



Jose Carlos Fajardo Contra Costa Times

Senior guard Shantay Legans, formerly of Cal, led the Golden Bears to a 107-103 double-overtime victory last time he met the Ducks on Feb. 9, 2002. He now plays for Fresno State and will face off against Oregon tonight.

FRESNO

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from South Plains College, started 20 or more games for Fresno State last season.

The Bulldogs lost three others — Damon Jackson, Noel Felix and Travis DeManby — from a team that averaged 37.8 rebounds per game and held opponents to less than 67 points per contest.

"Fresno State will be a very athletic basketball team," Kent said. "This is a good test for us because of some of the similarities. They play a lot of one-on-one basketball, they have a

pretty good system and are pretty well coached. They really pound the glass.

"Blocking out becomes a huge factor. One-on-one defense becomes a huge factor."

In the past ...

Oregon and Fresno State have played eight times, with the Ducks winning six games.

The teams last played in 1996 with Oregon getting the win, 87-75. The Bulldogs last defeated the Ducks, 83-82, a year before.

Fresno State has never won at McArthur Court, and the Ducks have never won in Fresno.

Not the toughest schedule

Fresno State plays just two other teams this season other than Oregon that received votes in either the pre-season Associated Press Poll or ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll.

Nevada, a WAC school, received three votes in the latter poll, while Creighton, which plays in the Missouri Valley Conference, received four points in the AP Poll.

The Ducks received 33 points in the AP Poll and 70 in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

ROETMAN

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Kirkland, Wash., has also been a force on the boards and defensively, averaging 10 rebounds a game and challenging almost every shot near the basket.

Junior Andrea Bills may not have the outside game of Kraayeveld, but the 6-foot-3-inch center doesn't need it. Bills averaged 16.5 points per game during Oregon's two exhibition games, but saved her best performance of the young season for Sunday's battle with LSU. Bills, who hails from Moreno Valley, Calif., found ways to get open under the basket and punished Lady Tiger post players to the tune of 21 points on nine of 11 shooting.

More importantly, Bills' scoring total was the timeliness of her baskets. Every time the Lady Tigers started cutting into the Oregon lead, Bills would find a way to score down low. Her biggest basket of the night came with 3:45 remaining, after LSU had trimmed Oregon's lead — which was

once 21 — to nine. Bills made herself available under the basket, and, after receiving a pass from point guard Corrie Mizusawa, finished the play with a layup and was fouled. Bills converted the three-point play, giving the Ducks a 66-54 lead which wouldn't be threatened the rest of the way.

Forward Carolyn Ganes didn't produce big offensive numbers over the weekend, but she did grab seven rebounds. The 6-foot-3-inch sophomore showed her offensive capabilities in the Ducks' exhibition finale against Western Oregon, finishing with 22 points on 11 of 14 shooting. The Saskatoon, Saskatchewan native has the size and strength to bully defenders down low, but can take her game outside as well, possessing the soft touch of a jump shooter. She also finished eighth in the Pacific-10 Conference in free throw accuracy at 79 percent last season. Ganes tied for the team lead in scoring during her freshman campaign at 10.9 points per game, while being voted the team's Most Valuable Newcomer.

Freshman forward Jessica Shetters

should be getting her first chance to contribute soon. The 6-foot-6-inch Portland native has missed every game with what head coach Bev Smith described as a stress reaction above Shetters' ankle. Shetters showed the capability to contribute in all aspects at Oregon's intra-squad scrimmage on Oct. 29. Offensively, Shetters routinely knocked down jumpers in the 18-foot range and was able to score inside as well. Defensively, she swatted away several inside shots against players who weren't used to her long wingspan.

As the season continues, Oregon's post players will only get better. Once Shetters returns to the floor, the Ducks will have four players standing at least 6 feet 3 inches tall who can each score, rebound and play defense.

This should be a promising season for Oregon basketball.

Contact the sports reporter at jonroetman@dailyemerald.com.

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