

Oregon makes 'Cats eat cake

Ducks bow out with win; seniors exit to applause

By JODY MURRAY
Of the Emerald

Birthday-boy Jim Haney got his wish Saturday night as his men's basketball team put the frosting on a frustrating season with a 79-75 comeback win over Arizona in Mac Court.

The year's final game was also a fitting celebration for Oregon seniors Mike Clark and Felton Sealey, whose 18 and 14 respective points helped blow out the Wildcats' candle.

But like many of Oregon's games this season, this one was no cakewalk. The Ducks battled back from 12 points down with 10:28 to play to go ahead, 77-75, on two free throws by John Greig with 12 seconds left.

"Not to get misty-eyed, but I think the game was a mirror of the season," Haney said. "Coming back to win — maybe that's the way the season should end. A team refusing to quit, when others might expect them to quit."

Arizona tried to spoil Oregon's going-out party, outscoring the Ducks 27-12 after intermission to take a 69-57 lead. But as soon as the Wildcat's lead peaked, their scoring dried up and Oregon outscored them 15-2 in five minutes to forge a 72-71 lead.

After a free throw by Clark tied the game at 75 with 1:18 left, the Wildcats decided to work for the last shot. But Arizona freshman Jeff Collins had other ideas. He drove up the key with 50 seconds left and released an 8-footer, which caromed off the backboard and into the hands of Oregon's Ray Whiting.

"We wanted to go to the basket with 15 seconds to play," said Arizona coach Fred Snowden. "But Jeff Collins got to within four feet of the basket, and made a freshman mistake. But if he had made the shot, he'd have been a hero."

Instead, that role was bestowed upon Oregon's John Greig, who was fouled by Ricky Walker with 12 seconds left and calmly made two free throws to give the Ducks a 77-75 lead. Greig finished the season with 35 consecutive free throws and a second-place Pac-10 finish in free throw percentage (88.2).

"I was real surprised (Walker) fouled me so soon. I was going to put the ball on the floor, but I saw him coming and held onto it," Greig said.

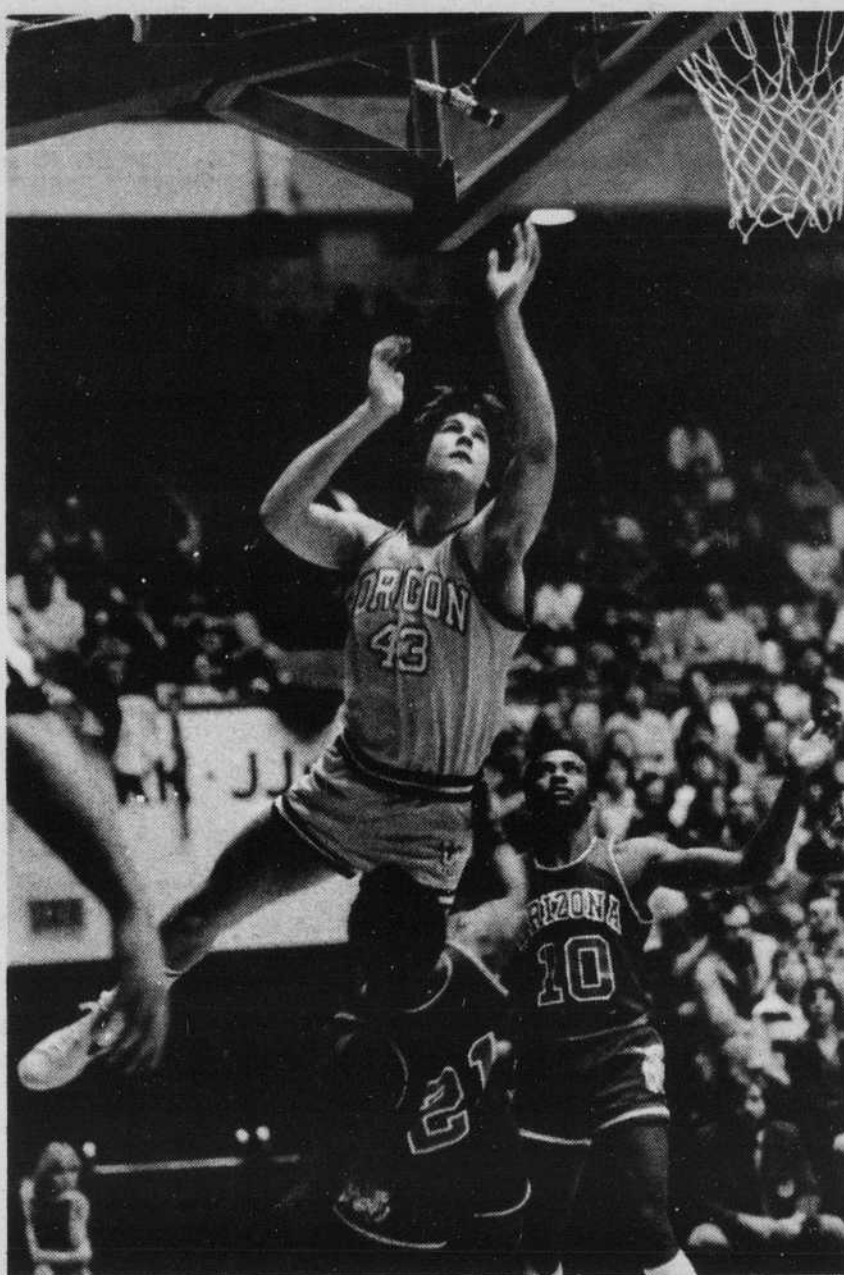
Arizona's Ron Davis, the game's leading scorer with 25, launched the Wildcats' last gasp from 25 feet away with five seconds on the clock. It was far off the mark. Clark rebounded and was fouled.

Haney then took Sealey out, embracing him at half-court amid cheers from 9,067 Mac Court fans. Clark's moment of glory had to wait until he made his free throws.

"I had to sink those last ones, because I was a little jealous of Felton," Clark joked. "I thought if I didn't make them, they were going to keep me in."

Clark dropped in the game's final points and left Mac Court's floor for the last time.

"I'm just elated for them," Haney said of his seniors. "If we had had a comfy lead, the game



Photos by Steve Dykes

Mike Clark wrapped up his Oregon career with 18 points against Arizona, including this shot over Robbie Dosty (21) and Russell Brown (10).

might not have been so significant for them, but this one was."

Oregon finished 13-14 in a season stunted by injuries plus academic and personal

problems. They compiled a 6-12 Pac-10 record, enough for seventh place in the conference. Greig paced the Ducks with 22 points, followed by Clark and Sealey and Whiting's 11.

Baseball team opens season with two wins

Oregon's baseball team opened its season in wild fashion Friday, coming from behind twice to sweep 15th-ranked Gonzaga 8-7 and 4-3 in a doubleheader at Howe Field.

In the first game, the Ducks seemed headed for certain defeat, down 6-3 with two outs in the bottom of the seventh. But pinch-hitter Eric Mann drew a walk and Kyle Keaton followed with a two-run homer. Leadoff hitter Mike Black then singled, stole second and scored the tying run on Steve Crum's single.

Oregon went on to win it in the bottom of the ninth when Black doubled and Crum singled him home. The duo led the Ducks for the entire game, with Black scoring four runs and Crum going 4-4 with a home run and three RBI's.

The second game featured a pitching duel between Oregon's Dean Kegler and Gonzaga's T.R. Bryden, with the Ducks on the short end of a 3-2 score heading into the bottom of the seventh. This time pinch-hitters Crum and Bob Krueger drew walks to open the inning. A sacrifice and an error brought Crum home with the tying run and pinch-hitter Randy Porter doubled home Krueger for the game winner. Kegler went the distance to pick up the win for Oregon.

"I can't be more pleased, coming from behind twice to win. Gonzaga is a very good ballclub," coach Mel Krause said.

"I was surprised by our power," he added. Crum, Keaton, Mike Carr and James Nutt clubbed homers.

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