

sports

Ducks topple Cal, Stanford in opening Pac-8 weekend

By MIKE GRADY
Of the Emerald

The Oregon basketball squad continued its Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde brand of basketball over the weekend, but managed to give the good Doctor a little more playing time than the other fellow to squeeze out two wins in their opening round of Pac-8 play.

By coming from behind in the second half of both games against California and Stanford, the Ducks now find themselves owning a share of first place in the conference. The big question being pushed around after the second victory of the weekend though was whether they could keep the string going while playing the up-and-down basketball they showed on Friday and Saturday nights.

"It was two different games," said Oregon head coach Dick Harter of the 74-64 win over Stanford on Saturday night. "The first half we just weren't in the ballgame. In the second half we competed. Statistics, rebounding, all those things occurred in the second half."

Much of the same had been stated by Harter just 24 hours previously, following 49-47 defeat of Cal. After spotting the Bears four points at halftime by standing

Bliss takes title in weekend meet

Oregon, behind outstanding wrestler Scott Bliss, continued to surprise folks by taking second in the Colorado Invitational tournament.

Bliss, who won all three of his matches in the 150-pound class, was named the outstanding wrestler in the third annual affair. He defeated Dale Eggert of Southern Illinois by a whopping 24-8 decision for the championship.

Missouri won the tournament by an easy margin over the Ducks, totaling 87.75 points to Oregon's 76.25. Colorado took third with a 54.25 total, while Nebraska, Southern Illinois and the Air Force Academy rounded out the field.

Randy Besaw was the only other Duck to win individual title, winning the finals of the 177-pound class with a forfeit over Darshan Karki of Missouri.

Barry Besaw and Don Hollembeck both finished second for Oregon, Boyles' losing a 6-0 decision to Missouri's Mike Pollock while Hollembeck dropped a 6-3 nod to the Tiger's Harv Ritchie.

The Ducks now return home for two straight matches Tuesday and Wednesday against Clarion State and Fresno State.

around and letting referee Richard Ballesteros show more motion than their own offense, the Ducks came out fired up and played 20 minutes of hard, aggressive basketball to beat a team that many had chosen to give UCLA a rough time this year.

"We really did have bad first halves on both nights," said Oregon captain Mike Drummond after the Stanford game. "What I think it might have been is that the first game we came out really

have to," Closs said. "We've got to stop that and start getting consistent."

"Before the weekend, people were skeptical about us," continued the 6-2 lefthander. "I really don't know exactly how to describe it but the Pac-8 is an entirely different atmosphere up there; the crowd is a Pac-8 crowd. It's not that we play any harder or anything like that. We just do what we've gotta do."

And what they've gotta do now is prepare for something that not too many teams in the conference look forward to: The trip to Los Angeles to face UCLA and USC on back-to-back nights. While in recent years the game against Southern Cal has proved to be somewhat of an anti-climactic evening for teams who keep the Bruins in the back of their minds over the weekend, this year appears to be a little different.

After trouncing both Washington State and Washington on their home courts, the Trojans also share a piece of the lead in the Pac-8 and are looking to make any team that takes them lightly pay for it.

For the Ducks though, the key to this part of their season appears to be how well they can concentrate on how they play, not on the other team. If the Kamikaze Kids of the second half of Jan. 6 and 7 can somehow lose those traits that hindered them in the first halves of those nights, then possibly this can be the year that UCLA finds themselves someplace other than first place at the end of the Pac-8.

"I hope so," responded Drummond when asked if he thought the Ducks were out of one of their alleys and on the way up to the top. "Now we go on the road and we won't have the crowd to help pick

Pacific-8

Oregon	20 1,000
Oregon State	20 1,000
Southern Cal	20 1,000
UCLA	20 1,000
Washington State	20 1,000
California	02 000 2
Stanford	02 000 2
Washington	02 000 2

Saturday's Scores

Oregon 74, Stanford 64
Southern Cal 81, Washington 73
Oregon State 57, California 55 (2 OT)

Sunday's Scores

UCLA 70, Washington St. 55

psyched and it might have hurt us. The second night I think we were kind of emotionally drained.

"We're in a good position now," added Drummond, the lone Kamikaze senior. "We're gonna have to stick together and keep playing hard. We've got to be ready every night out because the team that is ready every night is the one that is going to win the league."

Junior guard Rob Closs, resting belly down on a training table after the Stanford game with one ice-pack wrapped to his left elbow and another resting on his...uh...lower back, echoed the sentiments of his backcourt partner.

"We're not playing the full 40 minutes of basketball that we

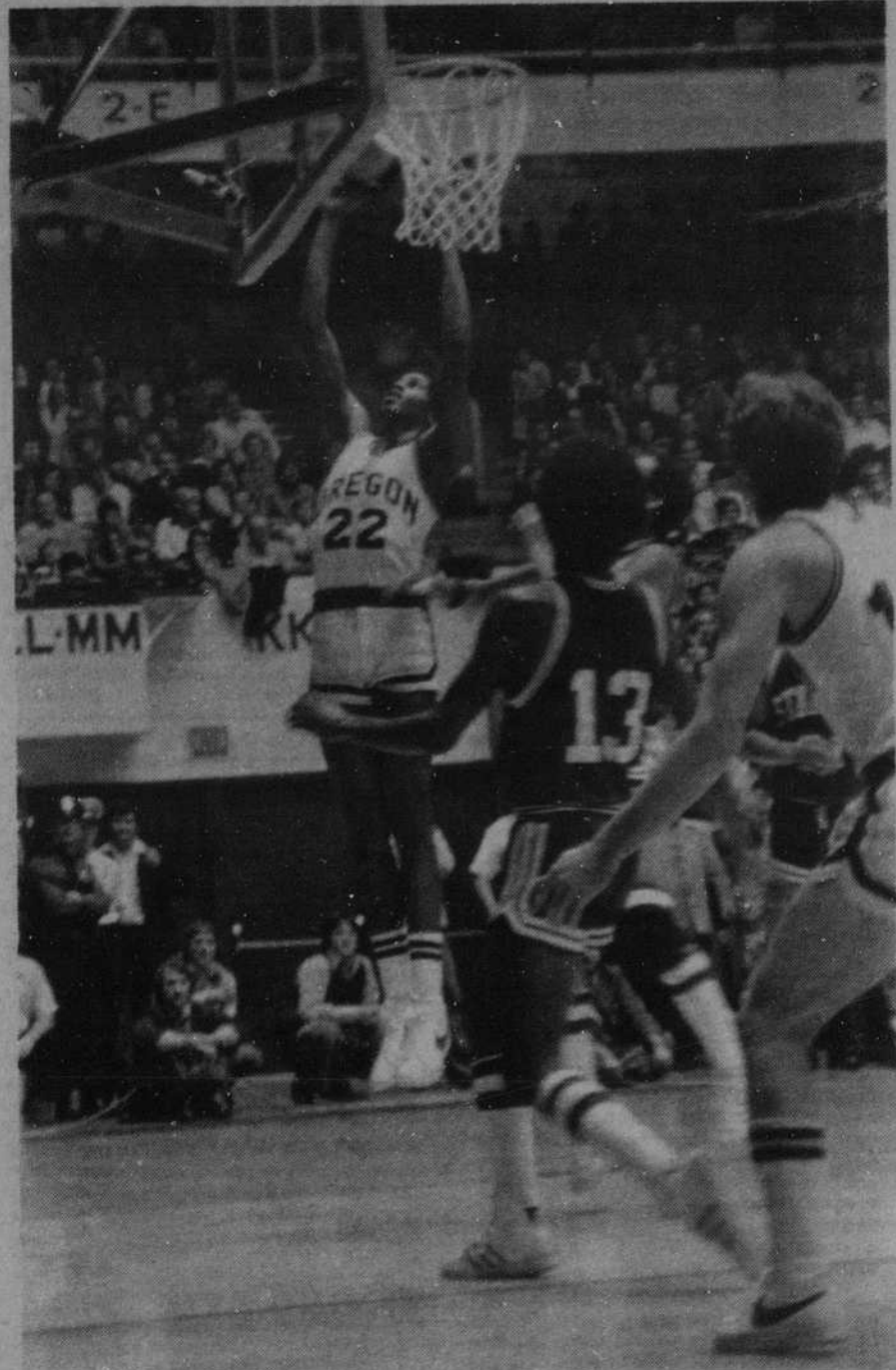


Photo by Steve Schneider

Phil Barner (22) goes up behind Stanford's Daryl Morgan in the Ducks 74-64 win Saturday night. Barner, who finished the night with 15 points and seven rebounds, had five key points during the opening minutes of the second half and saw the Ducks take the lead for good. Oregon faces UCLA and USC next weekend in Los Angeles.

us up when we need it. We're gonna have to do it on our own."

California (47) — Gillespie, Caselli 2, Davis, Ransom 7, Singleton 6, Vilotti 7, Griffith 4, True 13, Mitchell, Schneiderjohn 6, Vial 2.

Oregon (49) — Drummond 10, Lyon, Barner 2,

Murray 2, Sealey 2, Moreck, Clark 4, Closs 4, Small 15, Hartshome 10.

Stanford (64) — Morgan 2, Perry 11, Schader 12, Giovacchini 2, Pitchford 1, Carter, Belton 18, Schmatzried 4, Ryan 10, McHugh 4.

Oregon (74) — Drummond 2, Lyon 2, Barner 15, Murray 6, Mack 2, Sealey 4, Moreck 2, Clark 6, Closs 14, Small 5, Hartshome 16.

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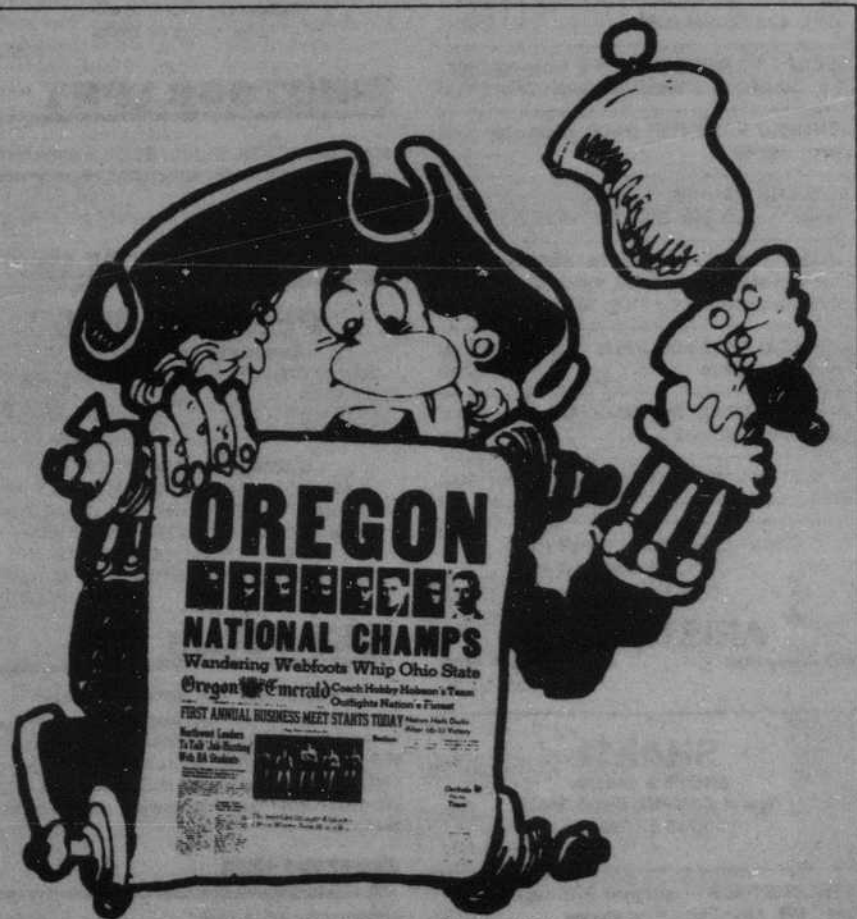
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