

Sweeps week comes early for Ducks hockey

■ Stanford falls victim in consecutive games to the new-and-improved Oregon hockey team

By Inge Scheve
for the Emerald

The Oregon Club Hockey team skated to two victories in its season opening games, beating Stanford on both Friday and Saturday night.

Friday's game earned the Ducks a 6-2 victory and warned the Cardinal that more of the bitter medicine was to follow. Twenty-four hours later, Oregon completed the Stanford sweep with a 7-0 shutout at the Lane County Ice Arena.

"Defensively, we didn't let up, and offensively we put the numbers on the board," said freshman

Mike Tornabene, who netted his first career goal in Friday's game.

In that game, Oregon had only a 1-0 lead after the first period, but put it together offensively and shoved five more past the Cardinal goalie for the final score of 6-2.

The Ducks put Friday's experience on the ice the next night and kept the puck on the right side of the Stanford goalie: behind him. The rubber disk stayed out of the Oregon goal thanks to careful guarding from senior goalie Josh Hardin, who barred a whopping 28 shots.

Nailing down the Cardinal's major problem — relying on star player Bobby Jaros — helped secure the victory for the Ducks.

"Once we contained him, we could score," Tornabene said.

Additionally, having three lines rather than just one made a huge

difference too, team captain Tyler Shaffar said.

"It wasn't just a one-line team or a bunch of guys playing for the team," Tornabene said. "We came together as a team."

Oregon had just the right recipe for a killer weekend: the benefit of home ice and the skills and preparations of the team.

"The crowd was great, especially the guys sitting in the front," Shaffar said.

"It's great to be recognized for what we do, and it's so much more fun to play in front of a crowd," Tornabene said. "They get really fired up about the fights."

"It was a good start of the season but the real intensity will pick up."

Coach Garreth MacDonald, who has actively assisted in recruiting new players, has really taken the team to the next step, Shaffar said.

The Ducks have signed 12 new players to the team this season, adding skills and experience to create a new dimension of depth.

"We're not a beginner's team," Shaffar said. "It's a quicker team this year. We're faster, more experienced and harder-hitting. And it's a new team mentality this year. It's more serious, and everyone is making practices."

Although the Ducks enjoyed a winning season-opener, they realize the real challenges are lined up ahead for them. Next weekend features a three-day, three-game road trip to Los Angeles where Pac-8 foes USC and UCLA are expecting them.

"Thursday's game against USC could be particularly tough," Shaffar said. "We have never beaten USC."

Another loss there would mark

the 10th anniversary of losing to USC, he said.

After this weekend, Oregon returns home to face Montana State Oct. 27-28.

Outdoor program offers free workshop

The Oregon Outdoor Program offers a free workshop tonight at 7:30 p.m., featuring its alliance with the "Leave No Trace" program.

The LNT program emphasizes environmental ethics and "light hand on the land" practices that help minimize human impact on the environment while traveling in the great outdoors. Tonight's clinic will teach the essentials of low-impact excursions.

The workshop will take place in the Outdoor Program Lounge, located downstairs in the EMU.

Halfway to subway series as N.Y. Mets clinch NL pennant

By Josh Dubow
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Hampton did what he was brought to New York to do: pitch the Mets into the World Series — and perhaps face an opponent only a subway ride away.

Hampton pitched a three-hitter and the Mets started their clinching party early with a three-run first inning Monday night as they beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-0 and won the NL championship series 4-1.

"The team needed a big game," said Hampton, who won the series MVP by pitching 16 scoreless in-

nings and winning twice. "We're close. We're four wins away from fulfilling that fantasy."

The game got testy at the end when Dave Veres hit Jay Payton in the helmet with a 1-2 pitch with two outs in the eighth inning. Payton, bleeding over his left eye, charged the mound and the dugouts and bullpens emptied as police in riot gear lined the field.

"I got hit and the best of my reactions got to me," Payton said. "I don't know if there was any intent there. I don't think there was."

That was the only thing that

could dampen this night for the Mets, who ran a victory lap around a raucous Shea Stadium before heading to the clubhouse for a celebration that spilled back onto the field when Todd Pratt sprayed fans with champagne.

New York won its fourth NL pennant and first since 1986, joining the 1997 Florida Marlins as the only wild card teams to make the World Series.

The Mets also earned four days off before beginning the World Series on Saturday night, either a train ride away at Yankee Stadium for the

first Subway Series since 1956 or across the country in Seattle.

"It's what you play for and what you put all the hard work in for," third baseman Robin Ventura said. "We're happy to go right now. It would be nice to stay home though."

The three-run first off a rusty Pat Hentgen turned baseball's most dangerous pinch hitter into a non-factor once again. Mighty Mark McGwire, limited to pinch-hitting duty because of tendinitis in his right knee, didn't bat until the ninth inning with the Cardinals down by

seven and he grounded out.

Rick Wilkins then flied to center where Timo Perez jumped three times, waving his arms, before making the catch. The Mets poured out of the dugout and bullpen for the second time in an inning — this time for a celebration.

Big Mac finished 0-for-2 with an intentional walk and could only blow bubbles as the Cardinals season ended following another wild outing by rookie Rick Ankiel.

"We had enough weapons to win. The Mets just played better," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.



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