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You may pick up your photo after it runs on January 14.

Oregon regroups for road games

*The Ducks will face
Cal today and the
Trojans on Saturday
after losing to Stanford*

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

With the New Year's holiday throwing a monkey wrench into the Pacific-10 Conference's normal schedule of Thursday and Saturday games, there came a subtle gift for Oregon this week. By not playing No. 7 Stanford until this Monday, the Ducks had just three days to dwell on an 89-67 loss, in which they gave a superior defensive effort but simply lost to a more talented team, before facing Southern California on Thursday in Los Angeles.

The loss dropped Oregon's record to 6-5 overall and 1-1 in the Pac-10, and the Ducks could be facing another split this weekend. The Trojans (4-8 overall, 0-2 Pac-10) are off to their worst start in 10 years and are one of the Pac-10's weaker teams, having lost seven straight. But Oregon will be hard pressed to upset No. 10 UCLA in Pauley Pavilion when they meet on Saturday.

"Stanford's behind us," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "There's nothing we can do about that but move on. Unfortunately, we didn't have a week to savor the victory over Cal and we certainly don't have a week to worry about the loss."

Lost in the defeat by the Cardinal was Terik Brown's 129th career three-point basket, which moved him past Kenya Wilkins into fourth all-time at Oregon. USC is also attempting to shed the weight of a loss to a more talented team this week. The Trojans were conquered by No. 5 Arizona 91-72 on the road Monday, two days after losing to Arizona State, 84-81.

Trojan head coach Henry Bibby should test the Ducks' cardiovascular fitness in their matchup by using one of the most well-rounded, if not talented, rosters in the conference. USC boasts 10 players who average at least 17 minutes a game, five of whom are scoring in double-figures.

Leading the way is sophomore

forward Jarvis Turner, who is averaging 13.2 points and four rebounds per game and is probable this week after missing six games with a fractured hand. Point guard Gary Johnson is second on the team in scoring with 13.1 points per game and is third in the Pac-10 in assists with five a game.

Johnson's backcourt mate, Elias Ayuso, scored 20 points against Arizona on six-of-nine shooting from three-point range.

The Trojans lead the all-time series with Oregon 49-28, including a 72-69 win at home last season, in which the Ducks' Rob Ramaker missed a three-pointer with five seconds left. That victory ended USC's four-game losing streak to Oregon.

For the second consecutive game, Kent will find a familiar face on the opposing bench. USC assistant Silvey Dominguez served in the same capacity under Kent for five seasons at St. Mary's between 1992-96. Kent previously faced Stanford's Mike Montgomery, whom Kent worked under as an assistant for two years from 1989-91.

Ducks host UCLA for weekend games

*The UO club hockey team looks to
avenge a 6-3 loss to the Bruins earlier
in the season in a pair of games*

By Tim Pyle
Freelance Sports Reporter

The Oregon Club Sports hockey team plays UCLA twice this weekend at Lane County Ice Arena. On Friday night, the Ducks and Bruins face off at 7 p.m. and the rematch begins at the same time on Saturday night.

The games hold huge implications for the Pacific-8 Hockey Conference standings, as both teams are in the upper echelon of the conference. Oregon is 7-4, while UCLA is 6-2.

The matches signal the start of the second half of the Ducks' season and the beginning of the toughest part of their schedule. After UCLA, Oregon battles Stanford twice and Washington State four times before heading into Pacific-8 Conference Tournament play. According to head coach Geoff Norman, the Bruins, the Cardinal and the Cougars are a few of the best teams the Ducks play this season.

"There are no more easy games," Norman said.

Against UCLA, Oregon is seeking revenge for a 6-3 loss to the Bruins in Los Angeles on Oct. 25. Norman identifies fast starts, team defense and a killer instinct as the key to his team's success this weekend.

Norman also stressed the importance of scoring first. Oregon is 6-0 when it scores the first goal in its

games, but just 1-4 when it does not. Norman also said all five players on the ice at any specific time must know their defensive assignments and play strong defense.

"Once we get the lead, we have to bury teams," Norman said. "For whatever reason, we've been letting teams back into games. We can't do that anymore."



One positive for Oregon is that it will have the services of its leading scorer, freshman Peter Harris. Harris did not make the trip to Los Angeles when the Ducks lost to the Bruins.

Harris has 16 goals and nine assists for a total of 25 points in eight games. More telling, the Ducks are 7-1 with him in the lineup.

Equestrian team competes

The Oregon Club Sports equestrian team travels to UC Davis this weekend. The Ducks are taking part in a 10-team tournament on Saturday that includes the host, Stanford, Fresno State, Sonoma and Oregon State.

"We're really excited to go down, and we're finally going to be competitive," team member Megan Robinson said.

Robinson and Erica Gilliland are the two most experienced Ducks and are expected to do well. The team also has a few newcomers who are taking part in their first competitive college-level show. According to Robinson, Rachel Turner, one of those newcomers, should fare well.

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