is a chance to crack the nation's top 20 and get a leg up in the Pac-10 race — enough to keep the wrestlers' minds on the competition at hand, head coach Ron Finley said.

"This gives us a great chance to look at our guys in an individual format," Finley said. "We'd like to see as many of our guys as we can wrestling in their respective championship matches."

Oregon appears the favorite in several weight classes, including 134 and 158 pounds, but look for No. 18 Oregon State to challenge in nearly every event, 142-pound sophomore Dusty Morgan said.

"I think a lot of matches with Oregon State will be real close," Morgan said. "But we have really improved our conditioning

Turn to UO, Page 12A

Six-foot-five center Jenny Mowe needs to make her presence felt against the oversized Vandals.



CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

Women kick off season in Idaho

Tonight's contest with Idaho is the first of nine nonconference games for the Ducks, six of which will be played on the road

By Alex Pond
Sports Reporter

It's time for the games to begin.

The Oregon women's basketball team has high expectations for the 1997-98 season, including goals of an undefeated nonconference season, a Pacific-10 Conference championship and playing host to the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament.

The journey toward these goals begins tonight, when the Ducks take on Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, at 8 p.m.

"We're very excited," point guard Natalie Hughes said. "We're sick of seeing green and white jerseys in practice the past few weeks. We want to play someone and see how we're doing and where we're at."

Turn to WOMEN, Page 13A