

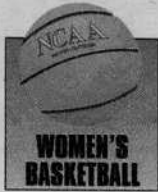


## Ready or not, women play first hoops today

The women's basketball team takes on RTU Clondica in its first exhibition game

By Scott Pesznecker  
Oregon Daily Emerald

By late tonight, some pretty important questions surrounding the Oregon women's basketball team may finally be answered.



Can the Ducks win without Shaquala Williams? Which player will emerge as the new leading scorer? Can inexperienced point guards feed the post effectively? And how will the Ducks manage their depth at the guard spot?

Oregon faces RTU Clondica, a national team from Riga, Latvia, at 7 p.m. at McArthur Court in the defending Pacific-10 Conference champion's first exhibition game of the season. The matchup provides the Ducks' first chance to flap their reconstructed wings in a game-time atmosphere.

"In practice we can read each other and know what we're thinking, so we're just excited to get out there and start playing," starting point guard Kourtney Shreve said.

"We're getting a lot more confident

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Oregon women's basketball head coach Jody Runge was skeptical when a Pacific-10 Conference postseason tournament was established, but at least her Ducks will have an advantage when it finally arrives.

The University of Oregon will host the first-ever Pac-10 postseason women's basketball tournament, Pac-10 Commissioner Tom Hansen announced today.

The 10-team, four-day event begins in March 2002 and will be staged annually on the campus of a Pac-10 institution.

"Oregon is an excellent choice for the first

tournament because of its history and interest in women's basketball," Hansen said. "It should assure excellent attendance and an exciting atmosphere for our tournament games."

The Ducks averaged a school-record 5,852 fans at McArthur Court in 1999-2000, the 12th-best mark nationwide.

The Pac-10 Chief Executive Officers approved the men's and women's postseason tournaments Oct. 23. The winner of the tournament earns the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

## Another losing night for slumping volleyball team



■ Oregon hits just .097 from the floor as the Sun Devils celebrate a historic night with a 3-0 victory

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The bus to Success, U.S.A., just took a wrong turn, and the Oregon volleyball team is now lost in the desert.

What could have been a momentous victory for the Ducks (9-13 overall, 1-12 Pacific-10 Conference) turned into a historic event for the home team Thursday in Tempe, Ariz.

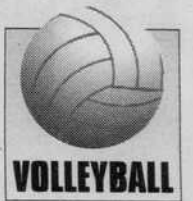
With a 15-8, 15-4, 15-7 sweep against Oregon, the Arizona State Sun Devils (16-8, 8-6) increased their chances of making the NCAA tournament for the second straight year and hit the record books at the same time.

Arizona State head coach Patti Snyder-Park, in her 12th year with the Devils, recorded her 100th career Pac-10 victory. She is only the fourth coach in conference history to achieve that mark.

"To get the 100 wins is a nice achievement, but getting 101 tomorrow night against Oregon State will be even sweeter," Snyder-Park said after the match. "We played great defense and just took control of the match from the beginning. If we can pick up a win tomorrow night it puts us in good position for the NCAA tournament."

Senior Amanda Burbridge, who has recorded double-digit kills in each match this season, led Arizona State

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*"We played great defense and just took control of the match from the beginning."*

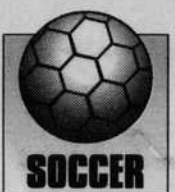
**Patti Snyder-Park**  
Arizona State head coach

Freshman Lindsay Murphy and the Ducks couldn't muster a victory in Tempe, Ariz. as the Sun Devils swept them 15-8, 15-4, 15-7.

*Emerald*

## Women's soccer trying to buck history in season's final games

The Oregon soccer team will face two ranked foes this weekend in games they have traditionally lost



By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon soccer team takes its show on the road, but it's hoping to change the channel.

This weekend the Ducks (4-13-1, 1-5-1 Pacific-10 Conference) will try to avoid the worst record of their five-year history when they take on No. 15 Stanford (11-5-0, 4-3-0) at 7 p.m. today in Palo Alto, Calif., and No. 8 California (15-2-0, 5-2-0) at 12:30 p.m. Sunday in Berkeley, Calif.

Oregon has had problems against Stanford and California in the past, and is a combined 0-6 against the two teams.

But the Ducks have never

been blown out in those games. In three losses to California, Oregon has been edged by one goal each time. The Ducks dropped one-goal games to each team last year in Eugene.

Oregon head coach Bill Steffen thinks his team can win this weekend's games but will need to play with intensity for a full match to do so.

"We're going to continue our process of trying to develop," said Steffen. "We look forward to being competitive in these matches."

The Ducks will have a few factors in their favor this weekend.

One of those factors is a

Turn to **Soccer**, page 9A



Junior midfielder Annie Murphy (14) and the Ducks will try to avoid losses in California this weekend.

*Dan Brunell Emerald*