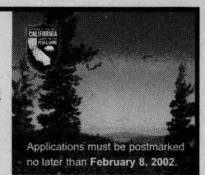
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Women's

continued from page 9

ing 92). Oregon State has attempted the same (making 94).

The Beavers commit 17.8 turnovers per game, the Ducks 17.9.

Oregon averages 15.24 assists per game (fourth in the Pac-10), Oregon State 15.65 (third).

Both teams are fourth in the conference with 63 blocks in 17 games (3.71 blocks per game).

Both teams have two players from the state of Washington.

OK, enough.

There is this one little difference yes, something that separates the two programs — one that seems to stick out ever-so-slightly: Oregon has not lost to Oregon State in six years, a span of 11 games. Even more, the Beavers have not won at Mac Court since 1993.

But none of that matters, right?

'Anytime you talk about the Civil War, you have to throw all those things out the window," Smith said.

Right. Throw it all out the window, but don't forget about Williams and Ragland — they alone will prove to be worth the price of admission.

Before bursting for 36 points against UC-Santa Barbara on Wednesday (a game the Beavers lost), Ragland was second in the Pac-10 with 19.9 points per game. Williams is fourth with 16.8 per game.

While the guard play will be the most exciting, it seems they will cross each other out.

"That's a great, marquee matchup," Smith said of Williams and Ragland. "(But) something that is going to be important for us is the inside game. When we play well on the inside - when we balance the scoring and keep the rebounding margin close - we've usually had a pretty good chance of being successful, even against Stanford.

Oregon State boasts experience in 6-foot-3 Ericka Cook, a three-year starter in the paint. Oregon's starting center, Alyssa Fredrick, is in her first year in the starting lineup, but will get help from sophomore Cathrine Kraayeveld and freshman Andrea Bills.

You could analyze and compare all day, but it wouldn't matter. Just throw it all out the invisible, rivalryclichéd "window."

E-mail sports editor Adam Jude at adamjude@dailyemerald.com.



continued from page 9

While the Beavers have an unimpressive record, many of their games have been close. Oregon State hung with Arizona in Corvallis, before falling short in the final minute, 76-73. The Beavers lost by 10 to Texas, six at Arizona, eight to California and five to Arizona State — twice.

"They've been involved in all their games, they just haven't been able to close out games," Kent said.

The Ducks have also had problems closing out wins, on the road at least. Oregon is 1-4 on the road this season, but 11-1 in games played in Oregon (including a victory over Louisville at the Papé Jam tournament in Portland). The Ducks' one road victory came over then-No. 14 Arizona. Their road losses came at Massachusetts (currently 6-8 overall), Portland (4-12), Minnesota (10-6) and Arizona State (10-5).

So how do the Ducks deal with their shortcomings on the road?

"We can't have letdowns," senior guard Freddie Jones said. "We've got to keep our intensity consistent through the Pac-10 season.'

With each passing weekend, the Pac-10 games become more important for the Oregon team. Depending on what happens in the rest of the weekend's conference games, the Ducks could be competing for a chance to lead the Pac" on Saturday.

'It seems like each game gets a little bit bigger for us and this one is no different," Kent said. "This is a big game for us on the schedule right now."

'If we can get this win, it will help a lot, with those California teams going at it," Oregon sophomore guard James Davis said.

The Ducks' early success in the Pac-10 has been almost unprecedented in recent years. If Oregon can beat Oregon State to go to 6-1 in conference play, it will be only the second time in 63 years that the Ducks have achieved a 6-1 conference ledger. The last time Oregon was 6-1 in conference play was two seasons ago, when the Ducks went to the NCAA Tournament.

But, really, anything can happen in a rivalry game.

The Beavers will "certainly come into the game with a lot of emotion, because it's a Pac-10 game, it's at their place, and it's a Civil War game," Kent said. "We fully expect that."

The Ducks will square off with the Beavers at 7:07 p.m. Saturday. The game will be broadcast with a one-hour delay in Eugene because of the NFL playoffs.

E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com



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Sports brief

Indoor track season begins

In their first appearances of the 2002 indoor season as full squads, the men's and women's track and field teams will travel north to the Husky Scoring Meet in Seattle on Saturday. The Ducks will match up against Oregon, Washington, Portland, Portland State and Western Oregon and the meet will be scored as head-to-head duals afterward.

Last weekend, the Duck women opened the 2002 indoor season by sending four pole vaulters to the Pole Vault Summit and were paced by junior transfer Becky Holliday, who cleared a mark of 13-5 1/4, which equaled the NCAA automatic standard of 4.10 meters (13-5 1/4) and tied the school record.

On the men's side at the same event in Reno last weekend, sophomore Trevor Woods cleared 17-4 1/2 to better the NCAA provisional standard by almost four inches.

From staff and wire reports