



Pac-10 king aims to dismiss hopeful Ducks

Oregon is hoping to bolster its postseason chances tonight, while No. 6 Stanford wants to prove it is worthy of a No. 1 seed after locking up the Pac-10 title

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

For Oregon fans, March Madness is coming in like a lion.

The highly anticipated visit of No. 6 Stanford, a Final Four team last season and Sports Illustrated's preseason pick to win the national title this season, becomes reality tonight when the Cardinal invades McArthur Court at 7:35 p.m.

Adding to the drama, the Oregon men's basketball team's season may hang in the balance.

The Ducks (15-10 overall, 7-9 Pacific-10 Conference) must win their final two games — the last coming Saturday against California at McArthur Court — if they plan to waltz into the NCAA Tournament with an at-large bid.

They might need the same to host a National Invitation Tournament game, and one win may be necessary for an NIT bid —

period.

What does Stanford (24-5, 14-2) have to play for?

The Cardinal already wrapped up its first Pac-10 title, and the accompanying automatic bid to the NCAAs, last weekend. But it still needs to persuade the selection committee that it is worthy of a No. 1 seed.



The last time these two teams met, Jan. 4 in Palo Alto, Calif., Stanford sent an 8-1 Oregon team home with a 77-59 loss. That defeat began an ignominious streak in which the Ducks lost eight of nine games.

Foremost in Oregon head coach Ernie Kent's mind from that loss — the Ducks' worst of the season — is the Cardinal's dominance in the low post.

"We've got to do a better job against their big people, neutralizing them, doing a little bit better job defensively and hopefully scoring a little bit better ourselves," Kent said. "I think we'll be able to do that because our big guys have gotten better since then."

Mark Madsen and Tim Young, Stanford's starting big men, outscored Oregon's frontcourt 40-13. Young, a senior who has had numerous deadly performances against the Ducks, scored a game-high 23 points on eight-of-11 shooting from the field and grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds.

Alex Scales led Oregon with 16 points and six assists, but he was just four for 14 from the floor.

Before the Ducks can beat the Cardinal, Kent feels they must overcome the intimidating aura that now surrounds the Stan-

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On Tap

WHAT: Men's basketball

WHO: Oregon (15-10, 7-9) vs. Stanford (24-5, 14-2)

WHERE: McArthur Court

WHEN: 7:35 p.m.

STANFORD BASKETBALL

Oregon native hopes to cut down Ducks

Lindsey Yamasaki says she has something to prove against Oregon tonight

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

The decision looms like a thick fog. It can consume high school seniors and can rattle their parents. There are infinite options. Colleges are like horizons, they are everywhere.

Lindsey Yamasaki had choices. As USA Today's Player of the Year from the state of Oregon in 1998, she was recruited by schools all over the nation. Not only could she play basketball, but she was also a standout volleyball player. Colleges were eager to bring her on board.

During Yamasaki's senior year at Oregon City High School, the 6-foot-1 guard averaged 25 points and 11 rebounds per game. She had the option to stay close to home, as Oregon was one of the schools recruiting her.

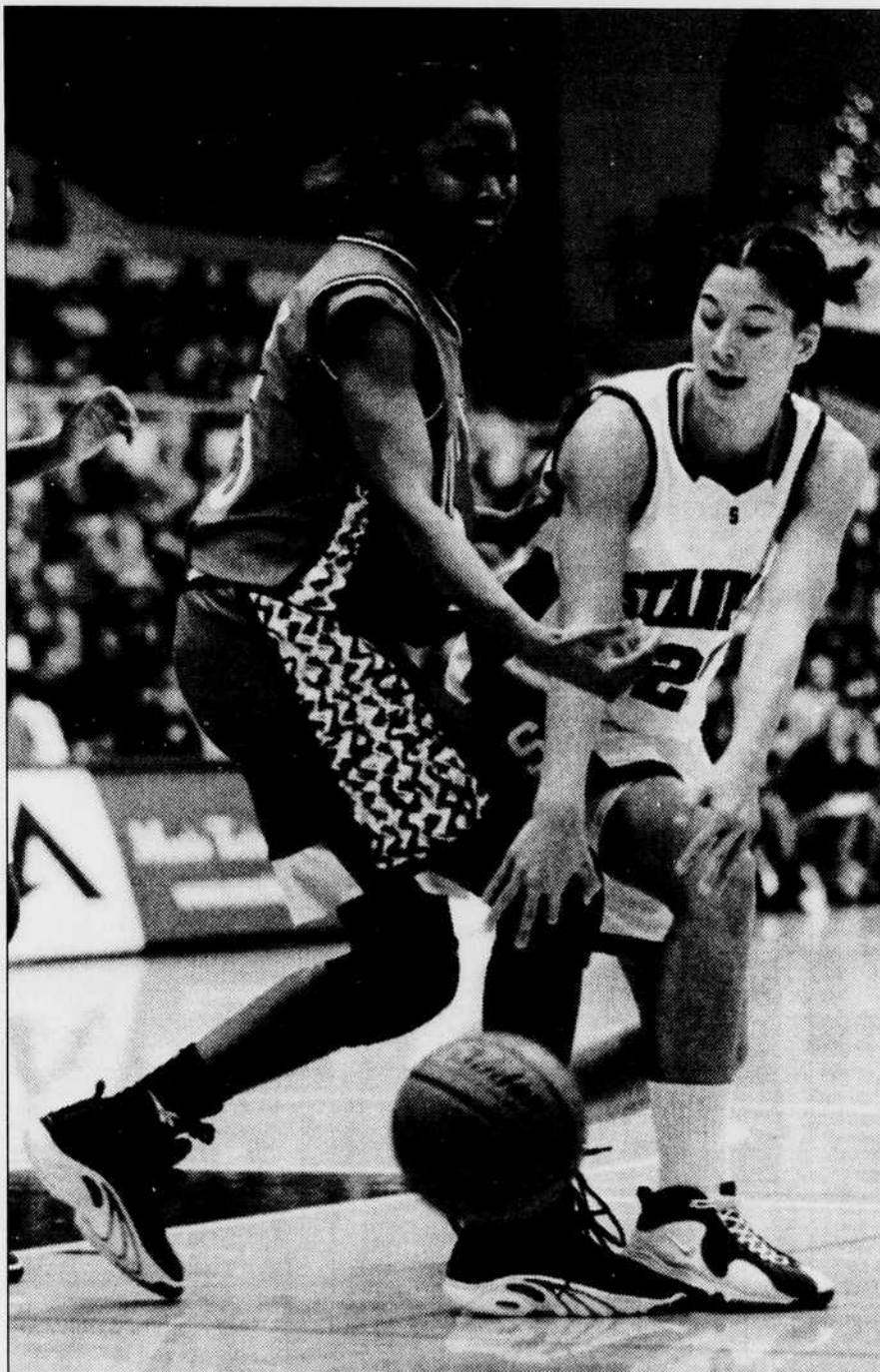
But the Pacific-10 Conference's most dominant women's program was also recruiting Yamasaki. Stanford, which has won the conference title eight times over the last 12 years, including a current streak of four in a row, eventually added Yamasaki to its roster.

This season, Stanford (16-11 overall, 14-2 in the Pac-10) has not been the conference bully it has previously been. Although it is still mathematically capable of winning the championship, Stanford will likely finish third, behind UCLA and Oregon.

Surprisingly, Yamasaki seems to have severed her Oregon roots with the move to California.

"I don't want Oregon to win the championship," Yamasaki said. "I want to prove to the people in my home state that I made the right decision. I'm more competitive knowing that they recruited me, but I felt like I was choosing the right program."

Yamasaki's starry career at Oregon City — four consecutive 4A championships



Stanford Daily
Stanford freshman guard Lindsey Yamasaki feeds a pass down low to a teammate. Yamasaki, a native of Oregon City, chose the Cardinal over a large group of national powerhouses, including Oregon.

Have you been watching closely, Mr. Jaynes?

OPEN letter to Dwight Jaynes:
Good golly, Dwight ... you've sure been silent lately.

I've read your columns in The Oregonian for a long time. Born and raised in the Rip City, I still have some random flashbacks of certain things you've written about the Portland Trailblazers in the past.

You are an extremely talented writer and probably a better columnist than I'll ever be. Usually, I even agree with what you say.

But I've noticed since the start of the shortened NBA season that you haven't been writing as many columns about the Blazers as you used to, and I think I know why.

Being a loyal reader of your columns, I know that one of your favorite things to do is verbally beat on Blazer bad boy Isaiah Rider. His shady history and emotional outbursts have made him an easy target since the day he set foot in Portland.

You've said just about everything that could be said about Rider. Your columns have taken shots at his life both on and off the court. Whenever something happens to him that could be used to show he does not belong in Portland, you always seem to be among the first to get in on the action.

So I can understand why you must be so disappointed right now.

Rider may be having his best season as a Trailblazer this season. He is averaging 33.3 minutes, 17.9 points and 5.3 rebounds per game.

But let's set those numbers aside, Dwight, because it's not the statistics that you've always complained about.

No, when it comes to his life on the court, you're usually more concerned with the way he burdens the team simply with his presence.

Take Tuesday night's double-overtime victory over Utah, for example. Rider's presence — 18 points and six rebounds — was such a huge obstacle for Portland to overcome, wasn't it?

Opinion



Scott Pesznecker

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