

Moseley: UCLA loses 3 key players

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The Bears do face one impediment to success, however. California will play its entire home schedule in Oakland's New Arena next season while its on-campus facility is being renovated. Considering the New Arena's current occupants are the last-place Golden State Warriors of the NBA, Cal faces a stiff challenge.

Oregon State's chances for improvement on this season's last-place Pac-10 finish rest firmly on the shoulders of sophomore shooting guard Corey Benjamin, who may or may not leave Corvallis for the NBA in coming weeks.

The Beavers return a solid talent base next season in sophomores John-Blair Bickerstaff, Ron Grady and Iyan Walker, as well as freshman point guard Deundra Tanner, who could be a star.

Terrill Woods and Jason Heide can shore up the middle for Oregon State, but if the Beavers hope to break in to the top half on the conference, Benjamin needs to return. He has said he will only leave early if he is assured of being a first-round NBA pick, and after a few stellar performances in the NCAA Tournament by some fringe players, those chances may be in question. Stay tuned as Benjamin decides the entire program's future in the next few weeks.

UCLA is another program that will take some hits this offseason, as the Bruins lose seniors Toby Bailey, Kris Johnson and J.R. Henderson to graduation, theoretically. The Bruins' lack of depth was sorely exposed late in the season when Jelani McCoy quit the team, but UCLA really looked vulnerable when freshman point guard Baron Davis

was lost to a knee injury during the tournament. Davis and fellow freshman guard Earl Watson will be expected to lead the team next season, but don't be surprised to see the Bruins bring in another solid recruiting class this summer.

Finally, Washington State should follow up its last-place finish this season with another in 1998-99. The Cougars lose leading scorer and rebounder Carlos Daniel to graduation. Sophomores Blake Pengelly, Steve Slotemaker and Chris Crosby are all good players, but not good enough to make an impact in the Pac-10.

Regardless, Pac-10 fans should be in for another season of the most competitive basketball in the country next year.

Rob Moseley is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

Rob's Pac-10 Power Rankings

1. Stanford: No reason to believe the Cardinal won't repeat this season's Final Four appearance in 1998-99; all five starters return



6. USC: Henry Bibby loses six seniors but should weather the storm with this year's solid freshman class



2. Washington: Stars Todd MacCulloch and Donald Watts could be the best 1-2 punch in the Pac-10 next season.



7. Oregon: Ducks always seem to surprise, need stability at point guard



3. Arizona: Jason Terry and one of the nation's top recruiting classes look to continue Wildcats' dominance



8. Arizona State: Losing strating backcourt of Jeremy Veal and Ahlon Lewis leaves Bobby Lazor, Mike Batiste, Eddie House to pick up pieces



4. California: Golden Bears could contend for league title next season after taking on six newcomers this year



9. Oregon State: Should Corey Benjamin return for his junior campaign, the Beavers' chances will improve.



5. UCLA: Bruins will rely on sophomore guard tandem of Baron Davis and Earl Watson after graduation of Bailey, Henderson and Johnson



10. Washington State: No team will feel the loss of one player more than the Cougars will after Carlos Daniel's graduation.



Oregon equestrian wins 4 ribbons, ends season at UC Davis Horse Show

Megan Robinson won the Novice Flat and Novice Fences divisions for UO's only first-place finishes

By Tim Pyle
Freelance Sports Reporter

By winning four ribbons at the UC Davis Horse Show last Saturday, the Oregon Club Sports equestrian team ended its season on a high note.

It was the Ducks' second show at UC Davis this season. Oregon won five ribbons at a show there Jan. 10.

Megan Robinson recorded the only two first-place finishes for the Ducks. She won the Novice Flat and Novice Fences divisions.

Megan Craig captured Oregon's top three finish with a third-place ribbon in Novice Fences.

Karianne Boyce finished eighth in Reserve High Point Open Rider to claim Oregon's fourth and final ribbon.

Other top finishers for the Ducks included Nancy Suryan and Megan Starkey. Suryan and Starkey had "excellent showings" in Novice Flat English and English and Western, respectively, according to Robinson.



"We were awesome," said Robinson, who is the team's student coordinator. "It was a great show to end the season."

In only three shows, Oregon won a total of 21 ribbons for the season, including a 12-ribbon performance at Cal Poly SLO on March 8.

Robinson led the team by earning seven ribbons, four of them for first-place finishes.

Oregon is hosting a regional conference in Eugene on April 18 to determine a plan of action for future equestrian competition on the West Coast.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's soccer team signs 3 more

The Oregon women's soccer team has signed three more recruits to national letters of intent, head coach Bill Steffen announced this week. With four players signed earlier, Steffen's third recruiting class now numbers seven athletes who will join the team this fall.

The latest group of signees includes one junior-college transfer and two players from the high school ranks.

Midfielder Aly Hill has decided to transfer to Oregon from Utah, where she played the past two seasons. She started 20 of 21 games last season, scoring three goals and adding two assists.

Joining Hill is Erin Hoyt, a midfielder from Decatur High School in Federal Way, Wash., and Sarah Peters, a goalkeeper from Woodinville, Wash. Peters is the second recruit in the current class from Woodinville.

Custer named Pac-10 player of the week

Oregon infielder Triawn Custer was named the Pacific-10 Conference player of the week as she helped Oregon to a 3-3 record last week.

Custer, a freshman from Salem, batted .714 with 10 RBIs, including a pinch-hit grand slam against No. 1 Arizona on Saturday.

She followed that up with a three-hit performance against No. 7 Arizona State on Sunday.

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