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## Oregon cagers halt skein

### Ducks come back in second half to surprise Huskies in Seattle

By Donald Coulter  
Of the Emerald

Oh, no, not Oregon!

This thought must have crossed Marv Harshman's mind Saturday night as the Washington basketball coach watched his team blow a 12-point lead to the Ducks and eventually lose, 82-78.

Oregon, you see, wasn't the most threatening of teams going into the game. The Ducks had lost 9 of their previous 10



Junior forward Jerome Williams turned the game around for the Ducks, as Oregon came back to defeat the Huskies 82-78.

games, and by the look of things, it seemed as if they would go winless until next December.

The Huskies, meanwhile, were still in the thick of the conference race with an 11-3 record, just a game-and-a-half behind Oregon State.

But there was one very big intangible weighing in Oregon's favor. The developments of the past week — the humiliating loss to OSU, the dismissal of Barry Walker and the questions surrounding the future of head coach Jim Haney — garnered so much attention that the actual game of basketball paled in comparison.

To divert that attention back to the basketball court, Oregon's players and coaches reasoned that they would have to make a big showing in Seattle.

But in the first half, it was Washington which did all the showing off as the Huskies took control of the boards, and Oregon fell behind quickly. With four minutes to go in the half, the Ducks trailed by 12, 37-25, en route to what surely seemed like their seventh straight loss.

Oregon crept back in the game with some inspired defense and the scoring of Fred Cofield to close the gap to 39-33 at halftime. Cofield's shooting — he finished with a career-high 22 points and was 5 of 7 from the floor in the second half — continued to help Oregon after the intermission.

But it was Jerome Williams who turned the game around. Williams, who did not start the game, took command of the boards on both ends of the court. He scored 19 points — all in the second half — and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Ducks outscored Washington 12-4 midway through the half to take an 11-point lead.

From there, the Ducks struggled to hold on to the lead, which Washington cut to two points in the final minute. After some key free throw shooting by Williams and John Greig, Jerome put the lid on the game with a slam dunk in the closing seconds and the Ducks won by four, 82-78.

The win was Oregon's first road victory this season after six defeats. It ends the Ducks' longest losing streak in seven years, and ups their record to 4-9 in the conference, 9-13 overall.

Oregon travelled to Pullman after the game for tonight's contest against Washington State. The game is scheduled to start at 8 and will be televised on Channel 12. The Cougars, fifth-place in the Pac-10 with a 8-6 record, lost to Oregon State, 40-36, Saturday night.



Emerald Photos

John Greig provided some key free throw shooting.

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## — sportfolio —

Club Sports is sponsoring a ski trip to Lake Tahoe during Spring Break. Transportation and lodging provided. Today is the last day to sign-up and pay for the trip in EMU Room 5. The ski trip is scheduled for Saturday, March 20th through Friday the 25th. The cost for the trip will be \$120 for lodging and transportation. For more information, call x3733.

George Beres, sports information director for the University the past six years, will leave the position in July to assume an assignment in the University News Bureau, it was announced last week by Rick Bay, director of athletics.

A successor will be sought to fill the position by July, with Beres serving as consultant to the new SID during the transitional period, and remaining in the position until the new appointment is made.

"George has served the athletic department extremely well since he came here six years ago, and has been particularly helpful to me in my first six months at Oregon," said Bay.

The Oregon judo team continued its domination of Northwest judo by having eight of its 15-member squad place in the Scio Invitational Tournament on Saturday. David Mertens and Ron Bryant placed first and second in the masters novice Division, while Bill Jordan picked up second in the senior novice heavyweight, and Scott Main fought through for third in the senior novice middleweight division. In the advanced competition, John Abe scored second place in the brown belt lightweight section. Teammate Bob Wong, out for six weeks with a broken jaw, was sorely missed in this division.

Oregon scored one-two in the black belt lightweight competition, with Tim Monahan getting the decision over club coach Peter Harmer in the finals. The final division of the day, the black belt heavyweight, saw Mark Grimes of Oregon place second after fighting through an extremely tough field. Oregon's other entrant in this division, Yumi Nojima, had to withdraw after he had his elbow dislocated. The Scio tourney was the last competition for team members before the NCAA Championships in Berkeley at the end of March, and the Northwest Championships in Seattle at the beginning of April.