

UO hockey encouraged, despite two losses

■ Oregon drops two on the road, eyes weekend's game with Washington

By Inge Scheve
for the Emerald



The Oregon club sports hockey team returned from its Bay Area road trip with a brighter outlook on the rest of its season in spite of losing both games it played.

"We just went out there and had fun," Oregon goalie Josh Hardin said. "Before, we took it too seriously and played too uptight. We

didn't let the game come to us."

Last Friday, the Ducks felt the long bus trip all through their bodies as they faced off against a fresh and mature team from Palmer State University. Oregon lost 8-2, mostly due to a 5-0 deficit after the first period.

Even so, the Ducks didn't give up.

"We finally scored a few," Hardin said. "We knew what we had to do, and we went out there and played some good hockey."

Road games have traditionally been hard for the Ducks, and that Oregon had to play the day of its long bus ride did not help its performance.

"They physically beat us up," said Oregon captain Tyler Shaffar about Palmer State. "We're pretty sore, but we played a lot better

[than last weekend]."

The team spent Saturday morning preparing for its game against San Jose State that night. The Ducks fell to the Spartans, 7-4, but Shaffar said that the extra rest and relax-

“We’re pretty sore, but we played a lot better [than last weekend].”

Tyler Shaffar
captain
Oregon

ation helped the team's performance.

"The way we played on Saturday made the whole team happy," Shaffar said.

The game was as equally physi-

cal as Friday's game was, and despite missing two key players — assistant captains Andy Waldera and Larry Platzke — the team had a better attitude, Shaffar said.

After the first period, Oregon was down, 3-1. Heading into the third period it was 5-2, but then San Jose State downed two more on Oregon, which only answered with two of its own to account for the final score of 7-4.

Hardin's job in the Oregon net made the whole team happy.

"He played great," Shaffar said. Hardin was plenty busy. On Friday, he had 51 shots against him, and Saturday's game produced 42 against the Ducks.

"I'm worn out," he said.

The lighter attitude and the Ducks being able to have fun playing the game again should transfer

Oregon hockey's remaining schedule

- Feb. 2 UO vs. Washington at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 3 UO vs. Washington at 5:15 p.m.
- Feb. 10 UO at Western Washington
- Feb. 11 UO at Western Washington
- Feb. 16-17 Pac-8 Championships in Eugene
- March: ACHA National Championships in Bloomington, Indiana
- Note: Home games in BOLD

nically to this upcoming weekend. Oregon plays Northwest rival Washington at home in the I-5 rivalry that exists between the two programs.

"The scoop of these games lost mean little," Shaffar said. "We want to beat UW and win the PAC-8."

Men's

continued from page 7A

it going in the Pac-10, and has dropped five of its past six games.

Still, despite the fact that they are heavy underdogs to Arizona tonight, the Ducks appear confident and say they are getting back to playing the type of basketball they did to open the season.

"Even though we're not winning, we feel more confidence every time we step out on the court," said Luke Ridnour, Oregon freshman point guard. "We just need to keep working hard, and the wins will come."

The Ducks can't afford to be losing too many more games if they want to participate in the NCAA Tournament (a longshot), or achieve a more realistic goal of being in the NIT.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent gave his players Monday off to let their bodies and minds heal after two tough road defeats to the Los Angeles schools. He knows he is dealing with a younger team this year, but is excited about the potential improvement that can be made.

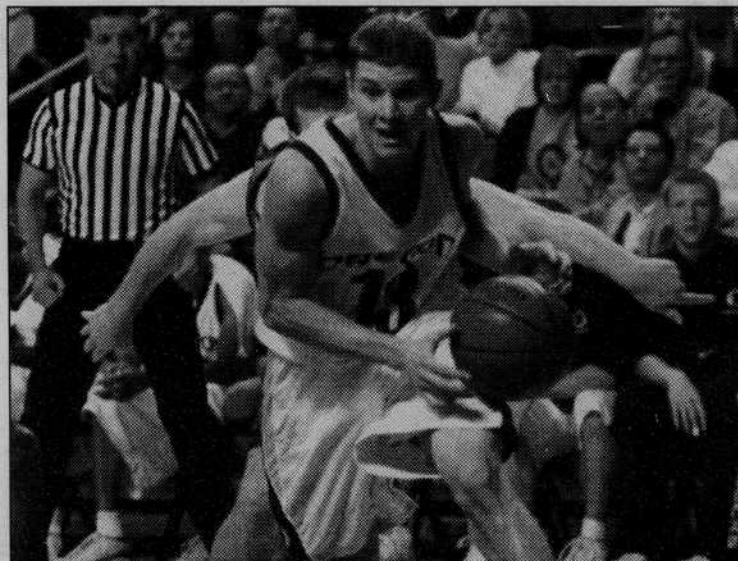
"I certainly feel that we have gotten better this year," Kent said. "The competition level has stepped up in the conference play, and I hope to get results in the second half of the conference."

The Wildcats pose a starting unit that presents many matchup difficulties for the Ducks. Arizona is led in scoring by junior forward Michael Wright with 16.5 points per game and is paced in the backcourt by the talented sophomore combination of Gilbert Arenas and Jason Gardner. Junior forward

Richard Jefferson and 7-foot-1 center Loren Woods round out the starters.

Woods did not play in last year's game at Oregon because of a bad back but tied an NCAA record and broke the Pac-10 record for most blocks in a game with 14 rejections in the Wildcats' 77-71 home win against the Ducks last season. Oregon center Julius Hicks, who missed the last two games because of an ankle sprain, is questionable for tonight's game, which puts much of the burden of containing Woods on improving junior center Chris Christoffersen.

"We have been able to play them tough, but we don't have those veteran players that we had last year," Kent said. "This is going to be a challenge. We're going to have to play better than we have the last couple of games."



Oregon freshman point guard Luke Ridnour had an "outstanding weekend" against USC and UCLA, according to head coach Ernie Kent.

WRC FORUM: COME LISTEN & PARTICIPATE

The Senate Review Committee has created a series of forums designed to provide informed opinions on the issues surrounding the WRC controversy.

Forum One:
Globalization: Economic and Human Aspects
Thursday, February 1, 2001 • 4-5:30 pm
Fir Room, EMU
Invited Guests:
Bruce Blonigen, Economics
Henry Goldstein, Economics
Ibrahim Gassama, Law
Lynn Stephen, Anthropology

Forum Two:
Monitoring: The Concept and Details
Pharis Harvey, International Labor Rights Fund
February 12, noon presentation
Fir Room, EMU

Forum Three:
International Labor Standards
William Gould, Stanford Law School and Morse Professor
public lecture, February 28, 7:00 pm
Room 175, Law School

Women's

continued from page 7A

After jumping to the top of the standings with a 4-0 start in the conference, Arizona has lost three straight, most recently to Arizona State, snapping a seven-year winning streak for the Wildcats.

"We got out-hustled and outplayed," Arizona head coach Joan Bonvicini said of the 67-57 Arizona State victory. "The rebounding (42-25 advantage for ASU), I'm surprised we didn't lose by more."

All three of Arizona's conference losses have been on the road.

"We're going down there to their home, and they're going to be hungry to win," Shreve said. "I'm sure they'll be all over us."

Leading the 'Cats charge is guard Reshea Bristol and forward Elizabeth Pickney, who combine for more than 28 points per game. Bristol leads the league in assists with nearly seven per game and steals (3.2). Freshman Aimee Grzyb has been starting for the Wildcats pouring in 8.5 points per contest.

"Arizona is a young team on the perimeter, but they're very athletic

— much like USC," Runge said. "We have to stop their dribble penetration, and keep them off the offensive boards."

Having never finished better than fifth in the Pac-10, Arizona State has

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Kourtney Shreve
sophomore
point guard

proven to be the biggest surprise this season. The Sun Devils are tied with Oregon for the top seed.

Three of Arizona State's starters are transfers this year, with junior Amanda Levens, last week's conference player of the week, leading the way with 14.4 points per game.

The Ducks have an 11-game winning streak against Arizona State, with the Devils' last victory coming on Jan. 28, 1995. Oregon holds a 24-8 all-time series advantage.

Team	Pac-10	Overall
Oregon	5-2	12-5
Arizona St.	5-2	13-6
Washington	5-3	12-6
Arizona	4-3	14-5
Stanford	4-3	10-7
Oregon State	3-4	11-6
USC	3-4	8-9
Washington St.	3-5	8-10
California	2-5	6-11
UCLA	2-5	3-15