

Women need win vs. UCLA

■ UCLA wants payback; the Ducks are looking to get back on track

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

A couple thousand fans sat stunned at last season's NCAA pairings party, having just learned that the Ducks were getting sent to Iowa State for the second straight year.

Then Rebecca Lobo, working as an ESPN commentator, announced that "power in the Pacific-10 Conference had shifted south" from Stanford to Los Angeles.

Furious, McArthur Court erupted. South? What? Ohhh, no she didn't.

Oregon, after all, shared the Pac-10 title with UCLA. The Ducks had spanked the Bruins by 27 points a few weeks earlier.

Alas, the Ducks didn't get out of the second round. And UCLA reached the Elite Eight.

Before this season, Ducks senior Nicole Strange griped, "No one really knows that we won the Pac-10. If you ask someone who won the Pac-10, they say UCLA."

Going into Saturday's nationally televised game at 1 p.m., UCLA

is ranked No. 10 and have won seven straight. Oregon isn't ranked and lost a heartbreaker at Southern California Thursday.

Every player on the Bruins' roster returned this season, with the addition of Gatorade high school player of the year Nicole Kazmarski. The Ducks lost three seniors and a lot of depth.

UCLA, 6-0, is in first place. Oregon, 4-2, is tied for second.

The Bruins are completely healthy for the first time in a long time, and they're playing like it. The Ducks are missing junior guard/forward Lindsey Dion.

Ducks not concerned with ranking

■ UCLA brings an inconsistent team to McArthur Court

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Which UCLA team will Oregon see Saturday night at McArthur Court at 5:05 p.m.

Will the Ducks see the team that traveled to Chapel Hill, N.C., on Jan. 15 and beat then-No. 13 North Carolina, 71-68, in front of a nationally television audience.

Or will they see the Bruins who fell to the Washington Huskies 63-62 in their Pacific-10 Conference opener?

All season long, nobody has been able to figure out UCLA's true identity.

It's a team that has scored as many as 105 points in a 32-point win over Iona, but was also held to just 43 points in its 16-point

home loss to Gonzaga.

Yet, the pollsters don't seem to be giving up on the Bruins. In the latest ESPN/USA Today poll, the Bruins are ranked 20th with an overall record of 12-5, although they are only 3-3 in league play.

Oregon isn't worried about the polls much. The Ducks know that a win over the Bruins in front of the high-octane crowd in the Pit should send a loud message.

Also on Oregon's mind are the two games that these two teams played last year — UCLA won both by two points.

On Jan. 9, a Baron Davis-led Bruin team quieted Mac Court with a 65-63 win that helped propel the Ducks on their early-season tailspin.

And less than a month later on Feb. 4 in Los Angeles, the Bruins squeaked out a 79-77 win thanks to Davis' game-winning 17-footer at the buzzer.

Tennis faces tests in Idaho

■ The Oregon men's tennis team will be challenged at the Boise State Shootout

By Robbie McCalluom
For the Emerald

With a tough nonconference schedule ahead, the Oregon men's tennis team needs to get the 1999-00 season off on a good note. The No. 65 Ducks travel to Boise, Idaho, today for the Boise State Shootout.

Oregon faces Utah today, Idaho tomorrow and hosts Boise State on Sunday.

"Our chances of winning all three [matches] are very good," head coach Chris Russell said. "We just need to be prepared."

The Ducks' toughest opponent

will be Boise State. The defending Big West Conference champions are currently ranked No. 35 in the nation. The Broncos' duo of Leif Meineke and Wesely Moodie is ranked second in the nation.

The Utes' Trevor Ferguson may give the Ducks some trouble in singles competition, while the Vandals return six lettermen, including senior Darrin Currall.

Oregon will counter with a trio of seniors — Guillermo Carter, Joaquin Hamdan and Cedric Van Haver.

Hamdan has the best singles record after a 12-12 singles season in 1998-99. Junior David Becker, who leaped onto the scene after a key upset over Fresno State's Nick Fustar, is also a top competitor in singles play.

On Tap
What: Oregon men's basketball
Who: No. 20 UCLA (12-5 overall, 3-3 Pac-10) vs. Oregon (14-3, 5-1)
When: 5:05 p.m.
Where: McArthur Court

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