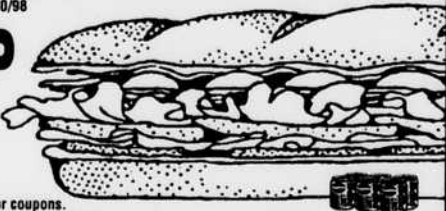


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•Native American struggle in Environmental Justice  
•Democracy and Political Change



# Ducks look to rebound vs. WSU

1-3 Cougars provide an opportunity for Oregon to end its four-game Pac-10 losing streak

By Rob Moseley  
Sports Reporter

As tough as the Pacific-10 Conference is this season, Oregon will get somewhat of a reprieve Saturday following a tough loss to Washington. The Ducks take on ninth place Washington State at 3:05 p.m. in McArthur Court seeking to end a four-game slide in the conference.

Contributing to those four losses has been Oregon's reliance on inexperienced players at critical positions, especially at point guard.

"It is frustrating, but I know I'm going to go through that this year," Kent said. "Michael [McShane] should have played and gone through all the growing pains last year, and he didn't do it. He's going through that now. Yasir [Rosemond] didn't even play last year, so they're going to be up and down."

"My hope is that one of them is on when the other one is down and not having a game when they're both out of sync."

Oregon has increasingly relied on three-point specialist Terik Brown at point guard, a switch that has not come without difficulty.

Washington State entered the Pac-10 season with a 7-4 record, which has since fallen to 8-7 after losses to Washington, Arizona and Arizona State, plus a 69-53 win over Oregon State on Thursday.

Point guard Blake Pengelly scored 16 points on four-of-four three-point shooting as the Cougars left the Beavers alone in the Pac-10 basement. Washington State held the Beavers to just 34 percent shooting and star guard Corey Benjamin to six points.

The loss to the Sun Devils was by just one point, as Arizona State's Eddie House hit a three-

pointer with 13 seconds left. Cougar forward Carlos Daniel, who finished the game with 28 points and 14 rebounds, missed two free

throws just before House's game-winner. He then missed a three-point shot of his own as time expired.

While head coach Kevin Eastman is not making excuses for his team's poor start, the loss of starting guard Rodrigo de la Fuente just days before the first Pac-10 game of the season has certainly adversely affected the Cougar's performance.

de la Fuente signed a professional contract to play in his native Spain on Jan. 3, two days before Washington State's opening loss to Washington. Eastman said the team understood the decision, which provided financial security for de la Fuente and his mother and brother, who he supports.

"It was a good kid who had a great opportunity in front of him," Eastman said. "And we've played

good basketball without him. We just haven't come up with a win."

Taking up the slack has been Daniel, a 6-foot-7, 245-pound forward who is averaging more than 17 points per game and last week assumed the Pac-10 lead in rebounding with 9.6 per game. He averaged 27 points and 13 rebounds while shooting 50.8 percent from the field in the three games following de la Fuente's departure.

Eastman said de la Fuente's loss provided an opportunity for Daniel to step up his production, provided he fully embraces the chance.

"The day it happened, there were more shots to be had," Eastman said. "Carlos has to become more of a presence by getting balls off the glass and being more active in the post. Kids get enthusiastic from their offense, and he has more enthusiasm with every game."

Leading the way for Washington State in the backcourt is Pengelly, a Eugene native who led the Pac-10 in three-point percentage with a school-record mark of 48.6 percent last season. This season Pengelly is scoring seven points and dishing out four assists per contest.

Oregon leads the all-time series with Washington State, 134-115, and holds a 79-42 advantage at McArthur Court. The two teams split last season's games, with the Cougars handing the then-No. 17 Ducks their first loss of the season at the Spokane Arena before dropping the rematch in Eugene.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Oregon ski report

■ Anthony Lakes: partly cloudy 18 degrees 4- new 54 base packed powder

■ Hoodoo: flurr 28 degrees 12- new 54-66 base powder 24 trails 4 lifts 9a-4p

■ Mt. Ashland: overcast 29 degrees 11- new 72-86 base

powder 23 trails 4 lifts 9a-4p

■ Mt. Bachelor: overcast 22 degrees 1-3 new 91-92 base powder 70 trails 9 lifts 9a-4p

■ Mt. Hood Meadows: snowing lightly 28 degrees 10- new 95-115 base packed powder 6 lifts 9a-10p

■ Mt. Hood Skibowl: cldy 25

degrees 5- new 75 base packed powder 3 lifts 9a-10p

■ Timberline: snow 24 degrees 4- new 112-115 base packed powder 11 trails 4 lifts 9a-4p

■ Willamette Pass: snow 30 degrees 7- new 40-62 base packed powder 29 trails 4 lifts 9a-4p

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