

Hockey stares down challenges, top foes

The Oregon club hockey team will face Washington State this weekend on the Ducks' ice

Club hockey

Jon Roetman
Freelance Sports Reporter

Think back to all the weekend warrior battles you've had with your buddies.

Do you remember any of the complications that came along with setting up the games? There was that one guy who couldn't play because of an injury. Another couldn't go because of work that came up, and another didn't show because he couldn't get a ride.

These are the same problems that have hampered the Oregon Club Ice Hockey team.

The Ducks are off to a 5-8 (4-2 Pacific-8 Conference) start, battling injuries and illness that include the loss of starting goalie Joe Fagliano, who missed the season's first six games while suffering from mononucleosis. Starting forward Doug Washburn has yet to play because of a knee injury.

"We've been plagued this year (with injuries)," said fourth-year Oregon head coach Garreth Mac-

Donald. "Absolutely plagued." Since hockey is a club sport, MacDonald is also faced with problems — such as players having too much homework or not being able to afford travel expenses — when it comes to who he has available to put on the ice.

"My team has morphed throughout (the season)," MacDonald said. "I almost don't know who's playing before the game starts."

The Ducks play in the Pac-8 conference, which is the Pac-10 minus Oregon State and Arizona. The Pac-8 plays on the Division II level of the American Collegiate Hockey Association, which is equivalent to Division III NCAA hockey. The ACHA is separated into the Northeast, Southeast, Central and West divisions, with the top four teams from each division going to the national tournament at the end of the season.

The season got off to a rough start for the Ducks, as they dropped their first four contests by a combined score of 39-12. The first two losses were to Washington on Oct. 18 and 19. The Huskies, who as of Nov. 11, ranked No. 7 in the West, won 7-4 and 11-6. In losses three and four, the Ducks were forced to use third-string goalie Ben Greenberg against No. 8 San Jose State Oct. 25 and 26, falling 13-1 and 8-1.

The Ducks turned things around a week later, as they returned home and started a four-game Pac-8 winning streak, crushing Stanford 10-2 and 10-1. Los Angeles was the site of the Ducks' next two wins, edging UCLA 6-4 and 3-2.

The Ducks looked to extend their winning streak the following weekend, returning home to face No. 9 Western Washington. The Ducks held a 5-1 lead in the first of two contests, but could not extend the winning streak as the Vikings came back to win 7-5. The Ducks quickly bounced back from the letdown, defeating the Vikings 3-2 the next evening.

Just when the Ducks got back to .500, they faced a brutal three-game road trip to Utah Nov. 21 through 23, where they fell to No. 2 Weber State 9-1, No. 5 Utah State 16-2 and No. 3 Utah 11-3. MacDonald linked the lopsided scores to the Ducks' lack of depth. Despite this, he said the Ducks played very well for stretches against Weber State and Utah.

The Ducks play their final two games before winter break this weekend against Washington State. The Cougars are ranked No. 10 in the West and are looking to avenge last year's losses to the Ducks, who won 7-2 and 9-3 behind the play of center Michael Tornabene and for-

wards Nathan Vogel and Washburn. Despite the 5-8 start, MacDonald is confident the Ducks will turn things around after winter break, with the return of several key players from injuries and illness and the addition of two new players, Jeff Knebel and Dave Martin. Knebel is transferring from Lane Community College, while Martin has played junior hockey.

"I expect us to go undefeated starting in January," MacDonald said. "That includes (Southern California), which has spanked some teams."

The Ducks have yet to defeat the Trojans, who are ranked No. 6 in the West, since the creation of the Pac-8 in 1995.

Another reason for MacDonald's positive outlook is the Ducks' blend of power and speed, exemplified in 6-foot-1-inch, 270-pound defenseman Kyle Detweiler and 5-foot-8-inch, 137-pound forward Scott Tedrick.

Detweiler is the Duck's biggest player and is said to be quite the force.

"He has the most unbelievable slap shot," MacDonald said. "It's a laser, it's a cannon, it's a rocket. If he can get all 270 (pounds) behind his slap shot, you won't want to be in front of it."

Tedrick describes his style of play as "balls to the wall hockey." He is the Ducks' smallest player, but don't be

confused, his lightning-quick speed also makes him quite the force.

"He's an exceptionally good penalty killer," MacDonald said. "It's almost like there's two of him on the ice."

Tedrick said he feels the Ducks have a strong chance of turning things around after winter break.

"It's a definite possibility," said Tedrick of the idea of finishing undefeated. "Everyone's getting kind of healthy and we have some new guys coming in."

The Ducks also sport some local talent in forward Cory Howard and center Josh Friedman. Howard, who claims to be "the first born and raised player from Eugene to play NCAA hockey," attended Marist High School and has played hockey for 15 years, progressing through the Lane Amateur Hockey Association program and Junior B and Junior A levels. Friedman is a 2002 graduate of South Eugene High School who has five years of ice hockey experience.

Both of this weekend's games against Washington State will be played at the Lane County Fairgrounds with times to be announced. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students.

Jon Roetman is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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205 HELP WANTED

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CH 222	5:00 MW	MATH 095	4:00 MW
PHYS 202	5:15 MW	MATH 111	3:00 MW
FR 102	4:00 MW	MATH 111	5:00 MW
FR 202	4:00 UH	MATH 111	5:00 UH
SPAN 102	4:00 MW	MATH 112	5:00 MW
SPAN 102	5:00 UH	MATH 112	4:00 MW
SPAN 202	5:00 MW	MATH 241	5:00 UH
		MATH 241	4:00 MW
		MATH 242	5:00 UH
		MATH 251	3:00 MW
		MATH 252	5:00 UH
		MATH 253	4:00 MW

To participate in these groups, register and pay fees at ALS, 68 PLC. All groups meet 2 hours per week. If you need assistance in courses other than those listed, registry printouts are available that list qualified tutors. There is no charge for this printout.

For more information contact, ALS: 68 PLC, or call 346-3226.

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Academic Learning Services

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Fee: \$125

Workshop includes materials, instruction and access to CBT practice exams