

Sports brief

Ducks skate, split with Bruins

When UCLA came into town Friday to face the Oregon Club Sports hockey team, it brought a 2-0 record against Oregon in the last two seasons.

What the Bruins found was a Duck squad debilitated by suspensions and a week of lackluster practices. After two periods of play in the first game Friday, UCLA led the Ducks 3-0 en route

to a 5-2 win. The Duck's two goals were scored by defensemen Chris Geib, a senior, and Priest Medina, a sophomore.

"When they score three goals in the first part of the game, it's hard to put that behind you," Medina said. "We had a handicap the rest of the game."

Saturday, the Ducks ended their losing streak by defeating UCLA 5-4. Medina scored another goal in the first few minutes of the game, and junior defenseman Craig Platzke added two goals.

"We didn't have the best week of practice," Platzke said, "and it hurts when you're missing some of your teammates. On Saturday, we went in there kind of embarrassed. We should have beat them in both games. We are a much better team than they are."

Following the win Saturday, the Ducks are now 3-3 as they prepare to take on Utah on Friday. The game starts at 7:30 pm at Lane County Ice Arena.

Chris Aster

NBA starts today, 26 teams in action

By Hal Bock
The Associated Press

First, the city votes. Then, the team plays.

That's Tuesday's agenda for the defending champion San Antonio Spurs, who open at home against the Philadelphia 76ers in one of 13 games that mark the start of the NBA season.

By the time they tip off, the Spurs may know the fate of a referendum to fund a new \$175 million arena. The outcome of the vote could determine whether the team remains in San Antonio.

The Spurs enter the season with Tim Duncan and David Robinson in place and Sean Elliott sidelined after a kidney transplant. The Spurs plugged in some new parts — Terry Porter, Chuckie Brown, Samaki Walker and Felton Spencer.

San Antonio opens against a 76ers team led by scoring champion Allen Iverson. Philadelphia added Billy Owens and Stanley Roberts in the off-season.

Tuesday's other openers have Atlanta at Washington; Detroit at Miami; Orlando at Charlotte; Cleveland at New York; Indiana at New Jersey; Boston at Toronto; Milwaukee at Houston; Golden State at Dallas; Phoenix at Denver; the Los Angeles Lakers at Utah; Seattle at the Los Angeles Clippers; and Portland at Vancouver.

Even though the league's highest-profile players stayed where they were — John Stockton and Karl Malone in Utah; Shaquille O'Neal with the Lakers; Alonzo Mourning and Tim Hardaway in Miami; Patrick Ewing in New York; Stephon Marbury and Keith Van Horn in New Jersey; Grant Hill in Detroit; Reggie Miller in Indiana; Gary Payton in Seattle; and Charles Barkley for one last year in Houston — there was plenty of off-season movement.

In the West, Phil Jackson returned from a one-year coaching sabbatical to take over the Los Angeles Lakers. He brought with him his triangle offense and imported one of his old pals from the Chicago days.

No, not that one. Ron Harper joins the Lakers newcomers along with A.C. Green and retrain John Salley. Penny

Hardaway is in Phoenix, Nick Anderson in Sacramento and Horace Grant in Seattle in a breakup of the Orlando Magic. The SuperSonics also added Vernon Maxwell and Brent Barry.

Portland redesigned its roster with major trades that imported Steve Smith from Atlanta, Scottie Pippen from Houston and Detlef Schrempf from Seattle.

Mookie Blaylock will be running the point at Golden State and Vancouver's overhaul includes a flock of new faces including Brent Price, Michael Dickerson, Othella Harrington, Antoine Carr and Dennis Scott.

Most of them came from Houston when rookie Steve Francis, unhappy at being drafted by Vancouver, forced a trade that sent him to the Rockets. Houston also plugged in Shandon Anderson, Walt Williams, Don MacLean and Tony Massenburg.

Utah brought in Olden Polynice. Minnesota has two strong draft choices in Wally Szczerbiak and William Avery.

In the East, Miami added Otis Thorpe and New York brought in Andrew Lang to help in the middle while Ewing continues his recuperation from a torn Achilles' tendon.

New Jersey brought back three veterans in Johnny Newman, Sherman Douglas and Michael Cage. Calbert Cheaney and Danny Fortson moved to Boston and Toronto brought in Antonio Davis, Dell Curry and Muggsy Bogues while dealing teen-age draft choice Jonathan Bender to Indiana.

Atlanta added Isaiah Rider, Bimbo Coles, Jason Terry, Jimmy Jackson and Lorenzen Wright while Milwaukee brought aboard Danny Manning, Dale Ellis and J.R. Reid. Detroit's new faces include Terry Mills, Pooh Richardson and Michael Curry while Chicago brought back old pals Will Perdue and B.J. Armstrong as well as Hersey Hawkins.

Besides Jackson, coaching changes feature Gar Heard at Washington, Doc Rivers at Orlando and Randy Wittman at Cleveland. Interims Don Casey in New Jersey and Paul Silas in Charlotte got full-time appointments with the Nets and Hornets.

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