



Senior guard Terik Brown drives between two Coppin State defenders during Oregon's 77-62 victory at McArthur Court on Nov. 15.

Nick Medley/Emerald

Ducks

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with 20 blocks and fourth in the conference with almost three steals per game.

Oregon will attempt to riddle USC with slashers Alex Scales and Freddie Jones, who started together for the first time in the loss at Stanford. Scales tops the Ducks in scoring at 14 points per game, and Jones ranks second on the team in scoring in Pac-10 play at 11 points per game.

Smith, who had scored in double figures in every one of Oregon's first nine games, was held to less than 10 points in both of the Ducks' first two league games. He ranks first on the team and fifth in the conference with eight rebounds per game.

Point guard Darius Wright leads Oregon with 54 assists and averages seven points per game. Senior guard Terik Brown, averaging 12 points per game, will look to recover from a subpar

performance in the Bay Area last weekend.

Center Mike Carson also struggled against Cal and Stanford, as he found himself in constant foul trouble. Sophomore post Flo Hartenstein provided a boost off the bench against the Golden Bears and is averaging four points and three rebounds per game.

The only team to beat USC in nonconference play was Kansas, which cruised to a 107-78 home victory on Dec. 12.

With No. 8 UCLA looming for a Saturday night matchup, conventional wisdom says Oregon may be looking past the Trojans. Smith said that will not happen.

"We're thinking about making it to the postseason, so we know we've got to take care of business at home," Smith said. "We expect to win at home. We feel like if we play our game, we'll win just about any game."

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