



Laura Smit Emerald

Forward Angelina Wolvert (40) says the Ducks can't afford to lose another game.

## Women

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"This isn't the first time we've been faced with adversity," forward Nndi Unaka said. "We just need to come up strong and play well in the Bay Area. Our team goals haven't changed. Of course we want to defend our Pac-10 Championship, and that will be a little harder than expected."

"We just need to go out there and win and look forward to the NCAA tournament, and try to be successful there."

Wolvert's on the same wavelength as her teammate.

"I don't want to lose another game," Wolvert said. "It's important that we don't lose another game. But if we had to, it would be pushing our luck to get a Pac-10 Championship."

No, the Ducks definitely aren't happy with their recent play. Yet, none of them can seem to put a word on that strange, unfamiliar sensation they're feeling.

Perhaps their 5-4 Pac-10 record has a suggestion: mediocrity.

### On mended knee

The good news: Wolvert said her knee is virtually "100 percent" healthy.

The bad news: The senior is sick with the flu. And bronchitis.

More good news: "[The doctors] said I'll be able to breathe by Thurs-

day," Wolvert said.

Wolvert's ability to run the floor was hampered against the Arizona schools, as extensive physical activity causes her to have coughing fits. To combat her ailments, doctors prescribed her antibiotics and an inhaler.

Dion said her ankle is feeling better, although she still receives daily treatment. The ankle still hurts when she puts all her weight on it, such as when doing a layup, she said.

"Ange hopefully will have more energy than she's had," head coach Jody Runge said. "And Lindsey, if she tweaks [her ankle], it's very distracting. It's keeping her from doing all the things that she typically does."

### The best there's ever been?

Shaquala Williams is a good ballplayer; no doubt about that.

How about the best Duck ever? Well, 227 women's basketball fans think so.

In an informal poll on the Oregon athletic department's Web site at [www.goducks.com](http://www.goducks.com), "Shaq" leads five other players in the voting for Oregon women's basketball's best-ever Duck.

Williams, a junior, is redshirting this season to recover from a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

Bev Smith, a Duck from 1979-82 who is second on the school all-time scoring list with 2,063 points, is in second place with 196 votes. Wolvert is in third place with 63 votes.

## Men

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to lose like we did. We played a horrible game and there is no excuse for that."

Obviously, the Ducks (12-7 overall, 3-6 Pac-10) missed a golden opportunity to build off their Arizona win and jump into the NCAA Tournament picture. Even with the loss, though, a postseason appearance is still a strong possibility, although the NIT is the more realistic destination.

The talk Tuesday centered around the theme of a new beginning. After all, this is the halfway point in the Pac-10 season, and the Ducks will be facing teams they've played before.

"We've got nine games to go, and everybody has seen what we need to expect from each team," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We should be able to make the necessary adjustments and play teams a lot tougher and smarter this time around."

This new season of sorts begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Mac Court against No. 2 Stanford — the highest-ranked team to visit Eugene in 12 seasons.

"We need to understand that our

backs are against the wall," Kent said. "Typically, my teams have been pretty strong coming down the stretch, and we're still playing for something because the postseason is still on the line for us. We just need to get some W's."

In Kent's previous three seasons at Oregon, he has guided the Ducks to a combined 17-10 record in the second half of the Pac-10 schedule, including 6-3 finishes the last two years.

Should Oregon end its season winning six out of nine games once more, it would find itself at 9-9 in the league, and with a total of 18 wins. That would appear to clinch an NIT berth and keep the Big Dance a remote possibility.

"We're not giving up as a basketball team," Christoffersen said. "We still have that bad feeling in our mouths and stomachs [from Sunday], but we need to remember that feeling, move on from that and never feel like that again."

**Note:** Both Thursday's game against Stanford and Saturday's 3 p.m. contest versus California will be broadcast nationwide on Fox Sports Net. Sunday's loss to Arizona State was also on national television.

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