



Jody Runge is Pac-10's coach of the year

Enough is enough. The Oregon women and Jody Runge have done their Rodney Dangerfield impression long enough.

Respect, after the drubbing they handed Washington last Saturday, did not come to Oregon in this week's rankings (they are 32nd, compared to the Huskies' 21st ranking). It probably won't come in the rankings any time this season, and it didn't come at the start of the season when the Pac-10 coaches picked the Ducks to finish fourth and the media picked them fifth.

But when the Pacific-10 Conference awards are handed out at the end of the season, I could not understand if Runge's name is not engraved on the coach of the year award.

You can say what you want about the Ducks' rough nonconference showing, during which they lost to weaker teams such as Portland and Mississippi State. But what Oregon has done in the recent weeks is something that cannot be ignored.

Oregon is tied for second place with UCLA at 10-3 in conference play, despite season-ending injuries to two of their best players and in spite of those early season projections.

Anyone who saw Saturday's 15-point win over No. 17 Washington can attest that Oregon is playing far, far above its head.

With 6-foot-5 center Jenny Mowe and Brianne Meharry, their former leading scorer and rebounder, on the bench with season-ending injuries, the Ducks dominated the Huskies down the stretch.

Washington can complain all they want about officiating (more on that later), but it was Oregon's defensive scheme that kept the Huskies' leading scorer, Jamie Redd, and leading rebounder, Amber Hall, far below their respective season averages.

Any way you look at it, it was a total team effort.

The double-teams and switches in the paint kept Hall and the other inside players off balance, and the perimeter defense was just as spectacular.

When you consider the lack of depth in the Ducks' post players, which now includes only junior Sonja Curtis and freshman Angelina Wolvert, their in-



Jody Runge has led the Ducks into a second-place tie with UCLA with a 10-3 conference record.

side dominance over Washington is akin to the Seinfeld show losing Jerry and Kramer and still finishing ahead of Frasier in the ratings race.

The Ducks' win was simply amazing. I am tired of Runge and the Ducks not getting their just due. Forget the Huskies and their 10-0 start. Forget their complaints about poor officiating, or whatever else supposedly ailed them

Saturday; Oregon was just the better coached team that day. And the same goes for Oregon's 17-point win at Washington on Jan. 15.

It is Runge's coaching that has made them so successful. And I can only hope the Pac-10 will take notice at the end of the season.

Turn to **NOTES**, Page 8

Defense overshadowed during streak

During Oregon's recent 4-1 streak, it was the Ducks' offense that was getting most of the glory. With a balanced scoring attack, the Ducks came back from deficits against three of the four teams they beat.

But the fact is, Oregon's defense has been outstanding this entire season.

Oregon currently has the league's second-ranked defense, allowing an average of 69.1 points per game — almost 10 points below the league scoring average of 78.5 per game. Stanford is first, giving up just more than 62.

Of course, the big difference is that the Cardinal scores 80.5 per game. The Ducks have managed to average a league worst 69.2. That's a lot of close games.

Road woes

To many, the Ducks have over-achieved this season with an 11-11 overall record. But the funny thing is, they still could be better. Their weakest link this season has been winning on the road.

Consider: In their six conference road game, the Ducks are 1-5. The win came last Thursday against Washington State. Two of the losses — to Arizona and Arizona State — were blowouts.

The other three losses were by a combined seven points and in all three games Oregon was either leading or the score was tied going into the game's final minute, including Saturday's one-point loss to the Huskies.

The future looks bright

Oregon recruit Frederick Jones of Barlow High School in Gresham scored 58 points against David Douglas on Feb. 3, registering the seventh-highest point total in Oregon high school history.

Jones' 58 also is tied for the most points scored since 1965. He shares that record with the Portland Trail Blazers' Damon Stoudamire.

According to a report that was aired by the Oregon Sports Network during halftime of Saturday's loss to Washington, Jones recently scored well enough on his SAT to enroll at Oregon as a freshman next fall.

Chris Hansen is the assistant sports editor for the Emerald. His Oregon men's basketball notes appear every Wednesday.

BASKETBALL



Oregon Women's Notes

by Ryan Frank

BASKETBALL



Oregon Men's Notes

by Chris Hansen

31-year-old freshman gears up for his first dual meet of the season

WRESTLING



NCAA Wrestling Notes

by Joel Hood

Mount State Clare College in Clinton, Iowa, has a new addition to the school's wrestling team. He is Clint Long, a 31-year-old freshman believed to be the oldest collegiate wrestler in the country.

Long, who will turn 32 in May, has earned a 21-11 record this season as a heavyweight at various NAIA tournaments and invitational, according to USA Today.

The Iowa native will compete in his first dual meet this Friday when Mount State Clare takes on Oakton College of Des Plaines, Ill. Long told reporters that he fully plans to wrestle during his sophomore, junior and senior seasons.

Trouble in the Midwest

An Oklahoma State wrestler has been charged

in the Jan. 4 death of a Pennsylvania boy.

Pennsylvania state police charged first-year student Brian Burrows with involuntary manslaughter and homicide by a vehicle, as well as four related summary offenses, USA Today reported on its Web site.

Police estimate Burrows was driving a Porsche about 86 mph with headlights off before his car crashed into a car driven by Londe K. Brewer. The posted speed limit was 55 mph. Brewer's 4-year-old son, Scott, was killed in the accident.

The young boy had been buckled in a child safety seat in the back of his mother's Oldsmobile sedan, the police report stated. The collision caused Brewer's car to split and pushed the rear section about 200 feet apart from the front section. The Porsche skidded 110 feet at about 70 mph,

police estimated.

Burrows, a two-time high school state wrestling champion in Pennsylvania, returned home for arraignment.

Beaver believer

Say what you want about Oregon State athletics, but some programs in the athletic department have had unbelievable success. The Oregon State wrestling team entered this season second all-time in dual-meet wins. Not in the State of Oregon, but in the country.

On Jan. 17, the Beavers became just the second Division I-A school in history to reach the 800 all-time dual-meet victories, trailing only Iowa State. Oregon State is 802-239-13 for an all-time winning percentage of .769.

Joel Hood is a sports reporter for the Emerald and covers college wrestling.