

# Men's

continued from page 1

The Ducks (17-5, 8-3) need a sweep of the Cougars and Washington this weekend to assure them of their first NCAA Tournament bid since 1995, and Washington State would thoroughly enjoy being the spoiler.

"Washington State is going to beat someone this year, and we just have to make sure it's not us," said Oregon head coach Ernie Kent, who is 5-0 against the Cougars. "They've played a lot of teams tough, and if people think this is going to be an easy game, they're wrong."

Oregon forward A.D. Smith — whose finger roll with 36 seconds left in overtime sealed the Cougars' fate in the first meeting — insisted Washington State is better than its record indicates.

"Washington State is not a terrible team, they've just had some tough losses," Smith said. "They almost had us beat; we were down by eight at one point. We've always had trouble with Washington State, and we'll have to play well at home to win."

It will be a much-anticipated return home for the Ducks, whose last home game was a victory over UCLA on Jan. 29.

"We're looking forward to playing in front of our crowd," said senior Darius Wright, who's fifth in the conference in assists with a 4.91 average per game. "It's definitely good to be back here in Eu-



Oregon's Darius Wright leads the Ducks tonight against Washington State at the Pit.

gene."

To hold off the underdog Cougars, Oregon will need to win the perimeter battle. Washington State was able to play the Ducks close in the first meeting because they were 10-of-17 from three-point range, while Oregon suffered through a 3-of-17 performance from behind the arc.

One reason for the Cougars' efficiency from outside was the play of Chris Crosby, who burned Oregon for 26 points. Smith said Washington State is particularly vulnerable if its two biggest threats are taken out of the game.

"If you can hold Crosby and

Jan-Michael Thomas below their average, you can really put a hurt on their offense," Smith said. "If you take those two guys out, you have a good chance of winning."

Kent emphasized the importance of seizing the momentum early, and not playing down to the ability of a team with less talent.

"I think the biggest adjustment is to just play with more energy because in our last game with them we were pretty flat," Kent said. "That caused us to not shoot the ball well, and we made a lot of mental mistakes. Hopefully we'll be fresher being here at home and being in the position we're in."

# Women's

continued from page 1

Oregon is heavily favored, to say the least.

Which is why Litz is so nervous.

"Especially right now," Litzberger said. "Coming off two big wins and thinking, well, you're playing teams that have won three and five league games. And hey, it should be easy. But it's not. It's never easy."

"You gotta play every game, especially defensively because you don't know what play is gonna turn the game around. So you've got to play every possession like it's the most important possession. Getting players to do that is really hard."

Indeed, getting up for games in Pullman, where the average attendance is 523, and against the hapless Cougars, is harder than one would think.

"It is hard," Oregon center Jenny Mowe said. "Because you just want to fast-forward to the end of the season and say, 'Okay. How'd we do?' So it's hard to take it one game at a time — but we're definitely doing that, just slowing the whole process down."

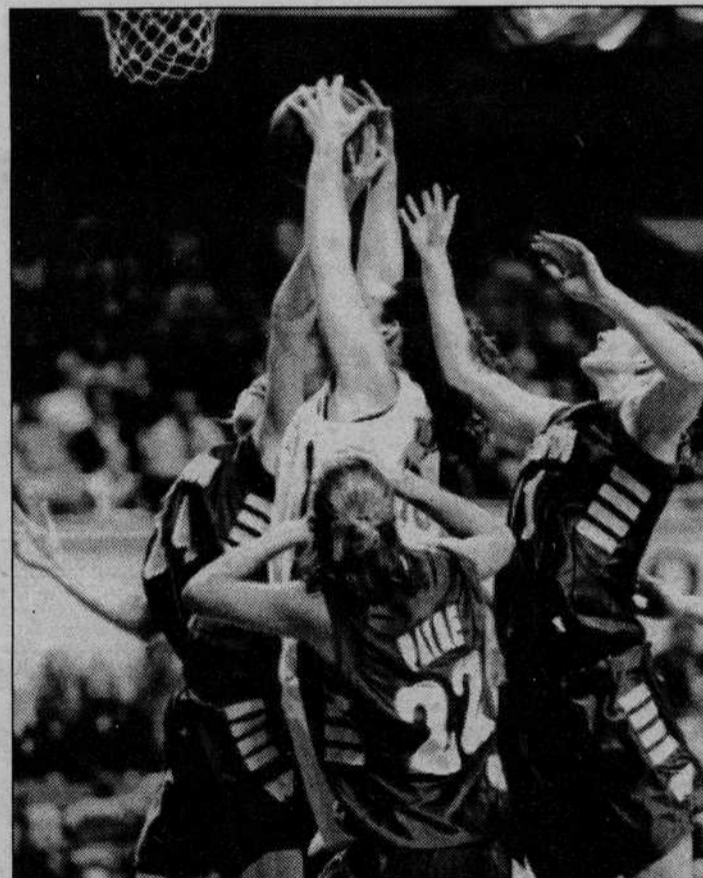
That would help relieve some of Litzberger's anxieties.

As would a big game from Shaquala Williams.

Shaq was, by her standards, quiet last weekend. Stanford held her to 10 points, and Cal kept her to eight, well off her season average of 17.

Expect a breakout game tonight because the Ducks are, as mentioned, in Pullman. And the environment is, basically, the polar opposite of the ultra-supportive one at McArthur Court — where the Oregon women draw 5,166 fans per game, the 13th-best average in the nation.

The trip to Friel Court could be what Williams needs to rediscover her rhythm.



Forward Angelina Wolvert rebounds her own miss against Washington.

"Certain people are better on the road," Williams said. "Personally, I hate playing at Mac Court. I can't stand playing here. The fans are great, but as far as my focus I think I'm better on the road."

"Some people need the home crowd to get 'em gassed up and whatnot, but I think we're a better road team because we're a lot mentally stronger."

And, well, mental toughness is definitely not a bad thing. Ask Litz.

"We've gotta have ourselves ready to play," he said, "Mentally. Physically. And emotionally."

Having young players stepping up on a regular basis isn't bad either — although there's some discrepancy as to whether that con-

stitutes depth.

"I don't know if I consider it deep because it only seems to be one person each time, and not everybody," head coach Jody Runge said. "But it is a strong indication that we have players who are young and have been working their tails off to be in position to take advantage of an opportunity that they get to go in the game."

Last week sophomore forward Ndiri Unaka provided the spark, scoring a career-high 10 points. The week before, it was freshman point guard Kourtney Shreve's 10. And the weekend before that, forward Alyssa Fredrick, a sophomore transfer, came through with 10 of her own.

# STUDENT ADVISORS WANTED

Applications due  
Friday

Feb 25, 2000

Applications should be submitted to the UHC Director's office.

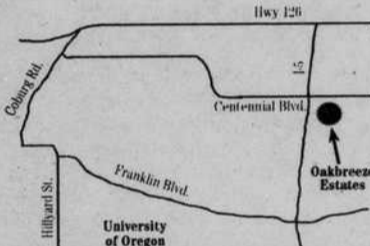
UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER  
We're a matter of degrees

Please call 346-4447, for more information.

# Fleetwood Manufactured Home Center

Looking for the perfect home at the right price close to U of O?

We have it for you!



Your choice of 20 manufactured home lots. Complete turnkey packages starting as low as \$117,000. 6 minute bike ride to U of O campus and 2 minute bike ride to Autzen Stadium. Call today about this fantastic location.

lots located at Oakbreeze Estates (off Centennial Blvd.)  
model homes located on Hwy 99N in Eugene  
www.sunbursthomes.com  
Fleetwood of Oregon  
461-9546 • 888-542-8185

# Little Caesars®

Weekend Special!

Saturday & Sunday

Large pepperoni or cheese pizza

\$4.99

CARRY OUT  
extra toppings  
99¢ each

1711 Willamette  
(next to Blockbuster)  
343-3330