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# Pilots expected to be ready

■ With a 16-1 all-time series advantage, Oregon heads to Portland looking to go 2-1

By Adam Jude  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Now the Ducks can wipe away the jitters and play ball.

Starting afresh from an up-and-down opening weekend, the Oregon women's basketball team (1-1 overall) will make the first of two trips this week to Portland for a 7 p.m. matchup with the Portland Pilots at the Chiles Center.

Games against Wisconsin-Green Bay and Miami of Ohio last weekend showed that the Ducks, as expected, would rely heavily on a strong and deep backcourt. Shaquala Williams, Ednisha Curry and Jamie Craighead combined for more than half (71 of 140) of Oregon's total points in the two games.

Craighead, in particular, broke out of an early season slump in

Sunday's 83-65 win over Miami. "I don't like to shoot when I'm not making it," said Craighead, who scored 16 points, including all four of her three-point attempts. "I get a lot of confidence after I hit that first shot."



The Ducks are hoping they will get a shot of confidence after their first win of the season. And they'll need it, too, with three games in the next seven days, including a face-off with Texas Christian at the Papé Jam in Portland on Saturday and a bout with No. 9 Texas Tech next Monday at McArthur Court.

"I don't think it affects us," Williams said of the number of games early in the season. "It's good to play games rather than just practice every day."

The Ducks have had to rely on freshmen Andrea Bills and Amy

Farrish, who combined for 10 rebounds against Miami, for much-needed depth in the paint. The duo will again be called upon against Portland, which features six players six-feet or taller.

Miami head coach Maria Fantanarosa's team faced the Pilots before taking on the Ducks in Eugene. The Redhawks went back to Ohio 0-2.

"Portland used their post players a lot more," Fantanarosa said. "Portland is a team that makes a lot of adjustments. ... They were well prepared."

"Oregon is a quicker, more athletic team that likes to get up and down the court. They are going to cause some problems."

The Ducks also hold a 16-1 all-time series lead against the Pilots, including an 80-56 win at Mac Court last year.

Adam Jude is the sports editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at adamjude@dailymerald.com.

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## Ferreira

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with senior Monique Tobbagi, they've provided the heart and soul of this year's squad.

Martin may be Ferreira's biggest coup, having come to Oregon after being named the junior college player of the year after the 2000 season, but freshman Katie O'Neil is also an impressive feat for the second-year coach. She came to Oregon after being named the Oregon high school player of the year in 2000.

"(Ferreira) has done a good job of establishing a strong and consistent foundation for the program," Tobbagi said. "The recruits he's brought in are building a strong foundation as well, and I think it's the beginning of a successful Oregon."

"I think slowly but surely they'll climb up the chart in the Pac-10, and

I wouldn't be surprised if they get to the middle of the pack next season."

The 2001 season has been a tough one for all involved in the program. An 0-16 conference record and 9-19 overall record is nothing to look back on and be proud of. The team, however, has stayed positive in the face of adversity.

Closs, for one, had never seen a year like this, having come over from middle-of-the-road Fresno State, but she's liked what she's seen so far.

"(Ferreira) has a lot of heart and a drive for us to succeed," she said. "He's kept me in the game a lot. He's made me just want to demolish people. I've thoroughly enjoyed playing for him, and he's brought the fierce competitor out in me."

Next season, the Ducks will return two-thirds of the "big three" of Martin, Closs and Tobbagi. Tob-

bagi will graduate after becoming only the fifth Oregon player since 1986 to record more than 1,000 career kills. Along with Martin and Closs, Ferreira will have O'Neil and fellow freshman Lauren Westendorf a year older and a year more experienced, as well as two impressive recruits. Oregon high school star Jodi Bell will wear the Oregon uniform next season, as will Prairie High (Vancouver, Wash.) standout Kelly Russell.

"Every single thing we've done in the program we've had a bull's-eye squarely on what it takes (to be successful)," Ferreira said. "Whether it be personnel, offense, defense, development or coaching, it's all with your eye on the prize. And that prize is success in the Pac-10."

Hank Hager is a sports reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at hankhager@dailymerald.com

## Football

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### Oregon drops in the BCS

The Ducks fell to the fifth spot in the Bowl Championship Series rankings released Monday. Florida jumped Oregon into No. 4 after beating Florida State, and is behind No. 3 Oklahoma, No. 2 Miami and

No. 1 Nebraska.

A team must be ranked first or second in the final BCS standings on Dec. 9 to play for the national title in the Rose Bowl.

### Ducks hold team banquet

Because of the lateness of the Civil War, Oregon held its team banquet Sunday afternoon at the

Eugene Hilton. Quarterback Joey Harrington was honored as the team's MVP for the second straight year and offensive lineman Ryan Schmid was named the Most Inspirational Player.

Jeff Smith is the assistant sports editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at jeffsmith@dailymerald.com.

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