



Ducks hope to beat revamped USC

Oregon takes on Southern California tonight and is looking forward to an upcoming UCLA game

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

For only the second time this season, the Oregon men's basketball team will be looking to recover from a loss when it takes on Southern California in the Ducks' Pacific-10 Conference home opener tonight.

Oregon (9-2 overall, 1-1 Pac-10) suffered a 77-59 setback at No. 4 Stanford on Monday after earning a precious Pac-10 road win at California on Saturday.

The Trojans (9-2, 1-1) beat Arizona State 72-70 before losing to Arizona 87-78 in starting league play at home.

Ducks forward A.D. Smith said USC looks much improved from last season, when it finished eighth in the Pac-10 at 5-13 (9-19 overall)

and split its series with Oregon, including a 73-61 loss in Eugene.

"Just looking at [the Trojans'] personnel, they have nine or 10 guys who can really play, as opposed to last season, when they only had five or six," Smith said.

USC's revamped roster includes four freshmen, and the Trojans start four underclassmen along with senior forward Adam Spanich.

Sophomore center Brian Scalabrine leads the team in scoring and rebounding at 16 points per game and seven rebounds per game. Those averages are good for sixth and eighth in the Pac-10, respectively.

"Scalabrine is going to be the guy they are going to when they need it," Smith said. "Then they have a couple good shooters and some good athletes."

Sophomore guard Jeff Trepagnier has also been impressive offensively, averaging more than 13 points per game. But his defense has been even better, as he ranks first in the Pac-10

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Junior-college transfer Alex Scales soars to the hoop in the Ducks' 93-62 victory against Brigham Young at McArthur Court on Dec. 6.

Ice Hockey team loses head coach

Louthis steps in, promising a smooth transition and a shot at the nationals

By Brett Williams
for the Emerald

Call it addition by subtraction.

Within the midst of a nine-game winning streak, the Oregon Club Sports ice hockey team received news during the break that its second-year coach, Geoff Norman, will not be returning for the second half of the season because of personal reasons. Fortunately for Oregon, last season's team captain Ezra Louthis has stepped in to replace him.

Promoting Louthis from assistant to head coach was welcomed by Oregon's players.

"Ezra was the smartest player I ever played with," forward Tyler Shaffar said. "He knows the team well. We expect it to be a very smooth transition."



It needs to be smooth for Oregon (10-2-1), which will travel down south this weekend for a doubleheader with Pacific-8 Conference frontrunner UCLA (9-1-0). The Ducks need at least a split this weekend to continue their chances of advancing to nationals after the regular season. A sweep would almost guarantee Oregon a bid.

However, a sweep by the Bruins could be devastating to Oregon. The Ducks need to finish in the top four in the Western Division in order to advance to nationals. Oregon is currently ranked fourth.

After splitting with UCLA during the regular season last year, the Ducks fell short against the Bruins in the Pac-8 championship consolation game.

"We were really let down for that game because we had not qualified for the Pac-8 championship," Shaffar said.

Despite the long layoff since its victories against Idaho more than a month ago, Oregon players have been keeping in shape.

"Our team did a lot of individual things during the break, like weight lifting, skating and running. We shouldn't be rusty," Shaffar said.

Louthis' strategies need to mentally prepare the Ducks for this weekend, which is shaping to be one of Oregon's most challenging of the season.

"We need to play with discipline and avoid dumb penalties," Shaffar said. "If we stay out of the penalty box, we'll win."

Oregon wrestling team stomps Stanford Cardinal 28-9

Oregon won eight of the 10 opening matches against Stanford, leading to an improvement in its dual-meet record

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

There was a tone of readiness in the voice of wrestling head coach Chuck Kearney before the Ducks' meet against Stanford in Palo Alto, Calif., on Wednesday. The Cardinal, he said, has "traditionally wrestled Oregon very well."

However, traditions are made to be broken.

Oregon improved its dual-meet record to 3-0 by beating Stanford 28-9, winning eight of the 10 opening matches. Two of those matches were won by major decisions and one by technical fall.

Stanford's record was 2-2 after losing to Oregon. Later on in the evening, Stanford lost again to Harvard and the Cardinal's record dropped to 2-3.

The Ducks won the first four matches of the evening and jumped to an early 15-0 lead. Stanford could not recover from the deficit.

Stanford's Tim Kendall, wrestling Oregon's 184-pound Doug Lee, was the first victim of the evening. Lee shut down Kendall, winning the decision by a score of 16-9.

Chael Sonnen, wrestling at 197 pounds, followed Lee's performance. He won by technical fall in the second match of the evening against Stanford's Chuck Fairbanks. Kevin Keeney wrestled third for Oregon at 285 pounds and embarrassed Andy Hunter by winning with by a decision of 15-2.

Kenny Cox made his wrestling debut in

the 125-pound weight class, down from his usual 133 pounds. In the fourth match of the evening, Cox beat his opponent by decision 8-2.

Daryl Christian and Sean Morgan were victorious but had their hands full against the Cardinal. Christian won the decision over Beau Weiner 3-1 and Morgan squeaked by Warren McPherson 2-1.

The Cardinal was allowed only two matches in the meet. Stanford's Shane Cross won the decision 2-0 over Jesse Culp at 174 pounds, and Zach Zimmerer won points for the Cardinal by forfeit at the 133-pound weight class.

Wednesday's meet marked the start of Oregon's Pacific-10 Conference season. Next the Ducks will face Cal Poly SLO on Friday and CS Bakersfield on Saturday.



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