

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY
November 4, 1998

Best Bet

Bowling
PBA Indianapolis Open
4:30 p.m., ESPN

Williams dazzles in Oregon's season-opening win

*Center Jenny Mowe shows she is healthy again with 22 points and 14 rebounds*By Joel Hood
Oregon Daily Emerald

If Shaquala Williams had any butterflies in her stomach before Wednesday's game, it must have taken all of three seconds for them to evaporate.

Making her first appearance in a Duck uniform, the freshman point guard dazzled the 2,928 in attendance with an array of one-arm rocket passes, no-look assists and a half-dozen other moves to lead the Oregon women's basketball team to a 99-65 rout of Alvik of Sweden at McArthur Court.

"We didn't have a big lead when I entered the game so I was just trying to get us into our offense," said Williams, who finished with nine points and six assists in 23 minutes. "The guards just needed to be more aggressive, so I just went in there to play my

game."

Williams entered the game with just more than 15 minutes to go in the first half and promptly raced the length of the court and fired a pin-point lob pass to a streaking Jenny Mowe to give the Ducks an 15-10 lead.



Mowe, the six-foot-five center who missed all but four games last season with a knee injury, played 22 minutes and showed little rust on the offensive end, scoring 22 points and recording a team-high 14 rebounds.

However, head coach Jody Runge said her team has a lot to work on defensively.

"I'm pleased with the effort overall,"

Runge said, "but we had a lot of breakdowns defensively and miscommunication playing zone. I think this is a good wake-up call for us."

Forward Brianne Meharry led the Ducks with 23 points and tallied seven rebounds. The sophomore also made 11 of 14 free-throw attempts.

The Ducks led by just 13 at the half but extended their lead early in the second half, leading by 21 with 11:42 to go, 25 with 10:48 and 31 by the 4:22 mark.

Oregon sophomore Angelina Wolvert hit six of 12 attempts from the field to score 18 points. She also pulled down six rebounds.

Krista Jay led Alvik with 26 points on 10 of 17 shooting. Johanna Bjorklund was the only other Alvik player to score in double-figures with 12 points.

"I'm pleased with the effort overall, but we had a lot of breakdowns defensively ..."

Jody Runge
UO head coach

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL



Dane Looker has become Washington's top receiver this season even after beginning his college career as a guard on Western Washington's basketball team.

Looker takes circuitous route to stardom

Dane Looker has gone from basketball player at Western Washington to Washington's top receiver in just three years

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

"There are two paths you can go by, but in the long run there's still time to change the road you're on."

—Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant in "Stairway to Heaven"

Washington's leading receiver was not always on the path he now travels.

In fact, three years ago Dane Looker was always conscious of a different type of traveling as a key member of the Western Washington basketball team.

But, spurred by Husky quarterback and former high school teammate Brock Huard's appraisal, Looker decided to change the road he was on.

He has not since looked back as that new trail brings him to Eugene for Washington's showdown with Oregon on Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

If not for a fateful game of catch with Huard in their hometown of Puyallup, Wash., during his sophomore year, Looker may have never made the decision that led to his role as the Huskies' top receiver.

"[Brock] called me one night and said 'Do you want to go down to the gym and throw with me a little bit?'" Looker says. "I went down there and started running

some routes, and he told me he thought I still had the ability to play [at Washington]. He planted a seed in my head and made me start thinking."

Looker then contacted the Washington wide receivers' coach (now their offensive coordinator), Scott Linehan, to pursue Huard's advice, and he eventually decided to transfer and try out for the Huskies as a walk-on.

Despite making the team last fall, Looker was relegated to the scout team because as a transfer he was ruled ineligible for the season.

But this season Looker has burst to the front of the Huskies' receiving corps. He made his Division-I college football debut memorable by burning Arizona State for a school-record-tying 11 catches for 108

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Conference bowl scene unfolding

The Pac-10 should send five teams to postseason bowl games, including two held at the Aloha Bowl in Hawaii

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

For a few years now, Pacific-10 Conference fans, coaches and players have been arguing the merits of the Pac-10, calling it the best conference in the nation.

If parity decides quality, then that would seem to be a fair claim.

UCLA, which entered last weekend in the No. 1 slot in the Bowl Championship Series rankings, narrowly avoided defeat for the third straight week, this time against Stanford.

The Cardinal, still winless in the Pac-10 after five games, came within a yard or two of knocking off UCLA, the nation's No. 2-ranked team. Receiver Jeff Allen fumbled away a sure Stanford victory with the Bruins up 28-24, a lead UCLA held through the final gun.

That win came a week after a precocious Cal team lost by just 14 points to the highly favored Bruins, who were coming off a narrow overtime win over Oregon.

UCLA now finds itself ranked third and fourth in the polls, as well as third in the Bowl Championship rankings. The Bruins must now hope for a loss by Tennessee and/or Kansas State to guarantee a trip to the national championship game, held this year at the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 4.

Arizona also finds itself rooting for the Volunteers and Wildcats to lose. Should the Bruins qualify for the Fiesta Bowl, Arizona would have a decent chance at qualifying for its first Rose Bowl. Although the Pac-10's second-place team is not guaranteed a spot in Pasadena should the Bruins qualify for the Fiesta Bowl, a highly ranked Arizona would be a good bet to be selected.

The other option for the Pac-10's second-place team is either the Cotton or Holiday Bowl. The Cotton Bowl will have its choice of the Western Athletic Conference champion or the second-place Pac-10 team. The Holiday Bowl would get the odd-team out. Air Force is currently the top-ranked WAC team and could be a good bet to play in Texas. Representatives from the Holiday Bowl were at Saturday's Arizona-Oregon game, as well as the UCLA-Oregon game on Oct. 17.

The third-place Pac-10 team will likely

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