

Ducks taking a step out of the cellar?

By KEN SANDS
Of the Emerald

The Duck basketball team is aiming for its third consecutive well-played game when they face California tonight at 8:10 in McArthur Court.

Saturday night the Ducks played "40 minutes of good basketball," said coach Jim Haney. Sophomore guard Stu Lyon also played the best game of his career in the 68-55 win over Stanford.

Lyon controlled the offense, and put the game out of reach with his free throw shooting late in the game. His career high 16 points led the Ducks.

Stanford coach Dick DiBiase wondered about the free throw situation. Oregon was 24-33 from the line, and the Cardinals were only 9-12. "Oregon played good defense without us going to the foul line. They haven't been fouling as much as they had before."

The Ducks didn't throw the ball away as much either. Oregon had only 11 turnovers, compared to 19 for Stanford. "Each time we made a run at them, we combined it with a turnover," said DiBiase.

Winning for only the second time in the last nine games, the Ducks are still mired in last place in the Pacific-10 standings with a 2-6 conference record.

But that only means the win was all the sweeter. "I'm so ecstatic for the players, because it's difficult sometimes to go out and do your best and not end up with the glory," said Haney.

Until Lyon entered the game late in the first half, it looked as though Oregon might not get that glory. Stanford led 29-26 with 57 seconds on the clock when Lyon scored five straight points.

"Stu played very, very well," said Haney, "and I felt very confident before the game that he would perform well."

Maybe Haney knew something no one else did. Before Saturday night, Lyon's best game was a six-point effort in the first game of the season.

Murray has started every game for the Ducks so far, but Saturday night Lyon awoke from his mid-season nap to take charge. "It was a team effort, and we made the plays necessary to win in the second half," said Lyon.

"I think we played 40 minutes of good basketball, and I personally want to go out and play two good games in a row," added Lyon. "Anyone can have one good game, but the good players play well every game."

Lyon and the rest of the Ducks get their chance tonight against California, and a win would move them into a tie for last place.

Playing at home gives the Ducks the edge they need to move into that tie, claimed Haney. "I think we're a little down, and playing at home generates enthusiasm."

Enthusiasm is what the Ducks need, and Saturday night's win gave them a big boost. "I am so glad we won," said sophomore center Rich Davis. "We only won one of our last eight — I don't even want to think about it."

The Ducks had Sunday off to think about tonight's game — and about being in last place. "Hopefully this win will be a springboard for us," said Haney. "We'll find out who's in last place at the end of the season."



Rob Closs made a lay-in late in the fourth quarter against Stanford to help seal the 68-55 win. Closs teamed with Stu Lyon for 30 points.

Women's press foils PSU

Women's basketball coach Elwin Heiny decided long before Saturday night's game with Portland State to harass the Vikings with a full-court press, and the move paid off as the Ducks won an easy 104-59 game at Mac Court.

"I think we played the press fairly well tonight," said Heiny, whose team now owns a 6-0 Northwest Women's Basketball League record and an 11-0 overall mark. "We missed some layins in the first half but got the rebounds. I think we took good advantage of our quickness."

Oregon's aggressive defense took command from the start, forcing 24 PSU turnovers in the first half. Oregon's zone defense, as center Debbie Adams broke loose for several Viking guards Pam Mollet and Cec Gillies were hard pressed to even get the ball past midcourt. The Ducks, meanwhile, converted the turnovers, and took a 13-2 lead on Cushing's jumper only three minutes into the game.

Oregon also exploited the Vikings' zone defense, as center Debbie Adams broke loose for several layins to help the Ducks to a

34-14 lead with 8:46 left in the half. Oregon owned a 51-31 advantage at halftime.

Portland State played the Ducks evenly for most of the second half as Heiny called off the press, and "cut" the Oregon lead to 60-42 with 12:34 left in the game.

"We called off the press because we were too far ahead," explained Heiny. "Normally we can only play it for half a game anyway."

At that point the Ducks combined an aggressive man-to-man defense with a smoothly-running fast break offense to put the Vikings away. Adams, who finished with a game-high 28 points, led Oregon on a scoring spree that left the visitors trailing by 34 points with 8:57 left. Heiny substituted freely the rest of the game, but the subs continued to pour it on as Oregon shot 62.2 percent in the second half.

Guard Pam Mollett led the Vikings with an 8-for-13 performance from the floor and center Lynne Holzfuss grabbed 15 rebounds, but PSU was unable to put to-

gether consistent offense. The Vikings were able to put together back-to-back baskets only three times the entire game.

"All in all we can't complain," said Heiny after the game. "However, in the middle stages of the game we didn't attack the way we normally could."

The next opponent for the Oregon women is Seattle Pacific, which owns an 11-3 record and also the top defensive statistics in the NWBL. The Chieftains, who have held their opponents to an average of 54.4 points per game, will play the Ducks tonight at 5:30 p.m. in Mac Court.

"I haven't seen them at all this year," says Heiny of Seattle Pacific, because they're new to the league. But I know they have a very good player in C.J. Sealy."

Sealy, who is currently second in the NWBL scoring race with an 18.3 average, scored 27 points Saturday in Corvallis as the Chieftains defeated Oregon State, 61-55.

Wrestlers take tourney, win seventh dual match

Despite what Oregon State coach Dale Thomas and his all-American Dan Hicks said last week, the Oregon wrestling team is in good shape. After the Beavers defeated the Ducks in Mac Court last Monday night, Hicks told a reporter that OSU is no better than Oregon, it's just that the Beavers are in better shape because they work harder. Thomas concurred, stating that his team always beats Oregon because of better technique and conditioning.

"Thomas sounds just like a pro wrestler — spoutin' off," laughs Oregon coach Ron Finley, whose team showed what kind of shape it was in over the weekend by beating Central Washington 33-9 Friday night and then winning the Portland State Invitational Saturday.

Finley was disappointed with the way the Ducks performed Friday, but nonetheless, they won all

but two matches — 177 was forfeited and heavyweight Craig Schoene was upset 3-2 by Mike Wilson.

Mike Erb and Scott Bliss registered the most impressive Oregon wins. Erb, a freshman 126-pounder, pinned Greg Hart at 4:16, while Bliss upped his record to 10-2-2 with a fall over Mark Ledbetter at 6:37.

On Saturday the Ducks had four individual champions on their way to the Portland State Invitational championship. As a team, Oregon scored 87.5 points to easily outdistance San Jose State who placed second, 30 points behind the Ducks. Oregon winners were Adam Cuestes, Leonard Simon, Don Brown and Schoene.

Oregon's next match is Wednesday night when the Ducks entertain Portland State at Mac Court at 7:30.

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