

UO hockey garners Pac-8 bid

By Brett Williams
for the Emerald

The Oregon Club Sports ice hockey team hammered Western Washington, 17-1 and 11-3, last weekend and earned a Pacific-8 Conference tournament bid.

The games were the last home contests for five seniors who have played a pivotal role in the Ducks' success this season.

Team captain Ari Friedman returned from suspension and recorded two goals and two assists in his last games at Lane County Ice.

"He was a little rusty, but it was nice to have him back," forward Tyler Shaffar said.

More than 350 fans witnessed the offensive onslaught on Friday, as Oregon (16-4-1) took the

early lead just two minutes into the game on a goal by JT Mackey.

The Ducks expanded the lead to 10-0 before Western Washington scored its first goal.

Oregon forward Peter Harris returned from a one-game absence to score three goals on the night.



Jeff McGillis added three as well.

Saturday, Western Washington tried to make things interesting by cutting Oregon's lead to 3-1 in the first period. But the Ducks continued to abuse their undersized opponent and never looked back.

"Everyone hustled and no one was sagging back on defense," forward Andrew Belcher said.

"We came out really aggressive."

McGillis was a one-man wrecking crew for Oregon, scoring six goals during the weekend. Brett Ledder, Thomas Mele and Shaffar added two goals apiece.

Oregon travels to Medford this weekend to play Palmer College, a far cry from the opponents the Ducks have seen in previous weeks.

Oregon head coach Ezra Louthis knows his team will need to step up its play to be successful against Palmer.

"When we play easier teams, [Louthis] tells us to stick to fundamentals and avoid getting bad habits," Shaffar said. "We know that winning close games is the key to our confidence entering the Pac-8 tournament."

Manlove

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reentered, Manlove is on the court again, playing forward for Colorado.

And he is not disappointing.

After sitting out the fall term because he did not register at Colorado until last spring, Manlove made his long-awaited collegiate debut Dec. 21 against Texas-Arlington. He promptly contributed 14 points and six rebounds to aid the Buffaloes' win.

Through his first 11 games at Colorado heading into a Big 12 Conference home matchup against Nebraska today, Manlove is averaging 12.5 points and four rebounds per game.

Buffaloes assistant coach David Moe, who made the program's initial contact with Manlove, says Colorado could not be happier with Manlove.

"Tyron has been great since we've had him," Moe says. "He's been terrific in the classroom. He's a super kid. And he's been up-and-down since he started playing, but he also had not played college basketball before."

Moe contacted Manlove after receiving a phone call from former Ducks assistant Mark Turgeon. Colorado head coach Ricardo Patton offered Manlove an athletic scholarship after the Buffaloes' Devon Gilchrest switched to an academic scholarship.

"Turgeon told me about how much he liked Tyron as a player and a kid," Moe says. "He spoke very highly of him."

Manlove accepted the Buffaloes' scholarship offer without ever setting foot on the Boulder, Colo., campus. But he says the decision was an easy one.

"At the time, I didn't really have a lot of options with Division I-A schools, so I took it," says Manlove, now a 6-foot-4, 220-

pound redshirt sophomore swingman.

The transition from Eugene to Boulder was not too difficult because the two cities have many similarities, Manlove says.

"It's colder here and rainier there, but they're a lot alike," Manlove says. "I think Eugene is a little bit more laid back. Everything there revolves around the basketball and football programs. Here, more attention goes to the football program than basketball."

Ironically, David Jackson, a high school teammate of Manlove's at Wilson, transferred to Oregon from Utah just a season after Manlove left the Ducks.

"When I was still at Utah, I called him a couple of times and asked him if he liked it around here, and he recommended it," says Jackson, who must sit out this season because of his transfer. "He told me that he was having problems, but it wasn't about the place."

Kent says he believes a change of venue was the best thing for Manlove.

"I thought there was an enormous amount of pressure on him being here," Kent says. "I think what it came down to was the best situation for him was to maybe get out of the state of Oregon."

"There's no question about his talent level and everything. It was just whether or not he was going to allow himself to have success and allow that talent to grow."

Moe echoes Kent's sentiments.

"I think it's been good for Tyron to be away from home, to be in a situation where not everybody knows him," Moe says.

"I think he got caught up a little bit in the fact that everybody knew who he was back home and stopped working as hard as he

needed to. But here, Tyron has to prove himself as a player and make a name for himself again."

Manlove has started to establish himself at Colorado by concentrating on his studies off the court while using his dazzling array of offensive skills to provide instant scoring for the Buffaloes on the court.

He says understanding that the classroom is equally important as basketball has helped him mature.

"If I have any regrets, it is that I put myself in

a position where I wasn't handling my academics and that affected my basketball," Manlove says of his experience at Oregon. "Now, I realize that without focusing on academics and passing classes I can't be successful with basketball."

"I got too caught up with the basketball aspect of college instead of concentrating all around."

After his college career was seemingly delayed longer than John Elway's first Super Bowl win, Manlove knows he still has a lot of work to do to fully utilize his talent.

Despite scoring in double digits in eight of 11 games and twice tallying 21-point career-highs, Manlove needs to improve his shot selection, as his shooting percentage hovers around 40 percent.

"It's like a virus on the team with everybody trying to take over and do good things because the team is struggling," says Manlove, whose Buffaloes are indeed just 2-6 in conference play.



MANLOVE

Sports Briefs

Blazers sign Jackson to three-year deal

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Free agent guard Jim Jackson signed a three-year, \$6 million contract with the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday, giving the team more outside shooting and depth at the guard position.

Jackson, a six-year NBA veteran, played the final 31 games of last season with Golden State, averaging 18.9 points. He began his career with the Dallas Mavericks, who selected him with the fourth overall pick in the 1992 draft.

Jackson spent more than four seasons with the Mavericks, and together with Jamal Mashburn

and Jason Kidd, the three "J's" were supposed to take the losing Mavs to respectability. But that never happened.

Jackson was dealt to New Jersey in a nine-player trade in 1997. He was traded to Philadelphia on draft day 1997 in the deal that sent Keith Van Horn to the Nets. Jackson spent the first part of last season with the 76ers before being traded with Clarence Weatherpoon to Golden State for Joe Smith and Brian Shaw.

Jackson, who practiced with the Blazers on Tuesday, said he'd had offers from five other teams, but came to Portland because the team was committed to winning instead of building for the future.

"The reason why I chose Portland is because of the direction that this team is in, and also that this team is in the playoffs, so they don't need Jim Jackson to put them over the hump," he said.

"It's a great pleasure for me to finally be in a situation where you go out on the court each and every night expecting to win the game, not thinking in the back of your mind whether you have to play all four quarters really well and hope a break or two goes your way."

The Blazers are way over the \$30 million salary cap, but were eligible for the \$1.75 salary cap for free agents. Jackson will make that this season, plus a 10 percent raise the next two seasons.

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