



Best Bet
Major League Baseball
Seattle vs. Kansas City
5 p.m., FoxSports Northwest

SPORTS

OFFSEASON REPORT

Ducks shoot for more

With 11 returnees and a strong recruiting class, Oregon plans to continue its rise next season

By Brett Williams
for the Emerald

Last season, the Oregon women's basketball team frightened opponents with intense defense and high-octane scoring en route to its first Pacific-10 Conference championship, which it shared with UCLA.

Next season should be another scary one for Pac-10 opponents, as the Ducks return three starters and 11 letter winners coming off a school-best 15-3 Pac-10 record.

Oregon head coach Jody Runge, who was recently signed to a four-year contract extension, attempts to lead the Ducks to their seventh-straight NCAA Tournament appearance.

Oregon returns starters Shaquala Williams (5-foot-6 sophomore), Brianne Meharry (6-1 junior) and Angelina Wolvert (6-3 junior). Williams was the Pac-10 freshman of the year, and Meharry was an honorable mention Pac-10 selection. Also returning is junior Jenny Mowe, who used her 6-5 size to lead the Pac-10 in blocked shots.

Recruiting has provided the Ducks with even more depth. Three new guards will give the Ducks more explosive energy next season, with the potential to run opponents out of McArthur Court.

"I think we'll run a lot more next season," said junior forward Alyssa Fredrick, who sat out last season after transferring from San Diego State. "The girls coming in push the ball real well, and they're awesome shooters."

Oregon's most recent signee, guard Amanda Brown, will also compete on the track and field team. The two-sport star displayed her all-around talent as a senior, averaging 12 points and more than three rebounds, steals and assists per game at Sheldon High School, earning an honorable mention all-state selection.

Kourtney Shreve and Alissa Edwards round out the guards in the recruiting class. Shreve was a three-time all-Valley League selection at West Albany, and Ed-

wards scorched opponents with 20 points per game her senior season at Hermiston.

Forward Courtney Moore should contribute as well. The Reno, Nev., native averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds last season. She was voted Nevada 4A player of the year her junior season.

The Ducks seemingly have the potential to exceed last season's success, when they shared the Pac-10 championship but were unable to defeat Iowa State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament in Ames, Iowa. If not for a late season loss to Stanford, Oregon might have had home-court advantage for the first two rounds of the NCAAs.

"We want the Pac-10 championship all out instead of sharing it next season," Fredrick said. "We need to get home court farther than the second round and keep up the defensive pressure without Lisa [Bowyer]."

Bowyer's defensive pressure will be sorely missed. Other key losses to graduation include Natasha O'Brien and Sonja Curtis, who were major contributors last season.

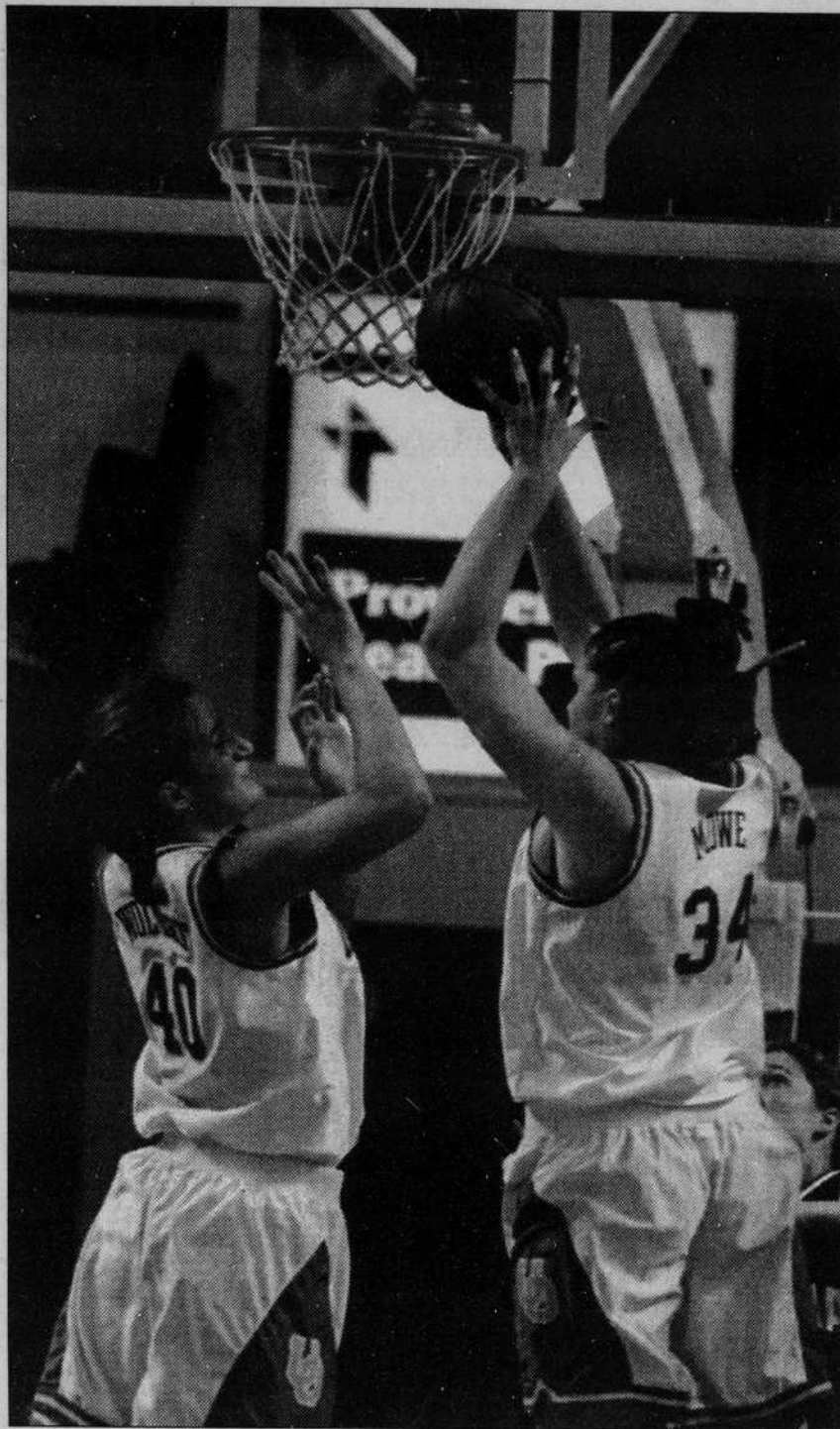
"Tash's shooting and Sonja's rebounding will be missed," Fredrick said. "We have big shoes to fill."

One of the biggest changes for the Ducks during the off-season is the addition of Don Muscatell as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. Runge hired Muscatell on July 14 after Stephanie Osburn Norman's contract wasn't renewed after seven seasons at Oregon.

Muscatell worked as a boy's high school coach in Washington for the last 16 years. As coach at Rochester High, he led his team to a fourth-place finish at state last year, the best finish in school history. Muscatell earned league coach of the year honors after last season and his 1996 campaign.

In a released statement, Runge said she was confident that Muscatell would help the program because of his work ethic and excitement.

Oregon's players have previously worked with Muscatell at Oregon Girls



Catharine Kendall/Emerald

After sharing the Pac-10 title last year, Angelina Wolvert and Jenny Mowe hope to grab sole possession.



Turn to **WOMEN**, Page 7

Despite Sheaffer's absence, Ems beat AquaSox, 3-2

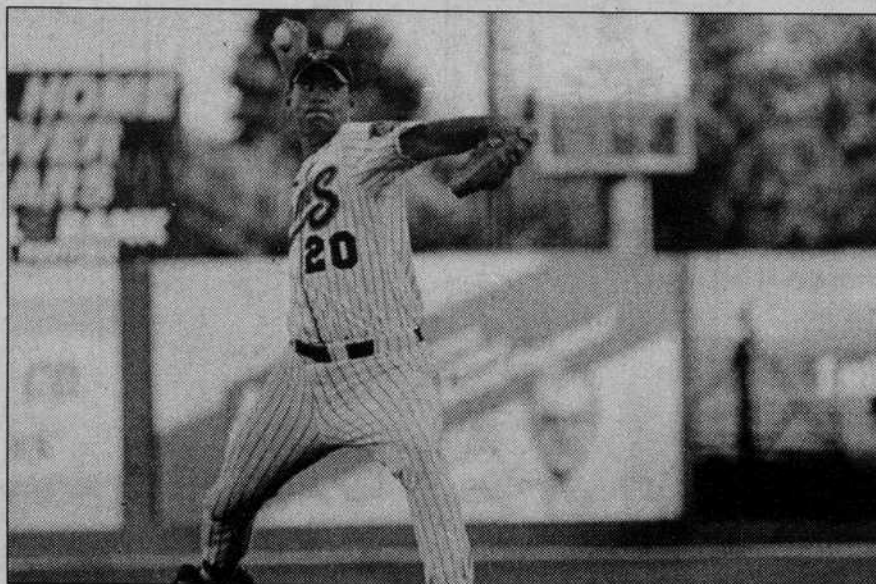
Pitchers Ken Conroy and Tim Lavery combine with catcher Chris Curry to lead Eugene

By Chris Aster
for the Emerald

With the loss of manager Danny Sheaffer to a four-game suspension, things looked unsure for the Eugene Emeralds as they took on the Everett AquaSox at Civic Stadium on Monday night.

Temporary manager Alan Regier took the helm for the Ems hoping to snap a four-game losing streak that began with Eugene's trip north to Salem last Thursday.

The Ems fortunes were turned Monday as the pitching of Ken Conroy, a big righty from North Carolina, and the hitting of catcher Chris Curry led the Ems (17-20 over-



Catharine Kendall/Emerald

Ken Conroy improves his record to 5-1 by only allowing two runs against the Everett AquaSox on Monday.

Regier impresses in Eugene debut

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Alan Regier and his crew of roving instructors were scheduled to stop in Eugene this week, anyway.

So Regier's presence on the third-base line, clad in an unfamiliar and nameless No. 16 Ems' uniform wasn't completely out of place. Even though, until Friday night, the Chicago Cubs field coordinator expected to spend his time in the Northwest evaluating talent from above home plate, not wind-milling players home from the coaches box on the field below.

Turn to **REGIER**, Page 8

Turn to **EMERALDS**, Page 8

