

OSU earns upset over Ducks, 61-54

But women gain at-large berth

By TAMARA SWENSON
Of the Emerald

After six straight wins over Oregon State, Oregon's women's basketball team proved the old saying — "you can't win them all."

For the second time in three years, the Beavers upset the Ducks in the Region 9 title game, 61-54, to claim an automatic national berth Sunday and their first win over Oregon this season.

Despite the loss, the Ducks advanced to national play,

earning an at-large berth as the first-round pairings were announced Sunday night.

Oregon will face Colorado Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in McArthur Court.

But Sunday's loss jarred the Ducks, who had won their last 14 games for a 24-6 season record.

Unlike OSU, which played well against the 12th-ranked Ducks, Oregon seemed unable to sustain any effort.

OSU, now 21-5 for the season, controlled the ball from the opening tip-off to the final

shot, allowing Oregon the lead just once.

A 15-foot shot by Pam Mollet, a 5-10 guard who finished with five points and four assists, opened the Beaver scoring streak.

Oregon's first chance to score ended with OSU center Carol Menken (who finished with 38 points and was named the tournament's most valuable player) snagging the ball and throwing it down the floor.

Oregon finally scored after almost two minutes on a lay-up by 5-11 forward Debbie Adams, who finished with 12 points.

Adams and Bev Smith also were named to the tournament team.

But for most of the game, the boards belonged to the Beavers, who snagged 38 rebounds to Oregon's 26. Two more baskets by OSU, both put in by Menken, who added 14 rebounds, gave the Beavers a lead the Ducks couldn't contend with.

"OSU probably deserved to win this one," said a disappointed Oregon coach Elwin Heiny. "They played a tough game and we didn't."

With five minutes gone in the half the Beavers lead 11-4 as Menken put in three more points, one from the line and two after the Ducks turned over the ball to the Beavers.

Everything went OSU's way in the Missoula, Mont. gym.

Much as it had gone two years ago when the Beavers beat Oregon 75-68 in Bozeman, Mont.

Despite Oregon's efforts to prevent another "Bozeman" from happening, the Beavers won the game that counts — the regional championship match.

"We really want to go to nationals," said OSU coach Aki Hill last week. "I would like to send two teams (from the region) to nationals."

"And the only way we can go is if we win the regional title."

The Beavers will open their national tournament play against UCLA in Pauley Pavilion Wednesday.

With the Beavers ahead by seven points, Heiny began substituting freely to find the right combination to stave off the OSU assault.

Diane Heimstra, who ended the game with six points, shooting 3-4 from the field, put in two jumpers from the top of the key

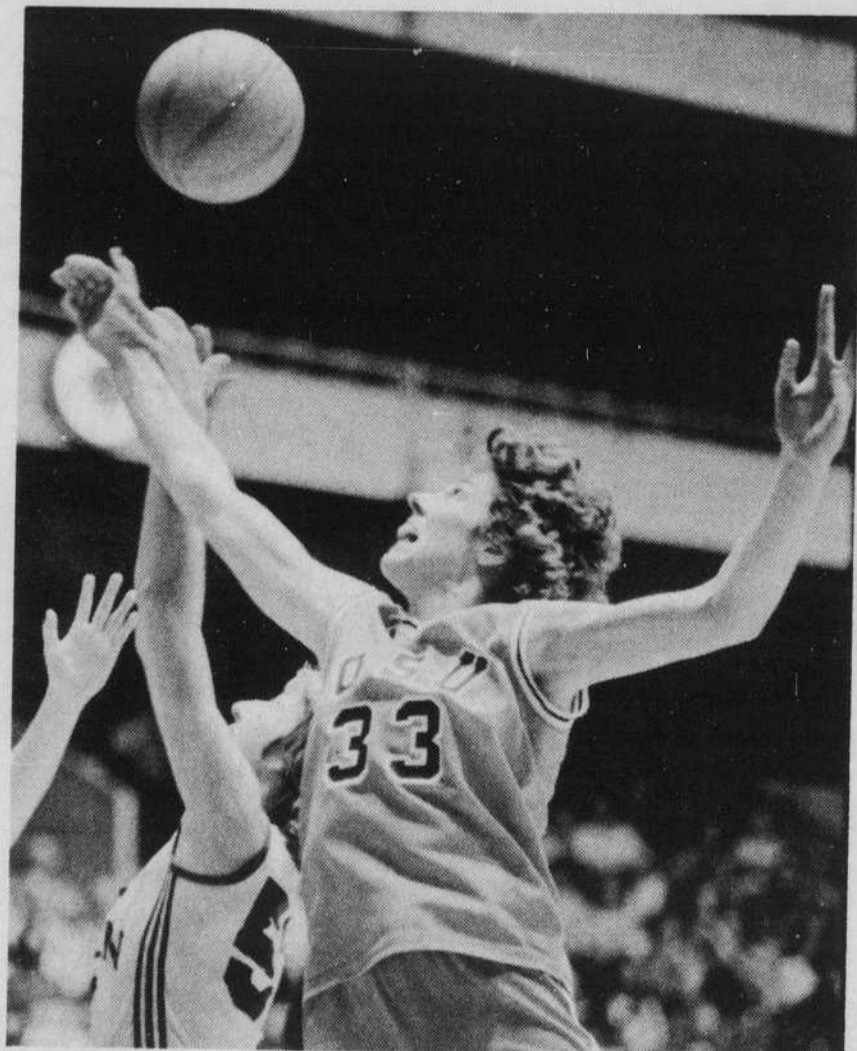


Photo by Steve Dykes

OSU's Carol Menken (33), shown here in the OSU-Oregon game in Mac Court, finished with a game high 38 points Sunday and two blocks as the Beavers downed Oregon 61-54.

to close within three of the Beavers.

And two shots from the foul line by MaryAnn Stoican, her only points on the night, brought the Ducks within one, 14-13.

But Menken again opened things up, as the Beavers worked the ball in for two more. Menken shot 17-22 from the floor and 4-7 from the line to earn her 38 points.

Mollet again stole the ball, adding three steals to the OSU total, putting OSU in front again as she took it down the floor for a lay-up.

Oregon's Bev Smith, who finished with 16 points and seven rebounds, scored four points before the Beavers again took control of the ball for three unanswered baskets.

It looked like the Ducks finally had everything under control as they dominated the boards and moved ahead for the first time in the game, 25-23.

But thoughts of an easy victory were again dashed as OSU finished the half with four more baskets, for a 31-25 lead.

Coming out in the second half, the Ducks added fire to

their game. Alison Lang, who left the game with nine points after fouling out late in the second half, opened the period on an assist from Allison Towriss.

With 10 minutes left to play, the Ducks moved within three of the Beavers.

But Menken again widened the lead.

A three-point play by the OSU center gave the Beavers a 52-43 lead.

And that margin followed the Ducks for the rest of the game, as OSU answered every Duck point with one of its own.

The Ducks ended the night shooting only 42.3 percent (22-52) from the floor and 58.8 percent from the line (10-17).

The Beavers shot 50 percent from the floor (26-52) and 41.2 percent from the line (9-17).

OSU — 31-30 61
Oregon — 25-29 54

OSU — Sturznegger 1 3-4 5, Becker 0-2 0, Collings 1 2, Clark 4 8, Mollet 2 1-2 5, Acarregui 1 1-2 3, Menken 17 4-7 38. Total — 26 9-17 61.

Oregon — Adams 6 0-2 12, Towriss 2 2-2 6, Snider 1-2 1, Heimstra 3 0-1 3, Smith 7 2-3 16, Stoican 2-2 2, Jones 1 2, Lang 3 3-5 9. Total — 23 10-17 54.

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