

Jordan Weiner pushes limits of club ice hockey

After a long career in the sport, Weiner hopes his team will be able to win the Pac-8 championship

By Brett Williams
for the Emerald

It has been a long journey.

Jordan Weiner's ice hockey career began while his friends were still wearing diapers and has included a prep state championship and several regional tournament games. He has traveled

On tap

WHAT:
Ice Hockey

WHO:
UO vs.
Stanford

WHEN:
Friday, Nov. 13
at 9:30 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 14
at 9:15 p.m.

WHERE:
Lane County
Ice Arena at the
fairgrounds

MORE INFO:
Call 346-3733

SOURCE:
ClubSports

hundreds of miles to Eugene from his home in Lincolnshire, Illinois, and now has helped make the Oregon Club Sports Hockey team one of the premier forces in the Pacific-8 Conference.

As this fifth-year senior laces up the skates for his final season in competitive ice hockey, he still has one

stone left unturned — a Pac-8 championship.

Weiner and his teammates take the ice this weekend at home against Stanford in a doubleheader that has Pac-8 championship implications. The Cardinal have lost a solid group of players to graduation, including last season's goalie who helped the U.S. women win the gold two years ago in Nagano, Japan, but remain near the top of the Pac-8 stand-

ings.

While a sweep of the Ducks could eliminate Oregon from tournament consideration and surely end Weiner's career unfulfilled.

"We have had team meetings and decided that we will settle for nothing less than a championship this year. And we definitely have the talent to do it," said Weiner.

Weiner, a 6-foot-1, 205-pound defenseman for the Ducks, feels that Oregon has more talent than they did two years ago, when Weiner and the Ducks lost a heartbreaker in the championship to Stanford.

"The freshman talent and depth on this team is incredible. The coach can play up to our fourth line of players with good peace of mind."

His road back to the championship will undoubtedly have to go through Southern California, a team that swept the Ducks this season and is undefeated against Oregon in Weiner's career.

"USC sweeping us this year was a huge downfall, especially because it was our home opener and I have never beaten them. But if we play them again, we would be confident."

"We're still the best team in the league."

If the Ducks are for real, one of the main reasons is Weiner, who began to play hockey at age 4 and says his parents "threw him in every sport." His other sports included soccer and baseball, but both took a back seat to hockey and were expunged by his sophomore year of high school.

One reason is because hockey is so much more predominant in the Midwest compared with other parts of the country. "Every



Jordan Weiner flips the puck over a defenders stick in the Pac-8 championships last February at Lane County Ice.

Nick Medley/Emerald

high school has a team and there are at least fifteen hockey rinks less than an hour away. It is a lot more intense."

Intensity on the ice has never been a problem for Weiner. In high school, he competed on his high school team and a club team in which Weiner was the only player selected from his county. However, Division I-A possibilities were reduced by his decision to attend public schools.

"I had a chance to go to prep school and possibly go on from there. But I wanted to stay with my friends in high school, so I made a decision that I wouldn't try to play hockey in Division I," he said.

Because he was not pursuing a school with Division I-A hockey, his choices were down to Oregon and Arizona. His parents favored Arizona because of the Wildcat golf program that Weiner could have possibly played in. But he chose Eugene simply because he liked the appearance of the school.

"I just wanted to get out of

"We have had a team meeting and decided that we will settle for nothing less than a championship this year."

Jordan Weiner
Hockey defender

the Midwest," explained Weiner. "It came down to the desert or the rain, and I went with the rain."

It was a blessing for the Ducks, who have been feeding off his leadership ever since he started his freshman year.

"I think it is because I have been around for so long and younger players respect what I have to say," said Weiner. "Playing at Oregon has made me more of a team player, as opposed to always thinking about myself in high school."

Being more of a team player is not the only part of Weiner's game that has changed since his high school days on the rink. Weiner was notorious for his time in the penalty box. "My dad told me the other day that I still had the record for penalties. I use my head more now than I did then."

One has to use his head to play defense, a position Weiner considers "the quarterback of the hockey team." His skills enable him to be an offensive defenseman that is counted on to push the puck up the ice and put pressure on opponents.

"I love to pass; I always have," Weiner said. "My coaches have always told me to shoot more, but it is more rewarding to pass and get an assist."

Every championship team needs to have good chemistry, a quality this year's Ducks possess.

"Our team has a lot of positive energy. We play as a team because of the many friendships we have with each other," Weiner said.



Nick Medley/Emerald

Weiner helped lead Oregon to a fourth-place finish at the Pac-8 championships.

Physical Education

Come out and play



Winter Term 1999

Take a pE class

For More Information:

- Web site: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~pars>
- Schedule of Classes — pgs. 100-103
- Call 346-4105
- All of the above

Physical
Activity
and
Recreation
Services

The Japan Exchange and Teaching Program 1999

Teach English in junior and senior high schools in Japan

Learn about Japanese culture and people

Gain international experience

Requirements

- Have an excellent command of the English language
- Obtain a bachelor's degree by June 30, 1999
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be willing to relocate to Japan for one year

Applications are now available. The deadline for application is December 8, 1998.

For more information and an application contact the Consulate General of Japan in Portland at 2700 Wells Fargo Tower, 1300 SW 5th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201. Call (503) 221-1811 x14 or 1-800-INFO-JET

