

LSU falls to Duck balancing act, 100-82

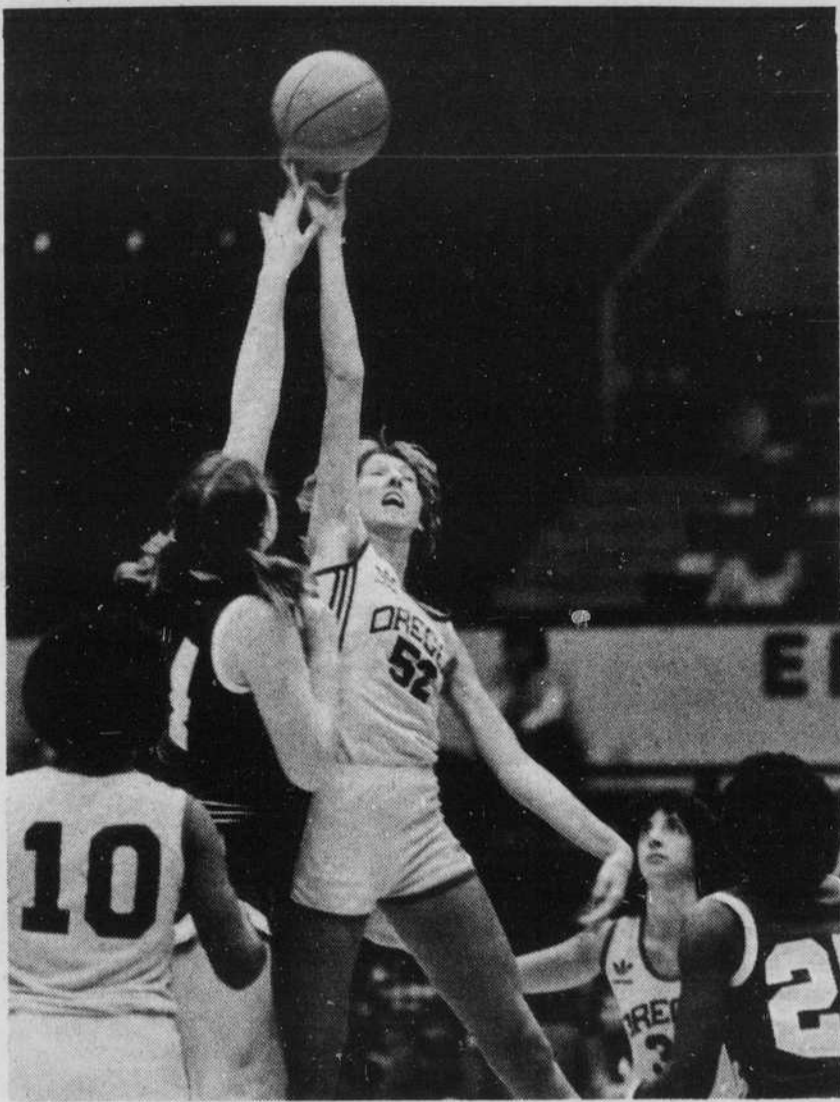


Photo by Steve Dykes

Oregon center Allison Lang outjumped LSU's Leslie Sacre as the Ducks defeated the Ben-Gals Sunday in Mac Court.

By STEVE TURCOTTE
Of the Emerald

Oregon's women's basketball team revived the old balancing act Sunday evening in McArthur Court.

With five players in double figures, the Ducks, 11-5 for the season, easily outdistanced Louisiana State University 100-82.

"We had good balance tonight," said Duck coach Elwin Heiny. "I think basically we just wore them down... our fast-breaking and rebounding just did them in."

Oregon alternated between the full-court and half-court press to force LSU into turnovers and early foul trouble. Allison Towriss and Bev Smith combined for 9 steals while the Ben-Gals accumulated 25 fouls and 15 turnover.

The Ducks, shooting .494 percent from the floor, balanced their attack with 16 points from Diane Hiemstra, Smith and Mary Ann Stoican, 14 from Debbie Adams and 12 points from Allison Lang.

Oregon attempted to break away from LSU early, but the Ben-Gals wouldn't give in. Leading 39-32 with 3:39 remaining in the first half, the Ducks scored 12 of the next 16 points to post a 51-36 halftime lead.

"I think we were really ready to come out and play," said Stoican, a 6-0 forward. "We knew that they were good. But we were just ready to play them. They are a good team, so we played good."

Oregon and LSU met once prior to Sunday's contest, in the opening round of the Queen's Classic in Plainsview, Texas. The Ducks easily prevailed, 83-67, but the Ben-Gals' guard tandem of Jackie White and Joyce Walker gave Oregon fits. And Sunday it was no exception.

White and Walker combined for 50 points and fourteen rebounds to once again make life hard for Oregon. But other than the two guards, both freshman, the Ben-Gals lacked depth.

"LSU is a very good team," said Heiny. "They do have their strengths but also they have their weaknesses. White and Walker are very hard to stop, but someone like Bev, who is tall and can control the ball, can stop them."

Stoican was also quick to praise the two LSU guards. "White and Walker are very good. It's too bad they don't have other people on the team like them."

Saturday night, Oregon decked the Boise State Broncos 90-41 to claim its first Northwest Women's Basketball League victory.

The Ducks, who were never threatened by the outmanned Broncs, were led by Smith's 27 points and nine rebounds.

'Second half' saves wrestlers

Oregon wrestling coach Ron Finley calls the top five weight classes on his squad "Phase 2" and they made the difference in a 30-15 decision over Washington State at McArthur Court Sunday.

Oregon nursed an 11-9 lead after the first five weight classes, but then received wins from Rick O'Shea, Jeff Stuebing, Mike Miller and Dan Cook down the stretch to finish the Cougars.

"We call our upper weights 'Phase 2' and they are our strength," beamed Finley after the eighth-ranked Ducks began a five-meet home stand that continues Friday against Central Washington.

Oregon is coming off a six-meet road trip that produced five wins, including an upset of fourth-ranked Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo.

Stuebing, 11-0 this season, decided the Cougar's John Bliss, brother of former Oregon all-American Scott Bliss, 11-9 in the 167 class.

"(Stuebing) started out well but didn't keep the pressure up," said Finley. "But John Bliss is tough and in the third period it's always tough."

Stuebing's win was followed by Miller's pinning of Tim Paul in the 177 division while it took

Cook 2½ minutes to pin Jeff Lingren in the heavyweight match. O'Shea outpointed the Cougar's Don Hanson 18-9 in the 158 class.

"I was real pleased with O'Shea," said Finley. "He went right after his guy. We've got some guys doing a fine job day in and day out for us."

The Ducks started slow when Washington State's Brian Higa decided Mike Erb 14-10 in the 118 division and Scott Valley took the 126 class over the Ducks Miles Hancock 8-7.

Then Oregon's Cliff Porter recorded a pin to take the 134 division and Bill Nugent pinned the Cougar's Verner O'Quin.

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