

Ducks come up short once again, 62-52

BY BILLIE-KAY KREWSON
Of the Emerald

Despite what coach Jim Haney called possibly their best defensive effort of the season, the Oregon Ducks again came up on the short end of the scoreboard Saturday night, losing to a talented and experienced Washington State team, 62-52.

For a while it looked like the Ducks picked up where they left off in Thursday night's game against the Washington Huskies as they allowed the Cougars to jump out to a quick 7-2 lead in the first three minutes.

But the Ducks called a time out and came back gunning,

scoring the next three baskets in a row to tie it at 8-8 with 14:26 remaining in the half.

While the Cougar guards went ice cold against a zone defense, the Ducks showed patience and determination on offense, working the ball inside to either John Greig, Jerome Williams, or Mike Clark for easy lay-ins.

The Ducks did manage to shut down Don Collins, the Cougars' leading scorer this season, holding him to just four points in the first half. Haney praised forwards Ray Whiting, who led the Ducks with 11 rebounds, and John Greig, who took turns guarding Collins.

"Ray and John did an excellent job of fronting him and beating him to spots," said Haney.

Oregon, however, was unable to contain 6-11 Stuart House who kept Washington State in the game with 13 first-half points, most of them on short jumpers from the low post position as the Cougars took a 26-23 lead to the locker room.

The Ducks continued working their inside game in the second half and grabbed a 29-28 lead after three minutes of play. The Cougars managed to stay close on free throws as Oregon upped the score to 37-34.

Then the roof fell in on the

Ducks as they were whistled for four fouls in just over a minute, allowing the visitors to climb right back into the contest.

After the Cougars took a 47-39 lead off some steals and fast break baskets, the Ducks were forced to play catch up and had to foul as WSU went into a slowdown offense.

Washington State went to the foul line 30 times in the second half to just five times for the Ducks. And that was the difference as the Cougars cashed in the free throws for 24 points. Amazingly, WSU had only 12 points from the floor in the final 20 minutes.

Said Haney, "We played very hard. The game turned when we gave them the uncontested layups but the effort was there. We just made some mistakes and then couldn't get back into it."

House was high point man for the Cougars with 20 while the



Photo by Steve Dykes

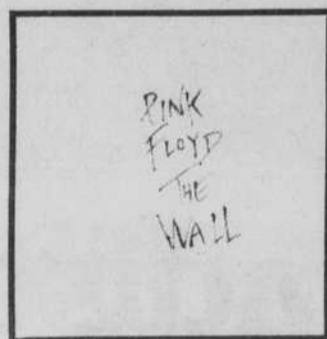
George Ravelin, Washington State's head coach, wasn't always happy with the way his Cougars played Saturday night against Oregon

Ducks got 10 points each from Clark, Richard Wright, and Felton Sealey.

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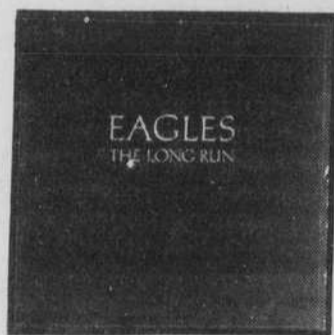
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Women gymnasts win at Seattle Invitational

The Oregon womens' gymnastics team overcame injury and a cold gym to win the four-way Seattle Invitational last Friday night in Seattle.

The Ducks scored a team total of 131.175 without the services of all-rounder Gloria Shepherd, who injured her shoulder while warming up for the meet and did not compete. The team also had to contend with some frigid temperatures to win.

"It was so cold it was unreal," said Oregon coach Henriette Heiny. "We were in a situation where I had the team wait in the bathroom until they were up, because it was so cold I couldn't see them (waiting) in the gym. It was not at all a good situation."

To avoid further chance of injury, Heiny had the team take out its more difficult and dangerous moves. "Considering the circumstances, I was amazed that we still hit 131."

The Ducks were led by sophomore Sara Gustafson, who won the all-around with a score of 33.95. She also won the vault and balance beam, scoring 8.8 and 8.7 respectively.

"Sara was leading all the way," said Heiny. "She had a very good vault. She also had a good balance beam, even though she fought it a little."

Heiny was also pleased with the performance of freshman Chris Krueger, who took second in the all-around and won the uneven bars.

"Chris did a very good job. It was especially important because of the thin team we had."

Oregon brought only seven people to the meet, and because of Shepherd's injury competed with only six. But they still outdistanced second place Spokane Community College by nearly twelve points.

"The girls did really well. Their attitude was very positive, they really kept the spirit up," said Heiny.

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