

Look for five Pac-10 teams in NCAAs

NCAA Tournament time is right around the corner as the Pacific-10 Conference season is down to the final two weeks.

Consequently, the time is right to take a look at which teams are in the women's version of the Big Dance.

Of the 10 conference teams, five are still alive. Stanford and Arizona are locks, as is UCLA, barring a major collapse.

In all likelihood, the Bruins need to win two of their final four games. With Washington State (11-13 overall, 5-10 Pac-10) and Arizona State (10-13, 6-8) included on the schedule, two wins shouldn't be a problem. The Bruins also face Washington in Los Angeles, which could be another win for UCLA if the first game between the two teams means anything. UCLA beat the Huskies by 21 on the road earlier in the season.

Oregon is in the same boat as UCLA, as two wins will likely get it in the tournament for a fifth straight season.

One thing UCLA and Oregon has going for them is the Rating Percentage Index, which is a computer-generated rating derived from the team's Division-I winning percentage (25 percent), strength of schedule (50 percent)

and opponents' strength of schedule (25 percent).

The RPI ranks all 300 Division I-A teams and is used by the NCAA to help determine which teams it invites to the tournament.

BASKETBALL



PAC 10 Notes

by Alex Pond

In the most recent rankings, UCLA is No. 35 and Oregon is 36th. Going solely by those numbers, both teams would get one of the 44 at-large berths.

Washington is a little bit more on the bubble. The Huskies' overall 17-7 record is impressive, but they are just 8-7 in the Pac-10, which is good enough for fifth place, three games behind Oregon. Washington has an RPI ranking of 48.

However, if the Huskies can finish 10-8 in the conference they will probably get in based on the strong overall record and 9-0 non-conference mark.

So, would the NCAA really select five Pac-10 teams to play in

the tournament?

Well, history is on the Pac-10's side as far as that goes.

Five Pac-10 teams have been invited to the tournament three of the past four seasons and four times in the 1990s.

A scare in Tucson

Arizona received a big-time scare when center Marte Alexander went down and out of last Thursday's game with a knee injury.

"We feared it could have been career ending," Arizona head coach Joan Bonvicini said Monday. "We thought it was a torn ACL."

Bonvicini said tests have since shown there was no tear, but rather a sprain of the lateral collateral ligament.

The coach said Alexander is questionable for the Wildcats' Thursday game at California.

"I won't play her unless she is 80 percent or better," Bonvicini said.

Alexander averages 12.8 points a game and is ninth in the Pac-10 in rebounding, grabbing 6.6 boards a game.

Alex Pond is a sports reporter for the Emerald. His Pac-10 women's basketball notes will return to Tuesday next week.

Oregon wins first game after moving to Division I

The Ducks improved their record to 6-1 with a 21-8 win over Western Washington

By Tim Pyle
Freelance Sports Reporter

Everything seems to be going the Oregon Club Sports rugby team's way of late.

After recently moving to Division I from Division II, the Ducks won at Western Washington 21-8 last Saturday. The win raised Oregon's record to 6-1.

Head coach Ben Clegg said the Ducks were able to make the jump to Division I because of improved results and player turnouts this season.

"We're just trying to re-establish ourselves at the Division I level," said Clegg, noting that the Ducks were a Division I program in the 1980s.

Oregon is ranked No. 3 in the Northwest Region in the latest issue of Rugby magazine.

Its opponent next Saturday in Pullman, Wash., is Washington State, the No. 5 team in the region.

Lacrosse splits weekend games

The Oregon Club Sports men's lacrosse team began its season by splitting two games at Southbank Field last weekend.

The Ducks defeated Willamette 16-1 Saturday while playing during a constant downpour. Attacker Jeff Erickson scored six goals and had two assists for the Ducks.

"Considering the conditions,

[we] played a pretty good game," head coach Peter Hoffman said. "We played a full four quarters."

No. 25 Whitman ruined Oregon's chances at an upset Sunday by beating the Ducks 14-8. The Ducks trailed 9-8 entering



the fourth quarter but were outscored 5-0 to end the game. Erickson scored six

goals again for the Ducks.

Oregon travels north next weekend for two games. The Ducks battle No. 13 Western Washington in Seattle on Saturday before facing No. 5 Simon Fraser in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Sunday.

Ultimate frisbee wins tournament

By winning its first tournament of the season, the Oregon Club Sports women's ultimate frisbee team got off to an impressive start.

The Ducks won the President's Day Tournament in San Diego, Calif., on Feb. 16 by defeating No. 1 seeded California 15-11 in the championship game.

"We'll probably be ranked in the top 5 after this tournament," said team captain Rachelle Depner, noting the Ducks finished ninth in the nation last season.

The Ducks' next competition is in Palo Alto, Calif., at the Stanford Invitational March 7 and 8.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Weather cancels tournament round

The second round of the Pioneer Electronics/Bruin Classic women's golf tournament was

canceled Tuesday due to poor weather, leaving Oregon just 18 holes away from a monumental early season victory over a few of the nation's top women's programs.

The No. 10 Ducks lead the 18-team field that includes defending national champion Arizona State and No. 5 Tulsa after firing an 11-over-par 299 on the first day of competition on Monday.

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