

Duck women split with Washington schools

By Jon Watkins
Of the Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team faced its greatest test so far in conference play Saturday — and the results of the challenge were mixed.

The University of Washington beat the Ducks, 65-57 Saturday night in McArthur Court. However, the game was closer than the score indicated, as the Ducks battled the more experienced 18th-ranked Huskies to the wire, but came up short in the end.

Oregon fell to 1-1 in NorPac Conference play and 8-8 overall, while the Huskies improved to 2-0 in league and 15-1 overall.

The Ducks had better luck on Friday, when they collected their first NorPac win of the season against Washington State University, 59-50 at Mac Court.

From the start, the Washington game seemed destined to be an exciting one as both teams displayed two of the premier guards in the conference — Oregon's Lauri Tennant and Washington's Leteia Hughley. Neither one disappointed the expectations of the 516 people at Mac

Court, but in the end, UW's experience prevailed over the Ducks' youth.

Oregon came out strong and led most of the first half on Tennant's shooting and the inside play of Gabi Neumann. The Ducks roared to an eight-point advantage, 22-14, with 10:22 left in the first half. With the momentum on their side, it appeared the Ducks would blow the game wide-open.

But UW coach Joyce Sake called for a time-out. Then Hughley, the Huskies' senior All-America guard candidate, took over. Hughley scored six straight points to rally the Huskies within two, 22-20.

From there, UW's Renee Avelino scored six points in an 11-8 Husky run, as Washington took a one-point halftime lead, 31-30.

The second half started out close. Again it was Tennant and Neumann leading the Ducks' offensive attack. The two scored the first 12 points in the final 20 minutes for Oregon.

For Washington it was all Hughley — hitting jump shots and dishing assists inside to forward Avelino, as both teams

battled back and forth.

Oregon coach Elwin Heiny was impressed with Hughley's performance.

"We had a hard time stopping Leteia (Hughley) tonight," Heiny said. "She is one of the finest shooters and ball-handlers in the country."

With seven minutes remaining, Hughley was fouled going to the basket. She made one of two free throws to put the Huskies up by one, 40-39. On a Sue Brown turnover, Hughley took the ball the length of the court and passed to Avelino for a layup to put the Huskies up by three, 42-39.

At that point, Oregon's offense sputtered and the Huskies took advantage of the opportunity. UW stretched its lead to nine points, 54-45 with 5:45 remaining, as Neumann was saddled to the bench with four fouls.

But Oregon refused to give up. The Ducks made one last effort to catch the Huskies. With just over three minutes left, Oregon crept to within three points, 55-58 on Sheila Sattiewhite's rebound basket off the glass. But that was as close as Oregon would get, as the Huskies

sewed up the game with free throws — and the Ducks could only manage to score one field goal in the final two minutes.

"We missed a lot of easy shots down the stretch, which could have affected the game," said Heiny. "We lost concentration and did not execute well."

Tennant ended the game with 21 points and 12 rebounds, while Neumann contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds. Hughley finished with 21 points and Avelino added 14 for the Huskies.

On Friday, the Ducks picked up their first NorPac win against WSU, thanks to the play of Tennant.

Tennant again led the Ducks in scoring with 23 points.

The free-throw line was a critical factor in the game, as Oregon hit 24 of 35 foul shots.

Oregon resumes the annual Civil War basketball battle with Oregon State University on Friday in Gill Coliseum at Corvallis.

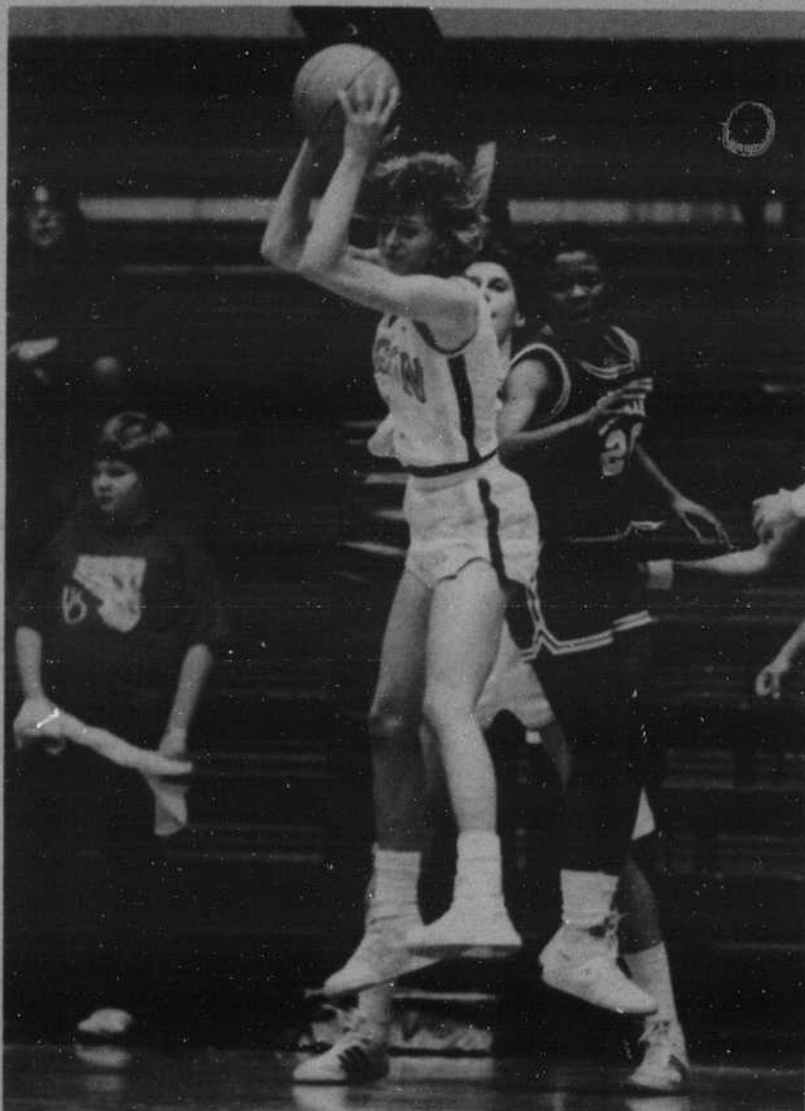


Photo by Ross Martin

Oregon's Lauri Tennant (left) edges out the University of Washington's Leteia Hughley for the rebound in the Huskies' 65-57 victory over the Ducks at McArthur Court Saturday night.

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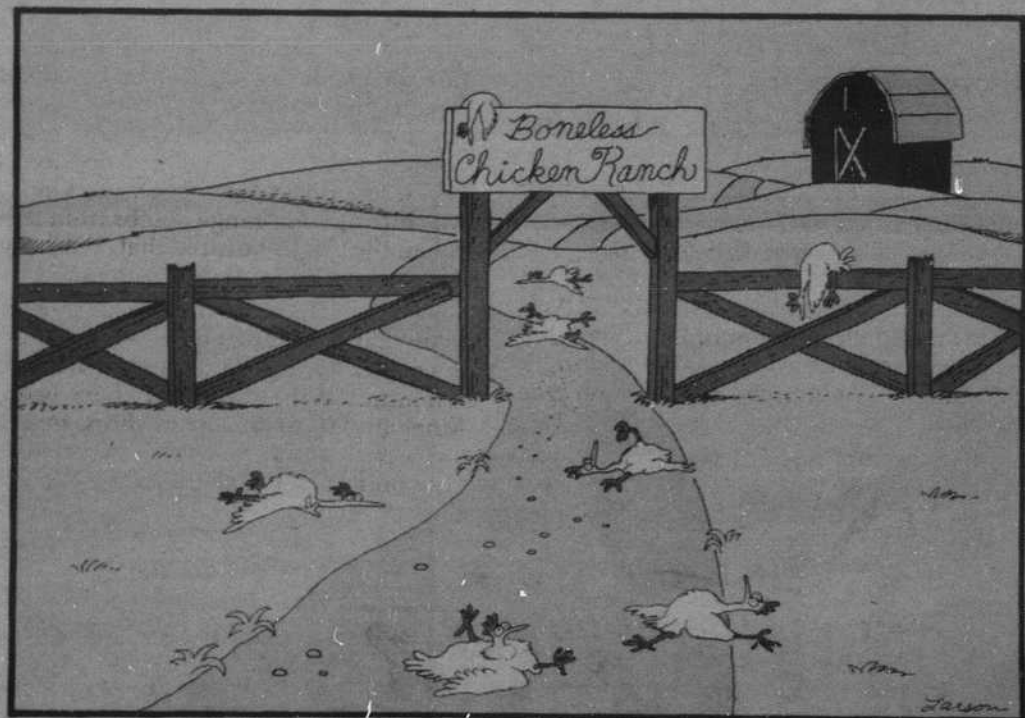


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