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Pyle: San Antonio over Phoenix in five

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team that played in the Eastern Conference Playoffs — at least until they ran into the Chicago buzz saw — throughout the '90s before missing the '97 postseason.

Cleveland, on the other hand, has an entirely new starting lineup this season. With three rookies, the "Reign Man" (a.k.a. Shawn Kemp) and gunner Wesley Person, the Cavaliers like to run.

Unfortunately for Cleveland, the plodding but effective Pacers don't.

The series should come down to who can dictate the style of play.

I look at Indiana's discipline and Reggie Miller's past clutch playoff performances and see the Pacers in four.

Western Conference

Utah (1) vs. Houston (8)

For the second consecutive sea-

son, these Midwest Division rivals meet in the playoffs. Only this time, the circumstances are much different.

Last season, Utah needed John Stockton's clutch three pointer to beat Houston in six games in the Western Conference Finals.

This season, the Jazz (62-20) are poised for a return trip to the finals after gaining homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs, while the aging Rockets (41-41) limped through the regular season.

Houston's future hall of famers (Charles Barkley, Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler) will try to make one last playoff run before Drexler moves on to coach his alma mater (University of Houston) at the end of the season, but Karl Malone and company will not allow any such happenings at their expense.

Give me Utah in four.

Phoenix (4) vs. San Antonio (5)

This series features the biggest

contrast in styles of all of the first-round matchups.

The Suns (56-26) will pit their "small ball" against the Spurs' (56-26) triple towers.

Phoenix has the homecourt advantage because of its 3-1 regular season record against San Antonio, which could come in handy.

Again, this series will come down to which team is better able to dictate the tempo of play. The Suns will try to get out and run with Jason Kidd, Rex Chapman and Antonio McDyess, while the Spurs will attempt to grind out points by incessantly pounding the ball into everybody's rookie of the year, Tim Duncan, and David Robinson.

I think this one is going to go down to the wire. They'll be celebrating in San Antonio after the Spurs escape America West Arena with a win in Game 5.

Tim Pyle is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

Tennis: Wygonowska tries for NCAAs

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teams nationally.

The Kergroach-Carter duo (15-8), which is ranked No. 40, will play the Trojans' Roman Kukal and Fernando Samayoa in the first round of the top-flight doubles draw, which contains 16 teams.

"They need to pick a couple wins over some good teams," Russell said. "If they do, it's going to certainly help them. That's the thing about this tournament — it's just a great opportunity. If guys are ready for the challenge, they will be rewarded for being prepared and take advantage of that."

Hamdan and Arriaga will team up and play in the doubles top tier.

For the Oregon women (4-16, 0-8 Pac-10), Alina Wygonowska will try to ensure being selected to the NCAAs for singles.

Wygonowska (17-16), who is ranked No. 47, will play Brandi Freudenberg of UCLA in the first round of the singles top draw.

"If she wins her first two matches, she's in [the NCAAs] for sure," Oregon head coach Jack Griffin said. "If she wins one, she'll have a pretty good shot. If she loses in the first round, that could put a big damper on her chances of going."

Team captain Alison Sosnow (8-12) will end her collegiate career by also playing in the top draw of singles action.

Four other Ducks will compete in the bottom draw of singles play.

Oregon's doubles teams of Sosnow-Shanelle Kaneshiro and Wygonowska-Jaime Martin will play in the doubles top tier.

All the tournaments are single elimination and will continue through Sunday.

Club: Men's soccer team beats Lane 3-1

■ Continued from Page 7

ing up the middle instead of keeping it wide, and the passes were sloppy. The whole game was sloppy," said Gabrielle Hendel. "Basically, we were just outplayed."

"But as soon as we work together more and there is more communication, we'll do a lot better."

The Ducks played their second game Wednesday night. Results

were not available at press time.

Men's soccer

The Oregon Club Sports men's soccer team met up with its cross-town rival last Friday, and the Ducks ended up trouncing Lane Community College, 3-1, in Eugene City League action at Ascot Park.

The game lived up to the hype that surrounds the long-standing

rivalry, as the intensity ran high and the trash-talking was not spared, Chad Wright said.

Down 1-0 at the half, the Ducks went on a tear in the second half, as Jay Moulde and Cory Fleming combined for three unanswered goals in a span of eight minutes for the win.

On Friday, Oregon will go up against Chronic United at Amazon Park.

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