Sports brief

Club hockey hosts Washington

Looking to extend a nine-game home-winning streak, the Club Sports hockey team begins its final home stand of the season tonight against Washington at the Lane County Ice Arena.

Oregon (10-10 overall) is 9-1 at home this season, with its only loss coming against California in the season opener on Oct. 12.

The Huskies, however, come to Eugene with a 2-0 record against the Ducks this season and possession of the I-5 Cup. Each year the Ducks and Huskies battle for the cup during their regular season games. In November, Washington won both games 4-1 and 5-3 — to take the cup.

Seniors Andy Walder and Brett Ledder will play in their last home

games this weekend with an eye on the Pacific-8 Conference Championship tournament, to be played at Stanford beginning Feb. 16. The Ducks and Huskies face off tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Lane County Ice Arena. Admission is \$2 with a student ID card. Half of the proceeds with go to the philanthropy of the Greek house with the most members attending.

Last week, Oregon started off

well by pulling out its first road win of the season. Unfortunately, the rest of the weekend swung in favor of the Ducks' opponents.

Oregon traveled down to Stanford on Jan. 17 and faced off in the first of two games against the Cardinal. Nathan King pulled out two goals for the Ducks as they won 7-5, extending their winning streak to five games.

Last Friday at San Jose State,

ranked No. 6 in the west region, the Ducks were flattened in the first period. Oregon was able to control the rest of the game, bringing the score to within one goal twice, but the Spartans pulled out a win 7-6.

Returning to Stanford on Saturday, the Ducks and the Cardinal battled in a high scoring game. Despite more possession time and opportunities, Oregon lost 7-6.

— Mindi Rice for the Emerald

Men's

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first advantage since scoring the first points of

In the final three minutes, the Huskies took the lead and kept it for good after making 11 of their final 12 free throws to seal the five-point win.

"They were a better team than us tonight and that shouldn't happen," Kent said. "They hit some big clutch free throws in the end and that all goes back to the confidence they got in the beginning. We certainly didn't come out with guns a'blazin'."

True, while Oregon failed down the stretch, it was given a wake-up call in the opening minutes of the game when the Huskies came out with more energy, more focus and more desire than the Ducks.

The Ducks missed layups, including one wide-open one by Luke Jackson on a fast break. They had baskets called back because of offensive goaltending. And they basically just had a lot of shots clang off the rim as Oregon connected on just five of its first 15 shot attempts.

Washington capitalized and used a 16-5 run to take an early 27-16 lead that set the tone for the rest of the game.

Oregon eventually found its offensive rhythm and received some impressive performances.

Freddie Jones led the Ducks with 27 points in 39 minutes of floor time, while Luke Ridnour returned to his home state and tied his career-high with 23 points and seven assists with many family and friends among the 7,009 in attendance.

Jackson contributed 18 and Brian Helquist chipped in 10 as he filled in nicely for foulplagued Chris Christoffersen, who only played 13 minutes

So the offense was there. It was particularly the defense on Washington forward Doug Wrenn that was missing. Wrenn, a transfer from Connecticut, poured in a career-high 32 points that included emphatic two-handed dunks, fadeaway jumpers, clutch late game free throws, rebound putbacks and even a three-pointer.

"I don't want to take anything away from Washington because they played their best game of the year, but that team only averages 66 points a game and we gave up 97 points," Kent said. "That's not a very good defensive effort. The energy level they played at was so superior to our energy level.

Kent and the still-first place Ducks hope to change that at 3 p.m. Saturday when they take on last-place Washington State.

"We need to get a split on this trip," Kent said.

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Women's

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presence known from the perimeter.

Junior Shaquala Williams, who played six minutes in the first half due to foul trouble, made the Ducks' only three-pointers in the second half. However, Oregon was able to penetrate the USC defense, scoring 22 points in the paint.

"Once you get past that first initial defender, you've got a pretty good chance at the basket," Williams said.

The first half opened up well for the Ducks, as they pulled out to a 17-6 lead in the first eight minutes. Curry, who played sparingly in the first game of the season against USC, finished the half with 12 points, but more importantly, was strong on the defensive side of the ball.

Her three steals led to numerous layups for the Ducks, and helped them to a 39-28 lead at the half.

"Our team relies on energy," Williams said. "Eddy is the best energizer on this team. She is a presence out there."

USC, which outrebounded the Ducks by 18 in their first encounter, was not able to dominate the inside game, especially early on. While Oregon had a high level of energy in the in the first half, USC floundered and seemed flat from the start.

"We were not ready to play," USC head coach Chris Gobrecht said. "We were out of it in the first half. We let Oregon feel way too good about itself."

Down 70-62 with two minutes left in the game, Hoffman's versatility showed through as she hit a three-pointer from the corner and hushed the Mac Court crowd.

However, a layup by Curry and made free throws from senior Alyssa Fredrick and freshman Kedzie Gunderson pulled the Ducks ahead for good.

After two consecutive losses, the Ducks are beginning to gain confidence at a crucial point in the season.

"This is where we have to determine where our resolve is to be a good team," Smith said. "The expectations for us is that we bring the same hard work and effort (every game). It was 40 minutes of effort tonight.

The Ducks have a chance to improve to 7-4 in conference play when UCLA (5-13, 2-8) visits the Pit at 7 p.m. Saturday. Oregon slipped by the Bruins, 76-67, in their first encounter.

E-mail sports reporter Hank Hager at hankhager@dailvemerald.com.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 25). Love is the most equipment. If yours have stopped functioning powerful energy on Earth, and maybe anywhere. But you're a scientist, right? How can you be-lieve that old line? What about nuclear energy? This year, you'll learn. Love will get you.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 9 - The action is fast and furious, and you're at the head of the pack. Use all the resources at your disposal to stay ahead of the competition. Let your pit crew fix whatever breaks. Keep your eyes on the

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 5 - You may feel like hiding out. Take care of a few odds and ends, making sure everything's working properly. If you've put the right machinery in notion, the job will take care of itself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 9 - You're extremely curious. The more you learn, the more you realize you haven't seen yet. Make plans to explore the most fascinating place on earth. It doesn't have to cost a fortune. For you, that place could be the library or the Internet.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 - Mer cury is retrograde, in your eighth house of jointly held finances. This has been going on for weeks, and it continues through the end of the month. It signals confusion and breakdowns. It's not a good time to take out a loan. Pay something off

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - Support a brilliant idea. It has merit. Point out whatever might not work, just to be helpful. Check for mierrors. You'll find at least one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - Let the people in charge know what you need. You may not get a raise, but you could get new tools and properly, speak up

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct 22) - Today is a 10 - You're jet-propelled! You've got the support you need, so stretch beyond your old limits. Go for something magnificent. You're not the same person you used to be. Let go of an old anchor, and soar. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 5 perwork may seem to dominate your life. Make sure you understand every word before you sign anything. Put together a solid foundation that you can build upon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - You're breezing through the material. It's get-ting hard to remember why you thought it was so difficult. Other tests will come up as you use these skills, but nothing as tough as what you've been through. Next comes a planning phase

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 You're forced to become efficient. You don't have a moment to waste. If you had time to think about it, you'd notice that you re developing good habits. You're providing excellent service and implementing new ideas quickly. You're

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 10 You should write poetry. Even if you're awkward at first, the words you find will be beautiful. Stop trying to be "just friends" with everyone. Let someone special get close. Abandon your de-

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - You're still keeping to yourself. There's a lot of activity going on, but most of it is inside your head. You may start to stir things up, most likely at home. You're in the midst of a creative experi-

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