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TONIGHT!

5:30 p.m. in the Alsea Room of the EMU

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For more information on how to treelance for the Oregon Daily Emerald, call 346-5511.

Men's

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time to rest with only the one game on Saturday. But this week was different with Oregon celebrating the 75th anniversary of Mac Court in its 71-48 victory Tuesday over Willamette, a Division III school from Salem.

"I would have liked to have taken a couple of days off, but we wanted to play this game," Kent said. "I didn't think it was right to pass up on this opportunity to play Willamette."

And even though the Ducks weren't pleased with their effort against the Bearcats, they did appreciate the reason for the game and being in the presence of all the former players who are a part of the Oregon basketball family.

"It's good for the former Ducks to

see us play and see us carry on the tradition," point guard Luke Ridnour said. "Now we're excited to get back into the Pac-10."

Polls and "Bracketology"

For the first time since Feb. 13, 1995, the Pac-10 has five representatives in the Associated Press top-25 poll.

The No. 23 Ducks cracked the rankings for the first time this season after their sweep at home over the Bay Area schools.

UCLA leads the league at No. 9, Arizona is No. 15, USC is No. 18 and Stanford dropped to No. 19 after its loss in Eugene. The Bruins reached the top-10 after upsetting then-top-ranked Kansas, 87-77, on Saturday.

"UCLA's win over Kansas is a great win for our league," Arizona head coach Lute Olson said. "The Pac-10 is ranked right now one or two in the nation in terms of strength of conference. That helps. Maybe it will make a difference for selection of the NCAA Tournament."

Speaking of March Madness, ESPN.com is wasting no time in putting on its dancing shoes. Each week, Joe Lunardi is coming out with his "Bracketology," which projects the fields of teams in the Big Dance.

This week, he has six Pac-10 teams in the mix: UCLA, USC, Arizona, Stanford, California and Oregon.

The Ducks are a projected fifth seed and would play 12th seeded St. John's on March 15 at the United Center in Chicago.

In its weekly power rankings, CNNSI.com has Oregon listed at No. 14 this week, ahead of Arizona and Stanford.

E-mail assistant sports editor Jeff Smith at jeffsmith@dailyemerald.com.

Women's

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Over the last four years, the fan support for women's games at Mac Court has been the best in the Pac10. Oregon averaged a schoolrecord 5,852 fans per game in the 1999-00 season, 12th best in the nation. This year, an average of 4,373 spectators attend home games.

The support for women's basketball in Eugene has paid off in the standings. The Ducks won (or shared) the Pacific-10 Conference in 1999 and 2000. Since the 1976-77 season, the women's team has won more than 77 percent of its games — a 238-68 clip — at Mac Court, including four undefeated seasons under former head coach Elwin Heiny.

As a star forward for the Ducks from 1978-82, Smith lost just two games at Mac Court. "I've tried to put the other person's shoe on and I certainly would not that situation for us," Smith said. "We've gone into some hostile gyms, but nothing like it is here at Mac Court. Here, the people are special because they understand the game and they understand what our young athletes are trying to do.

"They know they can be that sixth person for us and make it difficult for the opposing team, and that's a real bonus."

The Ducks are 5-3 at home this season (10-7 overall).

From way downtown

Senior sharpshooter Jamie Craighead's 147 career three-pointers rank second on Oregon's all-time list. Craighead, the only returning starting from last year's NCAA Tournament team, is hitting 46 percent of her three-point attempts, third-best in the conference and

sixth-best in the nation.

Craighead's roommate, junior guard Shaquala Williams, is third on the school's career three-point list with 110. Williams is 20-for-77 from beyond the arc this season.

As a team, Oregon is shooting 32 percent (92-of-285) from long range this season.

By the numbers

The Ducks are shooting 44 percent from the field this season, second only to No. 4 Stanford, who is shooting nearly 48 percent.

Rebounding was the biggest question mark coming into the season, and the Ducks have responded, relatively, by nearly equaling their opponents in rebounding average. Oregon is averaging 35.8 boards per game, while its apponents grab 36.1.

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