

Ducks turn on the burners, rip USC

63-percent shooting keys 80-49 romp



Photo by Steve Crowell

Oregon's Chris Harper snuck past USC's Clayton Olivier but missed this layup Thursday night. Ducks didn't miss much else, though, demolishing the Trojans 80-49 at McArthur Court.

By Doug Levy
Of the Emerald

If nothing else, the University of Southern California can plead bad timing after Thursday night's 80-49 thrashing at the hands of Oregon's basketball team at McArthur Court.

Oregon's laughter was its biggest Pac-10 win since a 92-61 shellacking of Washington State back in the 1973-74 season.

The Ducks, now 2-1 in conference and 7-6 overall, had laid a goose egg against Notre Dame a night earlier on national television, and they came out looking like demons against the Trojans, 1-2 and 6-10. The result was a game that became a rout three minutes after halftime.

"Tonight, we were a little upset with ourselves," said Oregon center Blair Rasmussen, who paced a balanced scoring attack with 15 points. "We had something to prove after last night."

The Ducks proved a lot in this game. They proved they can rebound, they proved they can run an effective fast break, and they proved they can shoot again after laying down bricks against the Irish.

Oregon was 30 of 48 from the field against USC, a .625 clip, and that was enough to give Trojan coach Stan Morrison nightmares.

"They shot the ball so very well it made us press emotionally," said Morrison. "I thought Oregon played with incredible confidence. You could see it in their eyes."

The Ducks sprinted to a 17-8 cushion over USC, upped the margin to 32-22 at halftime, and blew the Trojans out of the water in the second half.

"Obviously, tonight was a much better night

for us," said Oregon coach Don Monson. "We were more active pushing the ball up the court and running the break tonight — I couldn't be more pleased."

Monson couldn't help but be tickled to death with his team's performance after intermission.

In a three-minute span, Oregon turned a 10-point game into a 15-point game, Gary Gatewood's outside jumper putting the Ducks up 39-24 with 16:57 to go.

It got worse after that. Oregon pushed its advantage to 41-24 with 16:07 to play, 49-28 with 11:42 left and 61-36 at the 5:20 mark after Greg Trapp extended himself for a tremendous dunk that drew raves from a crowd of 6,976.

Trapp scored 10 points and also grabbed 10 rebounds to help Oregon pile up a 37-21 rebounding pad, while Gatewood (12 points) and Chris Harper joined Rasmussen on the double figure list. And it certainly didn't hurt to have Mike Matheson back in the lineup after a virus forced him to miss Wednesday's game.

Unfortunately, the Ducks won't face another USC Saturday. The sixth-ranked UCLA Bruins come to Mac Court then, and Monson is definitely concerned.

"They have tradition — they know how to win," said Monson. "And our kids have to establish that they can win a big game."

The Bruins boast a genuine All-America candidate in Kenny Fields, a fine playmaking guard in Ralph Jackson, and a 7-foot center, Stuart Gray, that will keep Rasmussen honest.

"Stuart and I are good friends — we played against each other all summer," said Rasmussen.

Tipoff time for Saturday's game, being televised nationally by the USA network, is 2 p.m.

Will real Ducks stand up?

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

This couldn't have been the same Oregon basketball team that played on the McArthur Court hardwood Wednesday night against Notre Dame.

No way. These guys had to be imposters. The Ducks that played against the Irish corralled just 19 rebounds and sank just 48 percent of their shots.

But Thursday night, in front of 6,976 partisans, the real Ducks showed up — and just in time, too. Oregon hammered Southern Cal's Trojans by an 80-49 count and looked like a team that had not even lost the night before.

It was amazing how Oregon turned things around in a span of 24 hours. Against USC, the Ducks connected on a sizzling 63 percent of their field goals and outrebounded the Trojans by a 37-21 count. Players who inexplicably took leaves of absences against Notre Dame stood up and gave an account of themselves Thursday night.

Forward Greg Trapp, who had just two points and three rebounds against Notre Dame, tossed in 10 points and plucked a game-high 10 rebounds.

The turnaround was also evident in guard

Chris Harper. Harper, who made just three of 12 shots Wednesday night, fired in five of seven and dished out five assists against the Trojans.

Oregon coach Don Monson had complained that his troops lacked the killer instinct against Notre Dame. Well, Thursday night, the Ducks had more than the killer instinct. If Oregon got a 15-point lead, it wanted 20.

"Yeah, we talked about that, and I think we did show a killer instinct tonight," Monson said, nodding in agreement. "But I think we've still got a ways to go — we've got to do it more than once."

The players, too, felt they had been lacking the killer instinct. But a game like they had against Southern Cal should bring out the killer in each and every one of them.

"Usually, we will get up by four points and let teams back in," Trapp said. "But tonight, we didn't want to let them tell us what to do. We wanted to tell them what to do."

"We were 10 up at halftime and we came out with the intent to go up 10 more," Oregon's Gary Gatewood said. "Tonight, we went out and got the other team down, and when you get a team down like that, they start thinking they're out of it."

Gymnasts' party spoiled by SJSU

Oregon's gymnastics team returned to competition after a two-year absence but San Jose State spoiled the party by winning Thursday night's meet at Gerlinger Annex, 156.50-152.10.

For the Ducks, it was a season

opener that came a year late because of a lack of gymnasts for last year's squad.

Another bit of good news came when Arizona State transfer Traci Anonsen was declared eligible just hours

before the meet.

Senior Holly Holmes was a bright spot as she took top all-around honors with a 32.30 for four events.

The floor exercise saw freshman Debbie Anderson win with an 8.6 after performing the first ever double back flip by an Oregon gymnast.

With a stronger performance on the uneven parallel bars, where only Anonsen could complete her routine, the meet might have gone Oregon's way.

Still, second-year coach Ed Boyd wasn't dissatisfied.

"I was real pleased. The girls hung in strong and did the best they could," said Boyd.

Ferguson, twice being voted honorable mention All Pac-10 between 1976 and 1981.

The 25-year-old Krieger now becomes the youngest head coach of the University's 16 National Collegiate Athletic Association-backed sports programs.

Oregon names new golf coach

Scott Krieger, an ex-Oregon golfer, was officially named Oregon's golf coach Thursday, replacing Jim Ferguson, who stepped down from that post to devote more time to his duties as assistant athletic director at the University.

Krieger, a 1981 Oregon graduate, played his golf under

Wrestlers to tangle with No. 8 Spartans

Oregon's wrestling team will try to improve its 7-2-1 record against some heady competition at McArthur Court tonight and Saturday.

The Ducks face San Francisco State University tonight in a 7:30 p.m. match and then on Saturday, the wrestlers take on eighth-ranked San Jose State University and Chico State University in a three-way match-up starting at 7 p.m.

SFSU is 2-2 for the season and is led by heavyweight Morris Johnson. Johnson placed second in his weight class in the 1982-83 Division II championships and is a NCAA Division II All-American.

The Spartans of San Jose State highlight Saturday's match — they sport a 4-0 record. Andy Tsarnas, 1982-83 Pacific Coast Athletic Association wrestler of the year at 190 pounds, grabs most of the headlines for the Spartans.

"They are a tough team," says Oregon coach Ron Finley of the

Spartans. "They are going to give us problems all the way down the line from the first weight to the last weight."

Chico State is 6-1 on the season and comes off a 23-19 win over Portland State University Wednesday night.

Oregon continues to rely on a pair of touted freshmen. Brad Steward has been a fixture at 177 pounds, piling up a 10-2-1 match record, and fellow frosh Larry Topliff is a perfect 5-0 at 126.

Other Oregon wrestlers with impressive records are 167-pounder Keith Beutler, who is 6-0, and heavyweight Lance Hohanadel, who is 7-3.

However, Finley chooses to worry less about records and more about decisive wins if the Ducks are to sweep their three matches.

"The key points are if we can get some pins or not," says Finley. "We are going to have to score some pins."

Duck swimmers face UW

Oregon's men's and women's swim teams will face Northwest power University of Washington Saturday in a home meet at Leighton Pool.

The Huskies dominated last year's meets, beating the Oregon men 74-21 and knocking off Oregon's women 68-24, but Oregon coach Dan Cole feels Saturday's meet should be closer.

Cole points out that his team has posted some fast times in the early season, and his claim isn't without backing.

For the men, Steve Nichols' winning 50 yard freestyle last

week against Simon Fraser University was just short of a 17-year-old Leighton Pool record. Nichols posted a :21.28 to win the event, just off Bob Boyer's :21.10 in 1967.

On the women's side, Gwen Roedel did well enough in the 500 yard freestyle to climb into seventh place on Oregon's all-time top ten for the event.

Still, tradition favors the Huskies. Washington leads the men's series 32-9, and holds a 7-1 edge on the women's end.

The meet is scheduled to start at 11 a.m.