

Ducks may lose Willett

The University of Oregon basketball team will likely be without 6-foot-8 sophomore center Gerald Willett when the Ducks take on rival Oregon State in Portland Friday night, and it is possible Oregon will lose the services of the former Churchill star for the remainder of the season.

Willett injured his right wrist in a fall during the second half of Oregon's 80-60 loss to the Beavers last weekend and he originally thought it to be sprained.

But X-rays Monday morning showed some signs of a fracture. Willett's wrist is currently in a cast and doctors say it will be impossible to tell if there is a fracture for sure until the cast comes off in 10 days.

DOCTORS DID SAY that the wrist is immobilized enough that Willett could resume playing tomorrow, but Oregon officials question whether he will be allowed to play wearing a cast. They are also checking in the possibility of a lightweight plastic cast which could gain approval and allow Willett to rejoin the team.

Willett was averaging 10 points

and over eight rebounds per game for the Ducks. He has been a major factor in Oregon's surprising 10-6 record to date, but if he is lost for the year it would seriously hinder the Ducks' bid to register a winning season.

THAT BITTER NEWS was learned after Oregon Coach Dick Harter had already announced that lineup changes might be forthcoming after the Ducks' collapse (60-80) at the hands of Oregon State last weekend.

"We're going to have to consider making some changes in the starting lineup," Harter said after the game.

One possibility to crack the lineup is 6-4 junior Billy Ingram, who has been playing more of late after having suffered an ankle injury early in the season that curtailed his game action.

Or, with the availability of Barwig, a 6-4 swingman, Harter has the option of moving the freshman to forward and using another guard to team with freshman Ron Little.

Oregon State coach Ralph Miller, meanwhile, has to think about starting guard Cliff Jones — a reserve all season — again Friday after his fine offensive performance in the win Saturday. Jones started ahead of Paul Miller and responded with 20 points on 10 of 13 field goal tries.

Despite the fact that the Beavers had an 18-point halftime lead and expanded it to 25 in the second half, Miller is still wary of Oregon's potential.

"I FELT they could win this ball game, and they'll be back Friday, 'cause they're a tough bunch," he cautioned.

"We played what I would call our normal game," he said of the speed of the contest. "I was very pleased with the intensesness of our players. One thing about Oregon, they don't give up the ship."

The Beavers are 11-5 overall and 3-2 in the Pacific-8 while the Ducks are 10-6 and 2-3. Following the Friday game, the two teams return to conference action Feb. 9-10, hosting Stanford and California.



They wowed 'em at the Indoor

From Al Feuerbach to Steve Prefontaine to the women who competed in Saturday night's Oregon Indoor Invitational track and field meet, the performers put on a good show for the 9,756 who turned out at Memorial Coliseum. Above, Francie Larrieu (97), winner of women's mile, stayed in second on heels of Debbie Heald (35). Top left, Craig Gibson of University of Washington hits the tape in 1,000-yard run ahead of Oregon's Steve

Bence (113). At left, Olympic gold medalist Randy Williams long jumps, an event he captured with a leap of 24-8½. Bottom left, Prefontaine — the eternal clock-watcher — checks time near finish of two-mile and saw an American record of 8:24.6. And below, colorful Al Feuerbach exults after his victory. He later was named the outstanding competitor in the meet.

(AP Wirephoto)

