Oregon wins easily, 81-52

Basketball returns with new, old faces

By Allan Lazo

Of the Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball team got a few surprises, mostly good, as they beat the University of Victoria, 81-52 at McArthur Court Friday night.

The Ducks easily trounced Victoria in their non-counting season-opener before over 8,000 fans in Mac Court. Oregon led the entire game and opened up a 32-point lead over the Vikings late in the second half.

"Generally, I felt it was kind of what was expected. There were some good things, and there were some things that weren't so good," said second year Oregon coach Don Monson of his team's first real opportunity to gauge their progress this year.

Oregon co-captains, seniors Blair Rasmussen and Chris Harper, provided the big point production for the Ducks.

Harper, shooting seven of nine from the field, scored a game-high 19 points. Harper was five from six from the free-throw line and added five assists. Meanwhile, Rasmussen finished with 18 points and added 11 rebounds for the Ducks.

"It felt good just to break the ice. It's been a long time since we played together against somebody other than ourselves. It was nice to just get started," said Rasmussen of the exhibition against the Canadian amateur champions.

In the way of suprises, freshman Keith Balderston was a pleasant one. The rookie out of Portland's Wilson High School tossed in 13 points in 10 minutes of play before fouling out.

"I was really happy about it. It's a whole new ballgame and I was nervous, but I knew that if I just went out there and played hard, things would work out," said Balderston, who has been overshawdowed by freshmen Anthony Taylor and Rick Osborn.

At times, Balderston showed his inexperience. The 6-7 freshman forward collected all five of his personal fouls in a five-and-a-half minute stretch in the second half.

"Balderston's play for a freshman, was very outstanding, particularly in the way he went in and created things," praised Monson. "He didn't stand around and let things happen, he made them happen, and I was pleased with that."

Along with Balderston, Oregon fans saw the debuts of the Ducks' most talked about recruits — Taylor, Osborn, and Kofi Kyei from Ghana.

Taylor, the 6-4 guard from Beaverton, added eight points on three of seven shooting from the field and was admittedly "really nervous."

"Anthony played well enough. I was pleased with his performance, but there wasn't anything outstanding," said Monson.

"Rick (Osborn) was a little tight on the shot. I noticed that particularly on free throws. Those things will happen, but Rick will be fine," Monson said about the freshman guard from Parkrose High School, who failed to score in the game.

The Ducks have two more weeks of practice before their next game. Oregon heads to to Anchorage, Alaska for the Great Alaska Shootout Nov. 23-25. The tournament is notably tough, but the Ducks believe they have a chance at winning the championship. Monson agrees that the early start will aid Oregon's chances.

"Like I've said before, you can't simulate games. The 8,000 people there, the combination of different people we have to use, and our being able to evaluate where we are, really helped us," said Monson.

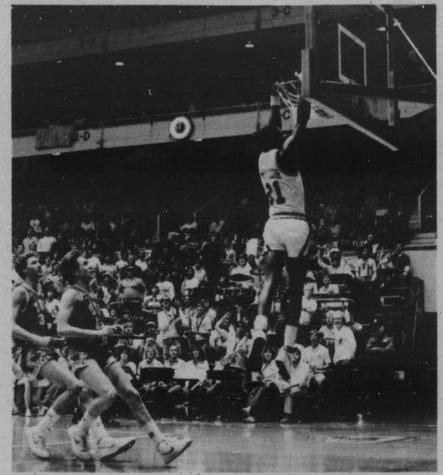


Photo by Kirk Hirot

Freshman Anthony Taylor collects his first collegiate dunk as pair of helpless University of Victoria defenders watch. Oregon blasted the Vikings, 81-52 in McArthur Court Friday night to open the season.

Spikers ready for playoffs with easy wins at home

By Robert Collias

Of the Emerald

The Oregon volleyball team tuned up for the NorPac conference playoffs this weekend with an easy sweep of the Washington schools at McArthur Court.

The Ducks mauled the Washington State University Cougars 15-2, 15-7 and 15-9 on Friday night before coming back Saturday to dump the University of Washington Huskies 15-9, 15-11 and 15-9.

The 13th-ranked Ducks wrapped up the NorPac regular season at 9-2 and are 24-10 on the season. The netters travel to San Jose this Friday to participate in the Nor-Pac conference playoffs. The Ducks are the No. 3 team in the NorPac and will face Fresno State University in the first round.

The winner of the four-team playoff, which decides the conference champion, receives an automatic bid to the NCAA playoffs.

San Jose State University, is the No. 1 team and will square off with Oregon State University who wrapped the league's fourth and final spot this weekend.

"We looked at these matches as our chance to get ready for the playoffs and I think we did a pretty good job," said Oregon coach Chris Voelz of the sweep at Mac Court.

The Ducks had to play the matches without regular setter Lisa Gemoya, who broke her finger in practice on Thursday. Without Gemoya, the Ducks pressed freshman Ema Tamamasui into action at the setter position.

"Tamamasui played very well and kept us in the flow of our offense very well," said Voelz. "Hopefully we will have Gemoya back for the playoffs, but if we don't, we know that Tamamasui can do the job."

In the WSU match, the Ducks jumped to a 10-0 lead before the Cougars could get on the board. Oregon cruised the rest of the way behind the aggresive play of Shaunna Koenig and Sue Harbour.

Koenig paced the Ducks with seven kills while Harbour added six kills. Oregon was able to empty their bench against the hapless Cougars who have only won two games all season.

Against the Huskies, the Ducks were paced by Cynthia Shepherd who had 13 kills and a .524 hitting percentage.

"Shepherd was soaring out there," said Voelz. "She really had a great match."

With the playoffs on the horizon the Ducks now look to put the final touches on a successful season.

"We stated our goal at the beginning of the season to win the conference and now we have our chance," said Voelz.

et al.

MEETINGS

WOMENSPACE DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP, for women who are victims of emotional or physical abuse, will be held each Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Central Presbyterian Church, East 15th Avenue and Ferry Street. Child Care can be arranged by calling Womenspace, 485-6513, by Monday afternoon.

STUDENT CAMPAIGN FOR DISARMA-MENT meets today at 5:30 p.m. in Room 108 EMU.

LECTURES

AUDRE LORDE, nationally prominent black feminist poet and social critic, will discuss her most recent work, "Sister Outsider," a collection of essays ranging from general feminist theory to international issues such as apartheid and the invasion of Grenada. Tonight at 7:00, Room 167 EMU.

MISCELLANEOUS

BAKE SALE: Sponsored by the Black Student Union, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today in front of the Bookstore (East 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street). "HEARTS AND MINDS," an Academy Award-winning Vietnam War documentary, will be shown in acknowledgement of Armistice Day by Students Opposed To Registration and the Draft, today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the EMU lobby.

BLE will give a concert tonight at 8:00 in

Doonesbury



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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

