

Men swept again

Worst year since '72 ends

An absolutely miserable season finally came to an end over the weekend.

The Oregon men's basketball team came out on the losing end of games with Arizona State and Arizona, losing twice by 18-point margins, 80-62 to ASU Friday and to the Wildcats Saturday 96-78.

The loss closed out a frustrating season in which the Ducks lost 14 of their last 16 games and went 9-18 (4-14 in the Pacific 10 Conference) for the season. It's the worst season in a decade for the Ducks, since the 1971-72 record of 6-20. It's also the worst season in Jim Haney's tenure at the Duck helm.



Photo by Bob Baker

John Greig

Nothing helped the Ducks, however, who played as inconsistently as they had all season.

Oregon kept the score close despite poor first halves in each of the two games, but could not hold on in the end, giving their opponents the opportunity to build insurmountable leads late in the second half of each ball game.

Graduating senior John Greig ended his career with the Ducks by scoring 36 points for the weekend. Greig amassed 429 points for the season and 909 for his three-year career, making him 18th on the all-time Oregon scoring list.

Greig closed out his career with the best career field goal efficiency in the history of the school.

It was also a good weekend for guard Fred Cofield. The sophomore had an especially productive game against Arizona, going to the hoop for 27 points (11-for-19 from the field and 5-for-6 from the line).

But for the most part, the Ducks were left to search for answers to a season that has been disheartening to the players and fans alike.

Mental mistakes, uninspired play and an overall attitude of being "afraid to lose" began to surface at the beginning of the Ducks' losing streak. But at the end of the season, those problems seemed to be especially prominent.

Now, Oregon faces the task of reversing its losing trend, and next year returning a sense of pride to the program.

It was a season that saw Oregon show early signs of improvement over last year — finishing second to Idaho in the Portland's Far West Basketball Classic in December — only to fall flat on its face after winning its first two conference games against the two Arizona schools in McArthur Court.

The two Southwestern schools had little compassion for the hapless Ducks, who had beaten them to start off the Pac-10 season.

Actually, Oregon could have won either game if they had played like they wanted to. Duck coach Jim Haney benched junior forward Jerome Williams for much of the two-day road trip for disciplinary reasons and guard Paul Bain lost playing time to freshman Bryan Trendell as Haney experimented with different player combinations.

MSU surprises Ducks; west regionals up next

The Oregon women's gymnastics team had one of their worst outings of the season as they suffered a disappointing 131.90-128.50 loss at the hands of Montana State last Friday.

The Ducks, who had been averaging 136-138 points a meet, could not manage any firsts against the Bobcats. MSU's Barbie Baker took firsts on the balance beam (8.45) and the floor (8.90) on her way to first place in the all-around (33.80).

Leading the way for Oregon was Maureen Nolan, who took seconds on the uneven bars (8.30) and the beam (8.05). Pacing the Ducks in the all-around was Sara Gustafson, who finished second with a 33.40 mark.

The loss gave Oregon a 2-3 dual meet record for the season as they head into the western regionals March 12-13 in Corvallis.

Oregon's region is one of the toughest in the country, with top-ranked Utah, 2nd-ranked Oregon State and a solid Washington squad standing in their way. The Ducks' goal is to top 140 points, which would be a school record.

A key factor for Oregon if they hope to do well is freshman Julie Tennenhouse, who coach Gary Vanderhoef says, "has really come on in the last month."

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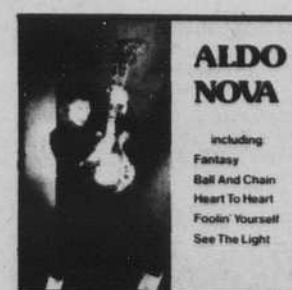


Loverboy
on Columbia



Angel City
on Epic

Aldo Nova
on Portrait



— sportfolio —

LOS ANGELES — The University of Oregon men's swim team timed personal and season best events although they finished in last place at the Pac-10 Swimming and Diving championships in Los Angeles this weekend.

Stanford won the event with 426 points, besting UCLA which had 415. Oregon was eighth, and last with 38.

The Ducks received personal bests from Jeff Morgan in the 500-yards freestyle (4:40.54) and 200-yards butterfly (1:51.90), Erik Hughes in the 200-yards individual medley (1:57.48) and 400-yards individual medley (4:10.93), Jeff Zeller in the 500-yards freestyle (4:41.51), and Jamie Dull in the 100-yards freestyle (48.04).

The 800-yards freestyle relay team of Morgan, Dull, Hughes and Zeller also turned in a season best time of 7:00.32.

OAKLAND (AP) — Portland center Mychal Thompson scored 29 points, including 17 in the second half, and contributed strong rebounding to lead the Trail Blazers to a 106-102 National Basketball Association victory Sunday over the Golden State Warriors.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — North Carolina, DePaul, Virginia and Georgetown were made the top seeds in the all four regions of the NCAA basketball tournament, announced Sunday as "the deepest and strongest field we've had in many years."

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