

Women

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defense and quick guards," Dion said. "They have that one guard in particular who is a senior, who's been there for four years, who's played for four years and really knows their system. She's their best ball handler and shooter."

California isn't a strong post team, and its woes down low continue. Backup center Genevieve Swedor probably won't play today and has missed the last two games.

"I don't think their post players can handle ours," Dion said. "So I think that's where we'll beat them."

The Ducks have won 14 straight over the Golden Bears and lead the series 25-10. In their last meeting, forward Brianne Meharry scored 16 points, and Wolvert added 12 points en route to a 75-63 win.

Now, back to Stanford.

The Cardinal was the preseason favorite of the coaches and media to win the Pac-10 Championship. Oregon was picked second.

Wolvert says it's time to prove the polls wrong.

"I'm very much looking forward to that," she said before Tuesday's practice. "I'm still upset that they got chosen over us in the preseason polls. Look at the teams they played in the preseason. I guess I've never felt like Oregon gets much respect."

But Wolvert reiterates that despite how tempting it is to look ahead toward Saturday, her focus, and the team's focus, is on the task at hand.

"We're not trying to look ahead at Stanford and set up our offenses and defenses against them," Wolvert said. "We're definitely trying to beat Cal first and stay focused on one step at a time. We don't want to overlook somebody and have a loss."



Tom Patterson Emerald

Oregon is relying on its post players, including senior forward Angelina Wolvert, to dominate California down low in the post.

Probable Starters

Oregon

Position	Name	ppg	rpg
F	Lindsey Dion	7.6	3.4
F	Angelina Wolvert	13.7	5.5
C	Jenny Mowe	8.7	5.6
G	Jamie Craighead	9.5	2.8
G	Kourtney Shreve	7.0	1.8

California

Position	Name	ppg	rpg
F	Lauren Ashbaugh	11.1	7.0
F	Becky Staubes	5.6	1.3
C	Ami Forney	10.8	8.1
G	Courtney Johnson	12.1	3.3
G	Kenya Corley	10.7	3.2

Business, Community & the Environment

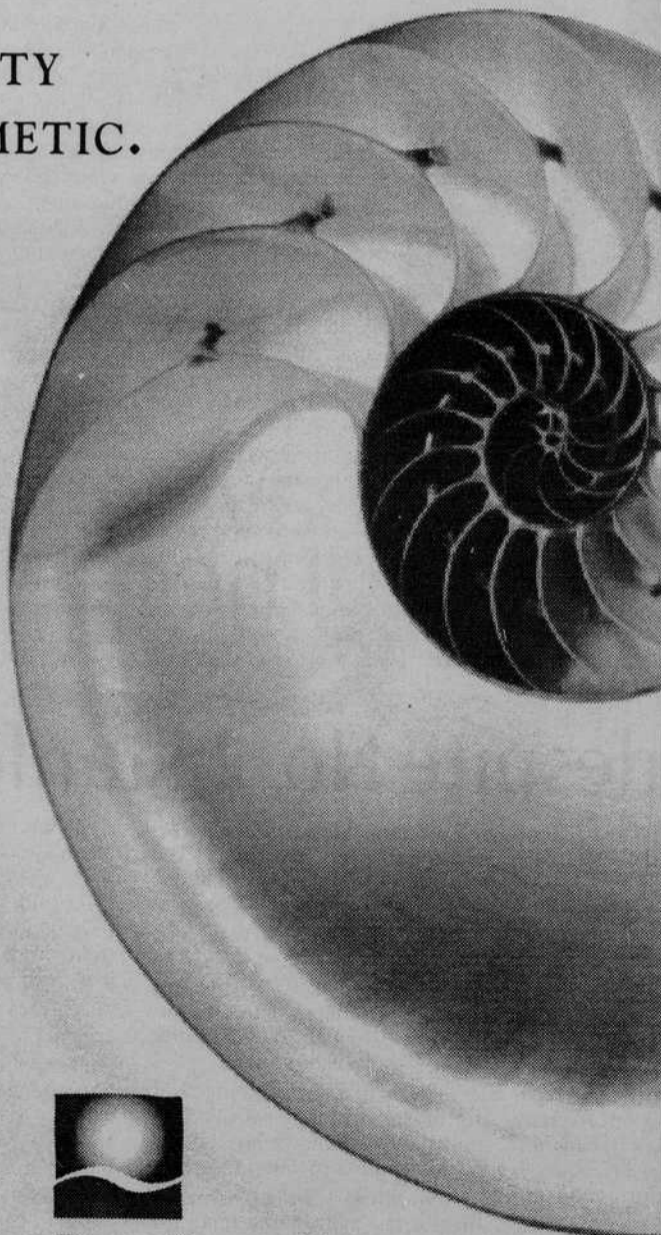
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Sports Briefs

Beginning Friday, the Oregon club hockey team will find out what it's really made of.

In a Salt Lake City tournament this weekend, the No. 9 Ducks (7-8 overall) will face top-ranked Weber State and second-ranked Utah.

And the treacherous schedule doesn't stop there: Just five days later, the Ducks host No. 4 Southern California — a team Oregon has never beaten — for a weekend series.

Toward the end of the month, head coach Gareth MacDonald's club will also take on fifth-ranked San Jose State, and sixth-ranked Palmer West.

The Ducks are 7-0 when scoring the first goal of the game; however, they are 0-8 when their opponent scores the initial point. "So," according to the team's Web site, "the goal is simple ... score first and win the Pacific-10 Championships!"

Pitino insists he's not interested in UCLA job

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rick Pitino called UCLA basketball coach Steve Lavin on Wednesday to say that he's not interested in Lavin's job.

The call came a day after UCLA athletic director Peter Dalis said he has had two phone conversations with Pitino in the past month, which surprised Lavin.

Dalis said Tuesday that the conversations, made at the request of a mutual friend, were brief and "none of them had anything to do with the UCLA job in particular."

Pitino, who resigned this week as coach and president of the Boston Celtics, did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press seeking comment Wednesday.

UCLA spokesman Marc Dellins confirmed that Lavin and Pitino spoke Wednesday.

"Steve told me they talked for a while and he (Pitino) told him that he's not interested in the job," Dellins said.

A day earlier, Lavin called the Pitino news "disheartening and disappointing."

"Pitino is an opportunist," Lavin said. "He's trying to capitalize on a tremendous opportunity."

The news that Dalis and Pitino have talked came as a surprise to Lavin, who was informed of the conversations by reporters after practice Tuesday.

"This is all new knowledge. It's unfortunate," Lavin said. "Obviously, he's my boss, so I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt that there was some misunderstanding."

Dalis said he didn't tell Lavin because the conversations were not specifically about the UCLA basketball job. He said he has assured Lavin he is the Bruins' coach.

However, Dalis didn't seem to rule out the possibility of changing coaches.

"There are a lot of people that feel the program ought to be at a level that it isn't right now," he said.

"That will always happen at any institution, wherever it is. But you never know who your next head coach might be," he said.