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Dion out with knee injury

■ Lindsey Dion is the Oregon women's basketball team's second injured teammate within a month

Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Another injured player, a few more steps back for the Oregon women's basketball team.

Guard/forward Lindsey Dion tore the lateral meniscus cartilage in her right knee while performing a running drill at Autzen Stadium last Thursday. Surgery was scheduled for early today and rehabilitation will take about six weeks, team officials said.

Although the senior should be ready to play at the start of the Pacific-10 Conference season, the Ducks had a hard time keeping her healthy. Dion missed several games with concussions and knee injuries. Oregon has close to a .500

record when Dion is not in the lineup.

Dion, labeled by head coach Jody Runge as the team's emotional leader, earned All-Pac-10 honors last season after averaging 7.4 points and 3.4 rebounds per game.

The temporary loss of Dion compounds the gap left open by the injured Shaquala Williams, who tore her anterior cruciate ligament in September during a pickup game and will miss the entire season. Williams will be rehabilitating between five and eight months.

Preseason Pac-10 Rankings

Despite the loss of Williams, the recently-released Pac-10 Women's Basketball Coaches Poll picks Oregon to finish second in the conference.

The Ducks would have likely been the first choice with Williams in the lineup, as they would have returned four of five starters from last season's Pac-10 title squad.

However, the loss of Williams leaves the starting point guard duties to sophomore Kourtney Shreve, who has never started. Shreve's backup is junior Jamie Craighead, who started at forward last season when Dion was injured.

Pac-10 coaches picked Stanford to win the Pac-10 title. The Cardinal collected nine first-place votes to Oregon's one.

Stanford returns four starters from last season, when its 13-5 Pac-10 record tied itself with Arizona for second place in the conference and advanced to the second round of the NCAA West Regional — its 13th-straight NCAA Tournament appearance.

Southern California was ranked third, followed closely by Arizona in fourth and Arizona State fifth. Washington and UCLA were tied-for-sixth. Oregon State is picked eighth, followed by No. 9 California and, as usual, Washington State is in the cellar.

Golf team tallies small victory

■ The Ducks finish eighth at their first full tournament, but score their best round of the season on the final day

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Battling the weather, a tough field and their own plummeting scores, the Oregon women's golf team finally scored a small victory Wednesday in the final round of the Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational.

The Ducks shot their best single round of the young season, a 16-over-par 304, to re-take eighth place, which they had lost on the second day of the tournament. All but one team member equaled or bettered her best single-round score on Wednesday.

"This was our best round of the year by far," said Ducks head coach

Shannon Rouillard. "We played with a lot of heart today."

Oregon faced a tough field at the tournament in Redmond, Wash., for the third time in three tournaments this year. Six of the seven

"This was our best round of the year by far. We played with a lot of heart today."

Shannon Rouillard
Ducks head coach

the Ducks, but Oregon's surge on the final day put them two strokes behind Washington when the tournament ended.

Senior Claire Hunter had the Ducks' best overall score, a 231 that was good enough for 19th place. Freshman standout Katharina Schallenberg also had a solid tournament, and finished in a tie-for-24th overall.

Most notable, however, was the final round of senior Jerilyn White. White, the only regular starter from the 1999-00 team to return this season, shot her first sub-75 round of the year, a 73 at the Sahalee Country Club.

No. 3 Southern California won the Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational by 12 strokes over No. 5 Arizona State. The Cardinal shot an impressive final round of 299, but the Trojans held on to first with a final-round 297.

Oregon's next tournament will be in a week-and-a-half, at the Stanford-Pepsi Intercollegiate October 20-22.



teams that finished ahead of the Ducks at the Edean Ihlanfeldt were ranked in the top-20. Four of those teams are in the Pacific-10 Conference, while Oregon finished in front of three other Pac-10 teams.

The Ducks almost overtook the tournament's host, Washington, on the final day, which would have moved Oregon up to seventh. The Huskies had a 12-stroke edge over

Bullpen woes return in M's loss

By Howard Fendrich
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Seattle might very well go sleepless over this loss.

The Mariners had the New York Yankees right where they wanted them before some shoddy defense and suddenly suspect relief pitching conspired to toss away Game 2 of the American League championship series.

Leading 1-0 going into the bottom of the eighth inning Wednesday, Seattle was six outs away from heading home to Safeco Field needing two victories for its first World Series berth.

And then it all fell apart. Relievers Arthur Rhodes and Jose Mesa combined to give up seven runs on eight hits in the eighth, allowing the Yankees to win 7-1 and tie series 1-1.

"It's a shame," Mariners manager Lou Piniella said, "because we had seven good innings of baseball, and in the eighth they exploded on us."

It was the kind of momentum swing that changes the whole complexion of a series.

"Down 2-0 going into Seattle would have been devastating," said Yankees designated hitter Chuck Knoblauch, who chipped in with an RBI single.

"And right now we're riding a high."

The eighth inning was a stunning pratfall for a relief corps that had been masterful in the playoffs.

Entering that inning, Seattle's bullpen had worked 15 scoreless postseason innings, stranding all 10 of the runners it had inherited and converting all three of its save chances.

But a solid start Wednesday by John Halama was wasted. He gave up five hits in six shutout innings and did not allow a runner to get past second base. Jose Paniagua came on for a scoreless seventh inning, before Piniella turned the 1-0 lead over to Rhodes.

The left-hander gave up three runs on four hits while getting just one out, before Mesa — who lost the closer's job to Japanese import Kazuhiro Sasaki in spring training — allowed four runs on four hits.

"The bullpen doesn't go in there with the intention of blowing the game — they had 15 scoreless innings," said Halama, who made his first postseason start.

"It's bound to happen sooner or later."

Perhaps it shouldn't be too surprising the collapse finally came.

Mesa has had his postseason problems in the past, while Rhodes has not been super

against the Yankees.

While with the Cleveland Indians, Mesa blew save opportunities in Games 3 and 4 of the 1997 ALCS against Baltimore. Then, in that year's World Series, he blew a ninth-inning lead in Game 7, which Florida went on to win in 11 innings.

Rhodes had a 7.71 ERA in four appearances against the Yankees during the regular season, and had a 3-5 career record against them before Wednesday.

With Rhodes on in relief to start the eighth, David Justice led off with a double. Bernie Williams followed with an RBI single on an eight-pitch at-bat to tie it at 1.

Tino Martinez followed with a liner that went off the glove of charging left fielder Al Martin. The next batter, Jorge Posada, hit a shot that went off second baseman Mark McLemore's glove and dribbled slowly into short right field, allowing another runner to score.

After Paul O'Neill's sacrifice fly drove in another run, Rhodes gave way to Mesa, who was no more effective.

When it was all over, the Yankees had racked up seven runs on eight hits — two more hits than they had all game before the big inning.

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