

sports

Ducks down Beavers in season finale

By KEN SANDS
Of the Emerald

Until Saturday night, something was missing from the men's basketball program.

Under first-year coach Jim Haney, the Ducks have suffered through the first losing season (12-15) since 1971, and it wasn't until they beat Oregon State

University 45-44 that they really had reason to celebrate.

"This is the sweetest win of the year, because it was over a team that had fun at our expense in December," said Haney. OSU had beaten the Ducks 85-58 on Dec. 21, and again, 85-62 on Dec. 30.

This win will help team morale in the off-season, and may help recruiting, said Haney. "I can

savor this one for awhile," he added.

Seniors Rob Closs and Kelvin Small couldn't ask for a better climax for their careers at Oregon.

"We knew we had to beat them — it was a pride thing," said Small. "I'm glad Rob and I went out winners."

Small also had words for Beaver Julius Allen, who traded elbows with the Oregon forward. "They put him in the game to shake me up, and he threw his elbows at me," said Small. "I like to play basketball, not fight — he needs to grow up."

Closs and Allen scuffled briefly on the floor, after Allen fouled Closs and they both tumbled to the ground. Incidents like that, said Closs, made the win over the Beavers even sweeter. "Nobody goes messin' in somebody else's huddle, and nobody talks to you like the Beavers. Beating a guy like Julius Allen is really nice."

Junior center Dan Hartshorne led the Ducks with nine points and nine rebounds. The Ducks outrebounded OSU 28-15 and outshot the Beavers 50 percent to 47 percent.

It was the Duck defense, though, that sealed the win. Rob Closs pressured OSU's Mark Radford into an off-balance shot with time running out. The shot missed, and Small grabbed the rebound.

"When I went up and got the rebound, I knew we had it sealed, and the adrenalin just flowed through my body," said Small.

Freshman guard Barry Walker had put the Ducks ahead on a free throw with 10 seconds left. "I wanted to win the game bad for K and Robby," said Walker.

Oregon State had no retiring seniors, but was fighting for an NCAA tournament bid. The loss to Oregon coupled with loss to Stanford last weekend spoiled their hopes. Sunday the Beavers were invited to the National Invi-



Photo by Steve Dykes

Freshman guard Barry Walker coolly stepped to the line with 10 seconds left and the score tied at 44, and made one of his two free throws to seal the Ducks' win over Oregon State.

tational Tournament.

Beaver coach Ralph Miller was impressed with the way the Ducks played. "Oregon is a better team than it was in December — certainly. But it didn't prove that just tonight. Oregon has proven that by the way it has played in the last two months."

Haney said his team is just now beginning to play as well as it can. "Unfortunately the season has to end for us."

The 10,000 fans in McArthur Court were probably just as sad to see another season end, but the win gives die-hard Beaver-haters something to remember until next fall.

Joining the gorilla, the Lone Deranger and the guy with the red

flashing hat for the festive occasion were two "clowns" in the south end of the court. "There's nothing like Oregon basketball in the whole world, and every game I wanna' see the Ducks whether they're 0-25," said one of the clowns.

Karl Erga, a senior exchange student from Norway, is a first-year fan. "Basketball is very fascinating, and the atmosphere here makes the game interesting too. There's nothing like this in Norway."

Or anywhere else, said Small. "It's great to see the fans pat you on the back, and care about you — I'm thankful to be a part of this team."



Seniors Rob Closs and Kelvin Small

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