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Ducks easily sweep Cougars

By Brett Williams
for the Emerald

Oregon Club Ice Hockey had its own version of Jekyll and Hyde last weekend, squeezing by Washington State 4-3 on Friday and then routing the Cougars 9-1 on Saturday.

It was two must win games for Oregon (14-4-1), who no longer controls its own destiny in the Pacific-8 Conference race because of Stanford's sweep over Southern Cal last weekend. The Cardinal needs to split with UCLA this weekend and sweep lowly California to steal the last tournament spot from the Ducks.

Washington State almost single handedly eliminated Oregon from Pac-8 tournament considerations Friday night. The Ducks jumped out to a 1-0 lead early but were matched by the Cougars point for point until the third pe-

riod. With the game tied at 3-3, forward Russ Atteridge put the Ducks up for good, scoring with less than ten minutes remaining in the contest.

Friday nights loss appeared to kill Washington States' spirits, as they came out flat Saturday and never had a chance. The Ducks built a lead of 8-0 before the Cougars ended Oregon's shutout bid in the third period with a meaningless goal. Atteridge had three goals on the weekend and junior transfer Chris Geib scored a goal in each game.

Oregon looked like two different teams on Friday and Saturday night. "We came out Friday like we had cement in our skates," said forward Tyler Shaffar, who scored a pivotal goal Saturday to give Oregon momentum in the first period. "But Saturday we took control from the beginning."

A main reason Oregon stepped up its play, according to Shaffar, was the coaching of Ezra Louthis. "He knew we lacked intensity and he got us motivated. He is a very positive coach," he said.

The Ducks enjoyed its first weekend where penalties and mental mistakes didn't hamper them, but missed opportunities Friday night almost proved to be the dagger in Oregon's heart. "We probably had 25-30 shots on goal," said Shaffar. "Right now our biggest problem is getting the puck in the net."

Oregon is still missing team captain Ari Friedman, whose suspension for fighting against UCLA was extended to four games after his absence against Washington State. It has not yet been determined if he will return for this weekends games against Western Washington.

Iverson signs \$70.9 million deal

By Ken Berger
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — No matter where Allen Iverson goes or how many defenders he baffles, the critics are always in close pursuit. They say he's cocky, selfish and too enamored of old friends from a troubled past.

Ready or not, Iverson signed a \$70.9 million contract extension with the Philadelphia 76ers on Tuesday that gave him much more than a raise. Flashing a smile to team president Pat Croce, this enigmatic 23-year-old took on the pressure of becoming one of the top young stars in the NBA's post-Jordan era.

"I want to win the most championships," Iverson said. "And I want to be the best player."

The job began as soon as Iverson finished signing his name. Iverson will get the maximum for a player entering his third season in the

league, Croce said. He will get \$9 million next season with annual raises of \$1.1 million that add up to \$14.6 million in the final year of the contract.

"I didn't want to wait until the end of the year and then decide whether to play for a contender," Iverson said. "I never wanted to take the easy way out. I've been here through the bad times, I want to be here through the good. I pretty much knew what time it was."

It is the largest contract ever guaranteed by the Sixers, hurtling Iverson past the likes of Julius Erving, Wilt Chamberlain, and Charles Barkley.

"There were no snags on our part," Croce said. "I know Allen, and I know he's a winner. I know he's a good guy. That smile can break you down like his crossover."

Iverson's chance to strike it super-rich with a \$100 million con-

tract — like those signed by Kevin Garnett, Antonio McDyess and Shawn Kemp — was wiped out by the lockout. According to the NBA's new collective bargaining agreement, a player with up to six years experience can receive as much as 25 percent of his team's salary cap, beginning at a maximum of \$9 million.

His 1998-99 salary of \$3.5 million is prorated for a 50-game schedule, reducing it to \$2.2 million — a loss of more than \$1.3 million because of the lockout.

"I just wanted to make enough money to take care of my family," Iverson said. "The money that's out there for me right now is enough for me to do so. If the Sixers were going to give me \$100 million, I would be a fool not to take it. I have a family and I want to know how my future's going to look financially. But it's not all about money all the time."

Jaguars sign former Panthers coach

By Eddie Pells
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Dom Capers became an employee of Tom Coughlin on Tuesday.

With that strange twist, the debate over which coach came out ahead in the 1995 expansion battle between the Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars was officially put to rest.

Capers, fired last month as coach of the Panthers, will serve as Coughlin's defensive coordinator with the Jaguars. He replaces Dick Jauron, who left after four seasons to coach the Chicago Bears.

"I'm thrilled to join Tom's staff and to have the opportunity to help upgrade the Jaguars' defense," Capers said in a statement released after the two interviewed Tuesday morning. "The Jaguars have shown constant improvement each season, and I look forward to this new challenge with

great anticipation."

Capers is expected to make about \$200,000 next season and will probably forfeit a chunk of the approximately \$1 million he would have received from the Panthers had he not accepted another NFL job.

That's just one oddity in a move rife with irony.

Fans in the two cities and NFL observers pitted the coaches against each other as soon as they were hired to lead their expansion teams — Coughlin in early 1994, Capers in early 1995.

Both had reputations as tough disciplinarians with great football minds, but their teams approached expansion in vastly different ways — Carolina going for free-agent pickups engineered by then-general manager Bill Polian and Jacksonville opting to build through the draft, with Coughlin making all the decisions.

Success came quickly to both.

Capers' Panthers won the NFC West title in 1996 while Coughlin's Jaguars made it to the AFC Championship game as a wild-card team.

The roads diverged from there, with Jacksonville making two more playoff appearances and Capers losing his job after going 7-9 and 4-12 and losing control of his locker room.

Coughlin put history behind him and thought of only one thing — hiring the best coach available.

"Dom Capers is an excellent football coach," Coughlin said. "He has ascended through the coaching ranks, proving his quality at each level. He's a great fit for the Jaguars' organization."

In Capers, Coughlin gets the coordinator who led the Pittsburgh Steelers defense back to prominence from 1992-94, and one of the first big proponents of the zone-blitz schemes that have been in vogue the last few years.

Women

Continued from Page 7A

UCLA's Erica Gomez leads the conference with an average of eight assists per game. That number ranks third nationally.

And Oregon's Shaquala Williams, a true freshman from Troutdale, Ore., was named Pac-10 player of the week on Jan. 18 after averaging 19 points, six rebounds, five assists and shooting close to 67 percent

from the field during the Ducks' sweep of the Washington schools at McArthur Court.

Something in the water

Don't look now, but Oregon State is playing some pretty good basketball. Its Pac-10 record doesn't show it, but the Beavers (10-7, 2-6) have turned some heads this season despite starting as many as four first-year players at any

one time.

The biggest improvement has come on the defensive end, where Oregon State has held opponents to just 64 points a game, third best in the Pac-10. The Beavers have also been tough on the glass, ranking second in the conference, and tough at keeping the ball from reaching the glass, averaging just more than four a game.