

Oregon cagers fall flat in Bay Area contests

The hopes of a strong season finish for Oregon's men's basketball team was stunted this weekend by narrow losses to Stanford University and Cal-Berkeley.

Oregon, now 10-10 this season and 3-8 in conference, fell to the Cardinals Friday, 80-79, and to the Bears Saturday, 85-77.

The weekend debacle comes on the heels of uplifting performances against USC and UCLA, after which Oregon coach Jim Haney expressed confidence that his team could finish in the Pac-10's top five.

The Stanford game was a heartbreaker for the Ducks, as Stanford's Doug Marty dropped in a five-foot scoop shot with two seconds left for the final margin.

Following a 36-36 halftime tie, Oregon's John Greig scored two jumpers and Mike Clark one to help the Ducks to a 43-38 advantage. But Stanford, led South Eugene High School grad Peter Lallas and freshman John Revelli, kept the pressure on and led 76-69 with 2:30 to go.

Four free throws and a tip-in by Greig, plus a twisting short jumper by Ray Whiting, brought the Ducks to within one. With 10 seconds left, Clark was fouled on a rebound. He missed the front

of a one-and-one, but Sealey grabbed the rebound and was also fouled.

Sealey scored both free throws to give Oregon a one-point lead. But eight seconds later, Marty was a Maples Pavilion hero.

Grieg was Oregon's top performer with 25 timely points and 10 rebounds. Sealey added 17 points and Clark scored 15 and rebounded eight.

In Berkeley, the Bears found an unlikely ally in their free throw shooting. A 59.7 percent free throw team this year, Cal canned 37 of 47 — 27 of 29 in the second half.

Oregon maintained control of the game until the final four minutes, when two free throws by Wes Howell tied the game at 66. Cal's Sam Potter then popped in two quick field goals and a foul shot to put his team ahead, 71-66.

Any attempt by the Ducks to retain the lead was stifled by fouls and 14 free throws down the line by the Bears.

Oregon now faces the possibility of owning a losing overall record for the first time this year when they host Oregon State this Thursday at McArthur Court. The Beavers won both their Bay Area contests to push their Pac-10 record to 11-0.

Ducks snap BYU, victory mark

In perhaps a case of deja vu, coach Ron Finley thought he saw one of his old teams out on the mat as Oregon destroyed an inexperienced Brigham Young squad 42-3 in McArthur Court Saturday night.

"That was us a few years ago," Finley said. "We were just like them, full of sophmores and freshmen in a rebuilding year."

The Ducks have come a long way since then, as they clearly outclassed BYU to set an Oregon record for most wins in a season with an 18-2 mark.

"I was very pleased, this was one of our better performances of the season," said Finley. "It was a total team effort, with everyone contributing. I was happy with everyone tonight."

One wrestler who certainly deserved Finley's praise was Miles Hancock, the only Duck loser. He fought a tough match

with Chris Taylor, ranked seventh nationally, before bowing out, 9-6.

Behind by only a single point because of riding time, Hancock tried a desperate last-second throw. It didn't quite work, and Hancock ended up with the close loss.

Hancock did a terrific job against Taylor, Finley said. "He was ahead most of the match, staying right with one of the nation's top wrestlers all the way. He gave just a fantastic performance."

"On the whole, we are really coming," said Finley. "We are 50 percent better than we were a month ago."

Oregon started out the year with a bunch of nobodies," Finley said. "But now we are really starting to jell. We are almost ready to peak. We're not quite

there yet, but it won't be long."

Wrestling Results: 118 — Randy Ohta (O) dec. Gary Robbins, 21-7; 126 — Chris Taylor (BYU) dec. Miles Hancock, 9-6; 134 — Cliff Porter (O) dec. Mat Bake, 19-6; 142 — Bill Nugent (O) dec. Morgan Woodhouse, 10-8; 150 — Paul Sheriff (O) dec. Chad Teichert, 11-10; 158 — Rick O'Shea (O) dec. Gary Allred, 13-5; 167 — Jeff Stuebing (O) dec. Billy Boyd, 21-4; 177 — Mike Miller (O) by forfeit; 190 — Ryan Kelly (O) by forfeit; Heavyweight — Dan Cook (O) dec. Larry Hamilton, 13-3.

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