

77-72 win UO's biggest this season

'It's fun again' as Ducks snap USC streak

By BOB WELCH
Of the Emerald

There at midcourt, a striking contrast to the wild Oregon fans going crazy around him, stood Southern Cal's Steve Malovic signaling timeout.

For once, time had run out on somebody other than the Ducks. And Oregon, which in the last two seasons has lost seven games by two points or less, had snapped the Trojans' 10-game win streak, 77-72, a streak that went back to the days of Steve Belko, Stan Love and home games with empty seats.

"It's fun again," said guard Mike Drummond, who, like everyone, was wild after the Ducks' first big win of the season. "When you're losing all the time, it's tough to play. But we're going to beat some people now."

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Somehow, with Oregon leading 69-68 with 4:10 remaining, you had the feeling that history would repeat; the Ducks would wind the clock down to 13 seconds, whereupon Stu Jackson would look at a Trojan the wrong way and Lou Soriano would call a flagrant foul. The guy would sink both shots, Lee's 60-footer at the buzzer would roll around the hoop until midnight but slip out and Oregon would be right back where it started from.

Greg Ballard, Lee and freshman Danny Mack had other ideas, however. Ballard rammed in a rebound basket after a gutty triple-effort; Mack coolly hit a pair of free throws; after SC's Casey Jones canned a 21-foot jumper, Lee drove the left side of the lane and outmaneuvered 6-8 Bob Trowbridge for a lay-in and Mack hit a lay-in to make it smiles.

From then on, it was SC's frustration vs Oregon's smiles.

"Our confidence is back," said Ballard, "And we're back in the race."

In a game that saw the Trojans lead only once, Oregon: •Outrebounded USC 35-22, obviously the most impressive of the Ducks' statistics.

•Hit a sizzling .850 from the free throw line and a creditable .517 from the field.

•Kept their poise in the final minutes of the game with an effective stall.

"The difference in the two teams," said USC Coach Bob Boyd, "Was that the Ducks got good board play. They had an awful lot of second and third efforts."

"We knew we had to command the boards to win," said Ballard, who had a game-leading 12 rebounds. "It was that simple."

While the Ducks had their cold periods, they made the points when the points counted most. "We played perfect basketball the final four minutes of this game and the UCLA game," said Oregon Coach Harter. "This time they went in."

In that time span Mack hit two pressure-packed free throws, scored a lay-in, pulled down two key rebounds and twice forced Safford to take off-balanced shots.

"He played an excellent game," said Harter. "I don't think you can play much better than he did in those last four or five minutes."



Mike Drummond stalled SC's dangerous Marv Safford for a while

Photo by John Johns

A lot of freshmen might have folded under the pressure he was facing toward the end of the game. Not Mack. "I tried not to think about my nerves," he said. "Otherwise, I would have started making mistakes."

Mack, of course, wasn't the Ducks' only standout. Lee had 17 points, three assists and four steals; Jackson had 16 points, six rebounds and a fabulous check that resulted in a questionable foul; Ballard had 22 points and was nothing less than awesome on the board.

Then there was Drummond. SC's Safford had 12 of his game-high 30 points when Harter sent in the 5-8 spark-plug with 7:52 left in the half and the score tied.

Safford didn't get a field goal the rest of the half and meanwhile, the Ducks were building their biggest lead—nine points.

"Coaches Steward (Dick) and Harter told me to get in there and stop Safford, even if it meant biting his head off," said Drummond. "I felt confident. It was a fun challenge."

"Back when the papers reported we were having internal conflicts, we asked to be judged by our next three games. I'd say most people would judge us as having played pretty good."



Shelton shines in upset

Beavers thump Bruins as Northern teams dominate

Oregon State battered third-ranked UCLA 75-58 Saturday and the four Oregon-Washington teams are suddenly

like Top-Ten material and the Bruins looked like something from the East Gym, highlighted a surprising weekend—and puts our neighbors to the north in a three-way tie for first with Washington and—holy smoke!—Washington State.

Pacific-8

Standings

	W	L	Pct.	GB	Overall
Oregon State	2	0	1.000	—	9-4
Washington	2	0	1.000	—	13-0
Washington State	2	0	1.000	—	9-2
Oregon	1	1	.500	1	8-7
UCLA	1	1	.500	1	11-2
California	0	2	.000	2	6-5
Stanford	0	2	.000	2	4-8
Southern California	0	2	.000	2	11-3

dominating what could be the wildest Pac-8 race in years.

The Beavers' win, in which they looked

Northern teams won seven of eight Pac-8 contests this weekend.

The fifth-ranked Huskies breezed by California Friday night and tore away from Stanford in the second half Saturday to post an 87-81 victory. It might have been a costly victory for Washington, however, as guard Chester Dorsey was carried from the floor with an apparent knee injury.

Washington State, meanwhile, surprised everyone by topping Stanford Friday night and Cal 74-69 Saturday night.

UCLA, 1-1, is the only California team with a win after the weekend, a 69-68 edging of the Ducks Thursday night.



Jan. 12

Men's gymnastics, Northern Illinois and Indiana at Chicago

Jan. 13

Women's basketball, Oregon State at Corvallis, 8:30 p.m.

Jan. 14

Men's gymnastics, Louisiana State, McArthur Court

Jan. 15

Men's basketball, Washington, at Seattle, 8 p.m.
Wrestling, Stanford, at McArthur Court, 7:30 p.m.
Women's basketball, Lane Community College (JV), at LCC, 6 p.m.

Jan. 16

Wrestling, California at McArthur Court, 7:30 p.m.
Men's swimming, Pacific Lutheran, at Leighton Pool
Women's basketball, Southern Oregon State College, Gerlinger Annex, 8 p.m.
Women's swimming, Portland State and Oregon State, at Portland, 7 p.m.

Jan. 17

Men's basketball, Washington State, at Pullman, 3 p.m. (live television)
Men's gymnastics, Brigham Young, at McArthur Court
Men's wrestling, Washington, at Seattle
Men's and women's swimming, Washington, at Leighton Pool
Women's gymnastics, Portland State, Oregon State, Linn-Benton CC, at Gerlinger Annex, 1 p.m.