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# Ducks ready for Vandals

■ Oregon hockey prepares for two brutal, physical games against Idaho this weekend

By Inge Scheve  
 For the Emerald

The Oregon club hockey team greets the weekend with a two-game schedule against Idaho at home. Both Friday's and Saturday's games are at 7:30 p.m. at the Lane County ice arena.

Idaho's record is 2-2. As of last weekend, the Ducks are ranked eighth of 30 teams in the ACHA West.

"Last time we met them, we played two really physical games with brawls and stuff," Oregon goalie Josh Hardin said. "We have to not get into that kind of crap. We have to play our game, not theirs."

The Ducks' game is to identify

Idaho's star players and try to contain them.

"They have two or three really good players," Oregon captain Tyler Shaffar said. "We'll focus on that and play defensively the way we're supposed to."

**“Last time we met them, we played two really physical games with brawls and stuff.”**

**Josh Hardin**  
 Oregon goalie

"Our third line doesn't really produce, and the fourth line really played well," Shaffar said. "And Joe [Fagliano] is coming in instead of Josh [Hardin]."

But starting the replacement goalie doesn't seem to bother anyone on the team.

"If the guys play the way they have been, he'll be fine," Hardin said.

Hardin is out for at least another week and a half with a hand injury, but he is banking on being back for the Washington games next weekend.

The Ducks expect to meet a big team with several Canadians, Hardin said.

He explained that there are slight cultural differences in the way Canadians conduct their game, and that they tend to play more physically.

The physical play is also a Northwest thing.

"There is mutual hatred among a lot of the Northwest schools," Hardin said.

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# Ewing offers kidney to Mourning

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Patrick Ewing has offered to donate one of his kidneys to Alonzo Mourning if the ailing Miami Heat center ever needs a transplant.

"You know I will always be there for him," Ewing said Tuesday after a shootaround in Miami. "If my kidney matches, I'll be happy to donate one. If it comes down to that. He knows that."

Mourning has a common but serious kidney disease that is forcing him to miss this season. It is not yet known whether he will need a kidney transplant.

Ewing and Mourning both played at Georgetown and remain close friends despite their fierce NBA battles. They work out together during the off-season, and Ewing is the godfather of Mourning's newborn daughter, Myka Sydney.

They spoke Monday when Ewing arrived in Miami and planned to spend time together Tuesday night at Mourning's home.

Ewing said he and Mourning have not approached doctors, nor have they gone through any tests to determine if the former New York Knicks and current Seattle

center would be a match for Mourning.

Mourning's kidney disease, focal glomerulosclerosis, initially will be treated with medication but could eventually require dialysis or a transplant. The disease was discovered during a routine physical after Mourning returned from leading the U.S. Olympic team to a gold medal in Australia.

"I haven't even talked to the doctors yet, but I'm just saying if it comes down to that, if we match up, I'll be happy to give him one," Ewing said.

# Spurs teach Shaq a lesson in win

By Michelle Koidin

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — It may be the Spurs who are snickering now.

Shaquille O'Neal drew lots of laughs from David Letterman's audience during the summer when he called San Antonio "a WNBA team." But in the first matchup this season between the Western Conference powers, the Spurs held O'Neal to just 13 points Wednesday night in a 91-81 win against the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I just missed some shots that I usually make tonight," said O'Neal, who was 5 for 13 from the field and 3 for 10 from the foul line. "I don't make excuses on nights that I miss shots like that. Those are shots that I've made my whole career and we needed them tonight."

The loss dropped the defending NBA champions to a .500 mark (3-

3) for the first time since Nov. 14, 1999. After the same number of games last year, they were 5-1, and they finished the season 67-15.

David Robinson and Malik Rose allowed O'Neal to score just five points in the first half, when he went 1-for-8 in 23 minutes. O'Neal had been averaging 32 points per game this season and 29.7 points per game last year.

"Even Superman runs into Kryptonite occasionally," said Robert Horry, who nailed four 3-pointers for the Lakers.

It was more likely the 7-foot-1 Robinson, 6-foot-7 Rose and 7-foot Tim Duncan who stopped O'Neal.

"They are big and athletic and cause problems for Shaq," said Kobe Bryant, who led Los Angeles with 32 points and eight assists.

O'Neal, who came within one vote of becoming the league's first unanimous MVP last season, came

out stronger in the third quarter, grabbing seven of his 17 rebounds and bringing the Lakers to 56-55 on a 12-foot turnaround jump shot with 5:25 remaining.

O'Neal, known for his struggles from the foul line, is now 37 for 90 (41 percent) this year. He made 52 percent of his free throws last season.

Perhaps the Spurs — the 1999 NBA champions — were ignited by the fact that Los Angeles followed them in claiming the title after the Spurs were knocked out in the first round of the playoffs. Or perhaps it was their intense rivalry.

Duncan insisted it was not O'Neal's remark on the Letterman show.

"I don't think it bothers anybody around here," he said. "In one ear and out the other. People are going to say what they want. You can't let it bother you."

# East Coast

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try at that time, Wisconsin.

So, take a long, hard look at numbers 3-5 in the AP poll. No. 3 is Florida State. Ranked first heading into the season, Florida State has long dominated the Atlantic Coast Conference, a league better known for basketball (think North Carolina and Duke) than football. Florida State has lost only twice in 64 ACC games since joining the conference.

Yes, Florida State beat then-No. 10 Clemson last week, but the "Bowden Bowl" is minus its star, Clemson's Heisman hopeful Woody Dantzler, who was not fully healthy due to an ankle injury. Florida State has a top-10 loss to

Miami, but has beaten only Clemson and then-No. 21 North Carolina State. Florida State has blown out many of the unranked teams its played, though, which is apparently worth more than playing close games with good teams. Go figure.

At the No. 4 spot is another team resting on history's laurels, Nebraska. Embarrassed by Oklahoma in their only true test of the season, the Huskers will most likely be embarrassed by the Sooners again in the Big 12 title game, or perhaps before, as they will take on Kansas State next week. Nebraska has beaten only one top-25 team, then-No. 23 Notre Dame.

The No. 5 team is Florida, the biggest mystery of the teams in front of Oregon. Florida beat then-

No. 11 Tennessee, No. 19 Auburn and No. 13 Georgia, but lost to unranked Mississippi State, 47-35. The Gators will find out if they're for real when they take on Florida State to end the season.

Oregon trails many big-name football programs, but looking at the records, it's obvious the Ducks should be ranked higher.

Think big, Oregon faithful. I implore you to bring your oranges to Saturday's game against California, and fling them on the field when the Ducks win.

It may be far-fetched, but Oregon could be smelling Florida's citrus fruits instead of California's roses come January.

Peter Hockaday is a sports reporter for the Emerald. He can be reached at phockaday@yahoo.com