



Civil War will decide teams' postseason fates

Oregon expects a physical battle with the Beavers, who have not won at The Pit since 1993

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

And you thought the Civil War football game was big.

Saturday's final regular-season game for the women's basketball team is its most important of the year — and not just because the Ducks are playing Oregon State.

Both teams will enter McArthur Court for the 1 p.m. tip-off with hopes of an NCAA Tournament berth. Only one of them will leave with a realistic shot.

Oregon (16-11 overall, 9-8 Pacific-10 Conference) sits in fourth place in the conference standings, while the Beavers (16-11, 8-9) are only one game behind in seventh place.

While preparing for the 65th Civil War meeting and hoping for an eighth consecutive trip to the

Big Dance, Oregon has had to do much reflecting this week.

In a Sunday meeting with Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos, eight players requested that head coach Jody Runge be fired. Since Tuesday, the team's first practice of the week, the Ducks have been forbidden to speak with the media.

But, on Tuesday, the team said it was going to focus on the game.

Like the first meeting of the season — which the Ducks won 71-67 on Jan. 5 in Corvallis — senior forward Lindsey Dion expects nothing less than a hard-fought battle.

"It's going to be a rough, physi-

cal, very emotional game, regardless of where either team is in the standings. One could be at the bottom, the other at the top — it doesn't matter," senior forward Lindsey Dion said. "Everything's fair game in the Oregon Civil War game. I wouldn't expect anything different Saturday afternoon."

For Dion and the four other Oregon seniors — Angelina Wolvert, Jenny Mowe, Brianne Meharry and Camber Ellingson — who will be playing in their final game at Mac Court, beating the Beavers is not a new idea. In fact, they have never lost to their rival, with the Ducks winning the last 10 contests.

"We're really excited about playing Oregon State," said Wolvert, the team's leading scorer at 14 points a game. "It's always

been a great battle for us; it's always been very physical. We just want to come out and play well."

Shadowing Oregon's bid to the NCAA Tournament is the Beavers' Pac-10 Player of the Year candidate Felicia Ragland. The junior guard is leading the conference with 19.8 points per game.

The post matchup should also be interesting. Mowe and Oregon State's Ericka Cook have a history of struggles in the paint, although they became friends this year.

"Ericka and Felicia have been super leaders, really trying to bring our younger players along," Oregon State head coach Judy Spelstrasaid. "We're not really thinking about all the postseason stuff; we feel pretty confident about the WNIT already, and any-

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DION



Oregon's Julius Hicks, who has provided many smiles during his career, would love nothing more than to beat OSU in his final game.

The Juice is Loose

Julius Hicks' close bonds with teammates have led him to call his two-year Oregon career a success

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

"It's not about me. It's never been about me."

Those are the words of a Division I men's basketball player.

No really, stop pinching yourself, they are. They're the words of Oregon center Julius Hicks, and they embody what the senior is all about.

Imagine, for a moment, all the qualities of the perfect athlete rolled into one body. Now, subtract dominating athletic ability. What you have left is humility, leadership and work ethic.

Who you have is Julius Hicks.

"Juice," as he is affectionately called by his teammates and coach, has had a successful career at Oregon, as long as success isn't measured in steals and three-point percentage. Hobbled by injuries and sickness during his two years in Eugene, Hicks has never fully made the impact he desired.

Unless you talk to his teammates.

"He believes in us a lot," Oregon freshman Luke Ridnour said. "For a senior to do that to a freshman, that's pretty cool. It's nice just to know he respects you."

Since he came to Oregon from West Valley Junior College before the 1999-00 season, Hicks has been slowed by injuries and never "found his rhythm," according to Ducks head coach Ernie Kent.

"He never really had a chance to play on top of his game for an entire season, or really even a stretch of a season outside of the preseason this year," Kent said.

Hicks started the 1999-00 campaign backing up senior A.D. Smith and junior Flo Hartenstein, but had an impressive preseason all the same. Then, Hicks was struck with

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UO hopes to end with War victory

Two 4-13 teams meet in Corvallis as Oregon and Oregon State look to finish on a positive note

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

This isn't how the Oregon men's basketball team envisioned ending its season.

Especially not after beating Oregon State 84-66 on Jan. 6 to move to 10-1 at the time — the best Oregon start in the head coach Ernie Kent era.

But since that win, the Ducks have nose-dived all the way down to 4-13 in the Pacific-10 Conference and face the cold reality of the following:

Oregon must beat Oregon State at 7 p.m. Saturday in Corvallis just to become NIT eligible.

"It's been frustrating, but still having a chance to go to the postseason is nice," said senior Flo Hartenstein, who will play in his 112th game in a Ducks uniform. "But really, it doesn't matter against Oregon State. I mean, you never want to lose to them. They've only beaten us once in the last 15 games and we have to keep it that way."

"We don't want them thinking they can beat us."

The last time that the Beavers did beat the Ducks was a 48-45 victory on Jan. 30, 1999, at Gill Coliseum. Before that, though, Oregon State hadn't won since Feb. 12, 1994.

Still, the Beavers (10-19 overall, 4-13 Pac-10) have been playing solidly as of late, including victories over Washington (83-69) and Southern California (67-52). They've also impressed even in defeat, as in their overtime losses to California (72-69) and UCLA (68-65).

"I know they're going to be waiting for us and ready to go," Oregon freshman Luke Ridnour said. "They are playing really good right now."

The game will feature two teams with contrasting styles of play. Oregon State likes to slow the pace down and use up the shot clock whenever possible, while the Ducks are at their best when they can run-and-gun.

"The key will be who can best get into their style of play," Kent said. "This is going to be a big game over in that environment, especially with their seniors' last game."

One of those seniors is Oregon State
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Luke Ridnour
freshman,
guard