

Lee: 'We had this feeling...'

The poise belonged to Oregon

By MIKE YORKEY
For the Emerald

LOS ANGELES—Oregon's 65-45 drawing and quartering of the fifth-ranked UCLA Bruins was so well conceived, so well timed and so irresistible that Duck fans will be savoring this victory for many a season.

Delicious! That is, if you wear green and yellow. Remember, UCLA hadn't lost a game at Pauley Pavilion since the spring of 1970, the year Danny Mack was in the seventh grade.

Oregon executed a near flawless game plan consisting of a liberal helping of Duck defense and a weave offense that UCLA found hard to swallow—let alone defend.

With 3:59 to go in the first half, Oregon had held the proud Bruins to just eight points, leading 28-8. The game was seven minutes old before UCLA scored its second field goal, and six more minutes of Duck defense elapsed before the Bruins netted another hoop.

At the half, with Oregon leading 30-14, those 14 points of UCLA's were the lowest amount scored by the Bruins in Pauley Pavilion—ever.

At the game's outset, UCLA's shots went in and back out, and Oregon's rebounding triangle roped off the tip-in lanes. The Bruins became more and more frustrated.

Suddenly, the Bruin offense went out of synch and the guards began casting air balls. Richard Washington and Marques Johnson found those rebounding lanes inhabited by Greg Ballard and Danny Mack. The UCLA offense was plainly intimidated. For the record, UCLA shot 32 per cent, up from a low 22 per cent in the first half.

"Coach told us we had a better chance to beat UCLA than any other team in the country," said a jubilant Greg Ballard, who led the Ducks with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

In between choruses of "hey-hey-hey," Ballard said: "We came here to win, not just to play Pauley."

Ronnie Lee, who patiently kept the weave intact and scored 13 points, added: "We all had the feeling. We were really psyched up to play. But at the same time we were loose. But me, I was too hyper. Coach took me out for 30 seconds (midway through the first half) to try and cool me down."

The Ducks played loose against a club that may not have taken them seriously—until it was too late.

Saturday night's game was the home finale for UCLA, a game which UCLA publicist Vic Kelley termed "number 99?" in his pre-game fact sheet.

In the pre-game warm-up—before Oregon ran out of the locker room—the UCLA players began playing up to the student section at courtside and executing trick lay-ups. Each time Andre McCarter wrapped the ball between his legs and reversed a lay-in over his shoulder, or Richard Washington sky-hooked a stuff shot, the student section let out an appreciative roar.

Who could blame the Bruins for being a bit overconfident? For the weekend series, UCLA had keyed on Oregon State—a revenge-motivated win over the Beavers that all but eliminated the rest of the Pac-8 from title thoughts.

"Obviously, they (UCLA) had an off night," said a smiling Dick Harter. "It can happen to any team. But you can't go out and think you're going to win just because you showed up. I think we deserved it. I've gotten more out of this nine-game win streak than the 28-game one at Penn. We came back from the dead."

Oregon's only potential problem was letting UCLA mount a rally. "Our big problem at half was to keep attacking positively and not play passively," said Harter.

Indeed, the Ducks kept their poise throughout, slowing the ball on offense when the situation called for it and starting anew until a Bruin breakdown led to a foul or an easy Duck lay-in.

Harter's counterpart, Gene Bartow, sat with UCLA athletic director J.D. Morgan on the training table an hour after the game. All the press and players had departed and all but a few acquaintances remained.

Someone asked about the "goofing off" during the warm-ups.

"It was their last game at home and they were trying to put on a show, I guess," said Bartow. He paused to read the stat sheet. "Amazing statistics," he said softly to nobody in particular.

"Yeah," said Morgan, "Look at those fouls," pointing to the statistic which said UCLA had committed 31 fouls to Oregon's 17. "When Oregon committed the first four fouls of the game, I thought, 'Well, they're off and running.'"

But little did J.D. Morgan know that Oregon was off and running with the points, not the fouls.

OREGON (65)—Ballard 16, Barwig 12, Lee 13, Jackson 10, Gary Nelson 10, Mack 2, Geoff Nelson, Drummond, Moreck, Hartshorne, Graham 2, Coldren 2.
UCLA (45)—Johnson 10, Washington 9, Greenwood, Townsend 10, McCarter 2, Spillane 3, Drollinger, Smith 8, Holland, Vroman, Hamilton 1, Olinde 2.
Oregon 30 35 —65
UCLA 14 31 —45
Total fouls—Oregon 17, UCLA 31.
Fouled out—UCLA, Smith.
Officials—Jack Johnson and Frank Buckiewicz.
Att.—12,751.

Ducks

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For the average fan, the victory was just as sweet. Townspeople were mixed with college students in a jumble of color that one person described from the air as a "lemon and green layer cake."

Marilyn Hunter was born and raised in Eugene and, for her, this victory is a culmination of a dream.

"I've waited 37 years to beat

UCLA down there," she said as she stood crushed in the crowd with her husband and son. "We're native Oregonians, and we've been with them through thick and thin. We did it the right way—right from the start of the game."

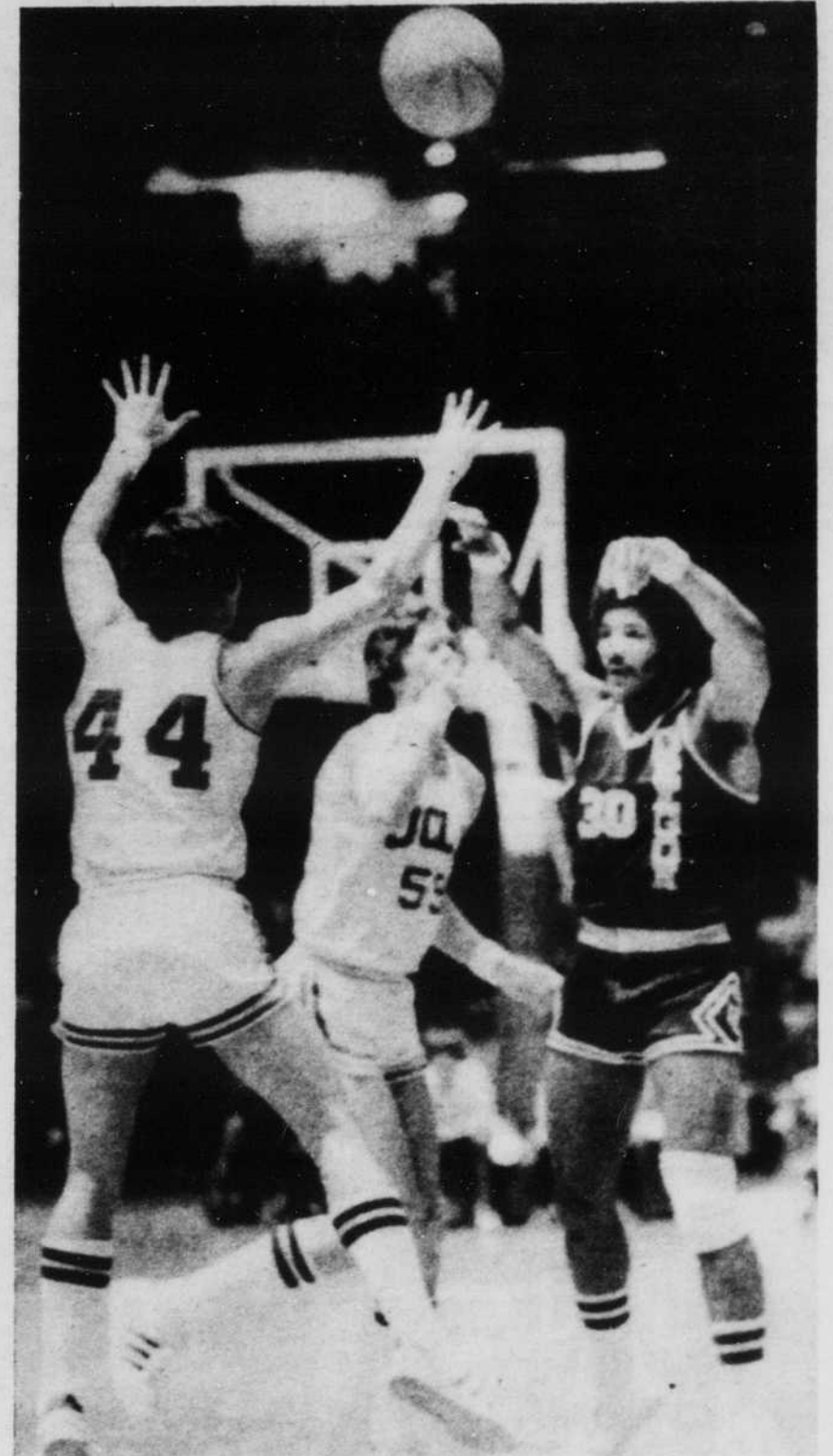
Oregon has but four days to bask in the glow of one of its greatest wins. Thursday night,

Washington will be in Mac Court with a mission of its own—stopping the Ducks' nine-game winning streak. The Huskies, too, are fighting for an NCAA playoff berth, and suddenly Oregon is a boulder in that road to success.

But right now, they've the happiest rock in the Pacific-8.

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This time, it was Oregon playing keep away

Trivia on a triumph . . .

Oregon's stunning 65-45 Pacific-8 basketball win over UCLA Saturday was impressive, to say the least. Put into different perspectives, it looks all the more so.

Consider, for example, that the same team that beat the Bruins at Pauley Pavilion by 20 was the same team that lost to a service all-star team by six.

The same Duck team that is now 17-9 was once 8-9.

At any rate, here's some trivia on Oregon and Saturday night's game. It was:

- Oregon's ninth straight win and seventh straight in Pac-8 play.
- Oregon's seventh win over UCLA in the 32 times the clubs have met.
- UCLA's third loss in Pauley in 169 games.
- UCLA's worst loss on its home floor since Cal beat the Bruins 49-25 in 1946.
- UCLA's first loss at Pauley since USC beat the Bruins 87-86 in 1970.
- UCLA's second worst defeat—home or away—since Colorado beat the Bruins 82-60 in 1963.
- UCLA's second lowest point total at Pauley, the lowest being the 44 points the Bruins scored in losing 46-44 to Southern Cal in 1969.
- Oregon's biggest win over UCLA since they beat the Bruins 47-26 in 1938, the second year the clubs met.
- Oregon's biggest Pac-8 win since the Ducks beat Washington 101-76 in 1971.
- Oregon's biggest Pac-8 win on the road since the Ducks beat Washington State 95-68 in 1971.

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