

Commentary

Proof that the bad will turn good again

Mike Marino

The conclusions you can draw from Thursday night's Washington State game are rather obvious. With the 57-53 loss, the Ducks have now fallen six straight times in the Pac-8, and some people are grumbling.

But some how, some way, things then to work themselves out. Take the Cougars for example. Last night proved a lot for them; it marked their ascent to the .5 hundred mark, and it showed that they were capable of rising above petty problems.

"It's too early to start a celebration," said WSU coach George Raveling after the game. "But all indications are positive for us now, and the team has made a 360 degree turn-around from where it was."

They, too were losing games. But they were also losing players. Raveling suspended two for a period of 10 days, another left the team, and two others were nagged with injuries. But against Oregon, they finally showed the poise Raveling had hoped for all year — and they did it under unusual circumstances, to say the least.

First, the Ducks were playing their best defense of the year. Second, the referees were missing calls in droves. And third, Mac Court was as usual, Mac Court.

"This is the only place west of Chicago where I think they have the real flavor of college basketball around," Raveling said. "I wasn't upset when they cheered and stomped their feet, I just wish I could get our fans to do that."

Most of the time they weren't yelling at Raveling anyway, but at the officiating duo of Booker Turner and Bob Garibaldi. It was an "interestingly" called game. With 14:20 to go in the first half, WSU's Tery Kelly met the elbow of Oregon's Mike Clark in a loose ball scramble — no call. Then on the inbounds play 7-2 Cougar James Donaldson ran over Clark on a layin try and Garibaldi whistled Clark for blocking.

Needless to say, Dick Harter jumped two feet in the air and got a technical. Raveling only philosophized.

"I don't know if the Lord could have reffed this game," he quipped. "But he's smart — that's why he didn't come down and ref it — he knows better."

Still, with all the problems, and all the questionable calls, it was a good game. Granted it was sloppy, and granted it was between two very young teams, but if they weren't young it probably wouldn't have been as exciting. Turnovers were rampant, and it seemed for a while like neither team wanted to break it open. But when it counted, the Ducks had the edge on mistakes.

"We didn't block out on foul shots three times in the last five minutes," Harter said, "which was the ball game right there."

So you look at the 2-6 record and start to grimace. But you have to give struggling Oregon at least the benefit of the doubt — they didn't roll over and wheeze. With five minutes to go in the game, the Ducks had managed only 6 points since the half — but they only gave up 13. They brought it to within a basket twice in the last 34 seconds, and they'd gotten an extra break or two, they might have won. Might have, but didn't. Was it youth?

"I'm tired of everybody harping on 'youth'," Raveling said. "Tonight they played defense, from an aggressive standpoint, better than any team we've played this year. There was a lot of Kamikaze action out there — heck, I'd have paid \$20 to see the game."

It's been a while since anybody mentioned 'Kamikaze'. But there they were, drawing offensive fouls (when they were called), diving for loose balls, and outrebounding their foes.

Last night Oregon was just a few "little things" away from winning. Just as the Ducks, like the Cougars, Huskies, Beavers, and the rest (except of course UCLA) are a few "little things" away from making the conference respectable again.

"We're growing; the whole league is growing," Raveling summed up. "There are a lot of lessons that the kids have to learn yet. We've got a long way to go."

So do the Ducks. But if some are going to keep on playing like they still give a damn — through six losses — then the road back from the depths has got to be shorter than we think.

George Raveling knows.

Women face Washington foes

The Oregon women's basketball team will be looking to get back on the winning track this weekend after losing to Boise State, 69-65, and to Washington State, 87-67, last weekend.

The Ducks, currently in second place in the Coast Division of the Northwest Women's Basketball League, lowered their league record in the process to 4-3, standing 10-3 on the season.

"I thought we played well (against BSU)," said Coach Elwin Heiny. "We should have won but didn't. We got outplayed when it got crucial. Things went against us."

"We played a good game but had one cold spell at the start of the second half."

The Ducks got blown out of the Palouse by the Cougars. "We

were out of it," Heiny said, "we never got it going."

Western Washington and

Ducks travel for swim meets

The Oregon men's swimming team will compete this weekend when they travel to Southern Oregon on Friday and Chico State on Saturday.

Oregon defeated Southern Oregon earlier this year in Eugene. However, coach Dick Schleicher is leaving four of his swimmers because of injuries.

Chico State will provide tough competition for the Ducks. "They're tough. Probably tougher than any team outside of Washington that we've met," said Schleicher.



Oregon's Dan Hartshorne (52) and Kelvin Small (50) worked hard inside, but James Donaldson and his Cougar mates had the edge in a 57-55 win.

Ducks can't catch up

By MIKE GRADY
Of The Emerald

Oregon didn't play like a team that has lost six straight Pac-8 games Thursday night, but in the end that was the story as Washington State pinned a heart stopping 57-55 defeat on the Ducks.

In front of a packed Mac Court and television audience, the Ducks battled back from a 10 point deficit with seven minutes left and fell just short in their search for an elusive third league victory. Closeness was no real comforting factor for Dick Harter and his crew though as they saw their conference record drop to 2-6 and overall record to 12-9.

"The game was in the first 10 minutes of the second half," muttered Harter afterwards. "We made some defensive mistakes and the turnovers definitely hurt us."

Yes, once again the Ducks had trouble finding the bottom of the net in the beginning of the second half and WSU took advantage of it. After going into the locker room with a 35-32 lead the Cougars

came out and scored seven unanswered points before the Ducks even hit a bucket.

Dan Hartshorne finally broke the ice with a 10 foot jumper from the right baseline, but that was already five minutes into the half. James Donaldson and Hart-

Pacific-8

	W	L	Pct.	All Games
UCLA	7	0	1.000	16-2
USC	5	2	.714	12-8
Oregon State	4	3	.571	11-9
Washington	4	3	.571	12-8
Washington State	4	4	.500	12-8
California	2	5	.286	9-11
Oregon	2	6	.250	12-8
Stanford	1	6	.143	11-9

Thursday's scores
Washington State 57, Oregon 53
Oregon State 64, Washington 60

Friday's games
UCLA at California
USC at Stanford

shorne then traded a pair of free throws, Angelo Hill downed a three-footer and the Cougs were up by 10.

Hartshorne then brought the crowd to its feet by stealing the ball from 7-2 Donaldson, racing the length of the court and stuffing it through for two, with 9:12 remaining. Sensing the situation as now or never in a comeback attempt, the Mac Court faithful stayed on their feet and yelled for defense.

Washington State wasn't shaken though and managed to hold on to the ball despite an inspired and tough Oregon defense.

"I agree with Dick when he said that we won it in the beginning of the second half," said a relieved George Raveling as he sat outside the WSU locker room afterwards. "He hit the nail on the head there. As a matter of fact I turned to my assistant on the bench at one point and said 'If we can keep trading baskets with them now, we'll be okay.'"

But the Ducks weren't satisfied with just trading buckets with the Cougars. Instead, with three straight 20 footers over a WSU

zone, two of them by Phil Barner and the other from Mike Drummond, the Ducks moved to within five with 2:50 remaining, 51-46.

Raveling ordered the Cougars into a variation of the four corner offense and it was up to the Cougars to miss their foul shots and the Ducks to score in a hurry. The one rock in that plan though turned out to be the Cougar's Don Collins.

Collins grabbed a missed free throw by teammate Donaldson at 1:38 and then went on to ice the victory by hitting four free throws of his own in the last 1:19 of play.

"When it came down to the end, it was the little things that Collins did that will never be appreciated," said Raveling about his sophomore wingman. "He brought the ball up, he shot free throws and three of his five rebounds came in the last five minutes."

Collins ended up as the leading scorer for the game, hitting three of three field goal attempts, and nine of 11 free throws for 15 points. Donaldson also sparkled for WSU as the junior grabbed nine rebounds, blocked two shots and made his presence felt very often in the heart of the Cougar zone.

"I thought four or five of us played all out," Harter said. Two or three of us didn't and it's a shame that two or three can take it away from the others. Everyone who plays must play hard."

And the question of whether the Ducks can play hard enough to get that third Pac-8 victory will be answered tomorrow night. The Washington Huskies will come to Mac Court for an 8 p.m. game with Oregon after losing to Oregon State last night in Corvallis, 64-60. The Huskies are currently 4-4 in league action.

Washington State — Clark 1, Jones 4, Hill 7, Collins 15, Kelly 12, Preston 3, Donaldson 13, House 2.

Oregon — Drummond 4, Lyon, Barner 11, Murray, Sealey 14, Clark 2, Closs 1, Small 11, Hartshorne 10, Davis 2.