



NCAA Tournament
First-round coverage,
CBS (8), 9 a.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Stringer still turning doubters into believers



RUTGERS SPORTS INFORMATION

Stringer leads Rutgers against UO.

Vivian Stringer left Iowa in 1995 for the challenge of re-establishing a Rutgers team that she leads to this season's NCAA Tournament

By Ryan Frank
Sports Editor

When C. Vivian Stringer took over a then-dismal women's basketball program at Iowa in 1983, people laughed at her.

During the press conference to announce her hiring, Stringer, who came from little-known Cheyney State in Pennsylvania, said she had three goals for the Iowa program: win the Big Ten Conference, fill Iowa's Carver-Hawkeye Arena and take her team to the Final Four.

The crowd laughed.

"They didn't know or appreciate what she did at

Cheyney State with almost no resources except her determination," said Christine H. Grant, the Iowa women's athletic director who hired Stringer.

She didn't know what she was getting herself into, they thought. No way could this woman take Iowa, which won just 23 games in the previous three seasons and drew a paltry 380 fans a game the year before, and reach those lofty goals.

One year later, those same people were wondering how she did it.

In her first season in Iowa City, Stringer — whose fifth-seeded Rutgers team plays Oregon in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday — led the Hawkeyes to a 17-10 record and drew an amazing 3,382 fans a game.

"When Vivian says she's going to do something, she

"When Vivian says she's going to do something, she does it."

Christine H. Grant
Iowa women's
athletic director

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OSU center of season speculation

With the Pacific-10 Conference is regular season ending last weekend, the annual speculations regarding

BASKETBALL



Men's Pac-10 Notes

by Rob Moseley

coaching changes and underclassmen declaring for the NBA draft are heating up.

One school at the focal point of both discussions is Oregon State, where the futures of head coach Eddie Payne and sophomore guard Corey Benjamin are in question after the Beavers' 3-15 showing in the Pac-10 this season.

Many signs point

to Benjamin leaving early.

First, this is a relatively weak draft year.

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Breaking down the early rounds of the NAAs

Assuming that the world doesn't end, or that the peace talks in the Middle East don't take a dramatic turn for the worse, the men's NCAA Tournament will begin early this morning in Hartford, Conn.; Washington D.C.; Sacramento, Calif.; and Boise, Idaho.

And if things in the opening round go as planned, No. 1 seeded North Carolina will

make quick work of No. 16 seeded Navy before some of us even roll out of bed. Hours later, basketball fans can tune in to watch No. 1 Arizona bounce Southland Conference champion Nicholls State out of the tournament with ease. If things go as planned, No. 2 Connecticut will run over No. 15 Fairleigh

Dickinson and No. 2 Cincinnati will route No. 15 Northern Arizona.

What does it all mean? A No. 16 seed has never beaten a No. 1 seed in the men's tournament, and only once has a No. 15 seed

OPINION



Joel Hood

Cardinal forward is out of tournament



Forward Kristin Folkl suffered a complete tear of the ACL in her left knee during practice

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

The No. 5 Stanford women's basketball team will be without the services of junior forward Kristin Folkl in its quest for a national championship this season after Folkl suffered a serious knee injury in practice on Tuesday.

An MRI performed Tuesday night confirmed that Folkl, the Cardinal's leading scorer and rebounder this season, has a complete tear of the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee, structural damage to the meniscus and a bone bruise.

"We are obviously very disappointed to hear about Kristin," Cardinal head coach Tara VanDerveer said. "To lose a player of her caliber at this time of the season is upsetting to the team and the coaching staff, but we have to move ahead and prepare for the upcoming tournament games."

The injury will force Folkl to miss the Cardinal's first-round NCAA Tournament game against Harvard on Saturday, as well as any further action should Stanford advance.

"You never want to see an athlete of her caliber so seriously injured," Harvard head coach Kathy Delaney-Smith said. "Our players would have relished the opportunity to compete against her. But Stanford's talent goes a lot deeper than one or two players. We are preparing to play an outstanding team, led by one of the finest coaches in the country."

The Cardinal (21-5 overall, 17-1 Pacific-10 Conference) earned the No. 1 seed in the West region and will host the first two rounds of action this weekend. Hawaii and Arkansas play in the other first-round matchup in Maples Pavilion.

The injury to Folkl comes just three days after Stanford's senior co-captain, Vanessa Nygaard, tore the same ligament in her left knee. Nygaard's injury came in the Cardinal's final regular season game at Oregon State.

"[Folkl's injury] coming on the heels of what happened with Vanessa is really mind-boggling to me," VanDerveer said. "That you go all year and have such good health that this could happen almost within the span of 10 minutes basketball time — the end of the game at Oregon State and the beginning of our practice here."

Although she has been ruled out for the Harvard game, Nygaard has been cleared to play if and when Stanford advances.

Stanford's Kristin Folkl will miss the NCAA Tournament because of a torn ACL.

NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

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