

USC holds on to defeat Oregon

By Adam Worcester
Of the Emerald

Like a greyhound chasing the rabbit, the Oregon men's basketball team came close time after time Thursday night, but it couldn't quite catch the University of Southern California as the Ducks fell 65-62 in the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

USC clinched at least a tie for the Pac-10 title with the victory, while the Ducks fell to 15-15 on the season and 8-9 in conference play. The loss seriously jeopardized Oregon's chances of gaining a National Invitation Tournament berth.

The Trojans moved to 13-4 in league play, one game ahead of Washington, 12-5 in the conference, with one game left against Oregon State Saturday. Oregon now faces UCLA in McArthur Court Saturday at 7:35 p.m. The UCLA game looms as a must-win for the Ducks, who need a win to assure a winning season and a chance at an NIT berth.

Oregon's Blair Rasmussen did all he could, but it wasn't enough as poor rebounding and foul shooting foiled several Duck comeback attempts. Rasmussen pumped in 27 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and kept Oregon in a game, which they could never quite control. Anthony Taylor added 12 points and nine rebounds for the Ducks.

After the Trojans had built a 20-12 lead, Oregon fought back to within five at the half, 32-27. The Ducks' shooting went cold in the second half, and they fell behind 47-32 with 10:52

left in the game. Then Rasmussen hit two shots and a rebound bucket to key a Duck run that cut the deficit to 49-42.

USC increased the lead to 53-42 before Oregon made its final run. The Ducks managed to cut the Trojan lead to six twice, 53-47 and 55-49, but Oregon couldn't get any closer than the final margin as Rasmussen nailed two free throws with seven seconds left.

The result might have been different if Oregon had hit its foul shots. For the game, Oregon shot a woeful 10 for 19 and were out-rebounded, 32-28.

"We fumbled some very crucial rebounds," Oregon coach Don Monson said. "The rebounding wasn't good; it drove me nuts."

Going into the final home game of his career, Rasmussen continued his tear through the Pac-10 after being recently named to the All-Pac-10 team. For the seventh time in eight games, the 7-foot senior center scored 20 or more points.

"We never seemed to really take control," Rasmussen said. "They beat us up inside. That's where they won it."

UCLA, 15-12 and 11-6 in league, comes to Mac Court after a big win over OSU in Pauley Pavilion Thursday night.

"We'll have to please the home folks Saturday night," Rasmussen said. "We've got to give them a good show before we close it out."

Sports Shorts

The Oregon women's basketball team will start its "second season" this Friday as the Ducks travel to Seattle for the NorPac Conference playoffs beginning tonight at 6 against the Oregon State University Beavers.

Oregon, 13-13 overall, has won five of its last six games with the only loss coming to the 12th-ranked University of Washington Huskies.

"We're pretty excited about going to Seattle," Oregon coach Elwin Heiny says. "Our goal this season was to make the conference tournament, and we've done that."

The Ducks, 6-5 in the NorPac, will open the tournament against OSU, 18-8 and 8-2 in league. The Ducks beat the Beavers a week ago Wednesday night in McArthur Court, 63-50.

The Oregon men's golf

team is in third place after the first round of play at the 54-hole Rancho Murieta Invitational in Sacramento, Calif.

In the Pacific 10 Conference Swimming Championships in Beaverton, the Oregon men's team is in eighth place with 26 points after the first day of competition. The Ducks were paced by a 17th-place finish by Steve Nichols in the 50-yard freestyle.

Both the Oregon men's and women's tennis teams have early season matches today. The women are in Washington and will meet Puget Sound at 3 p.m.

The men have two home meets against Eastern Washington today at 9 a.m. and the University of Washington Saturday at 3 p.m. Both matches will be held on the 15th Street courts, weather permitting.

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LECTURES

JAMES HART will speak tonight at 7:30 in the Museum of Art on "Discovering Oneself and Discovering America: The 19th Century Personal Narrative."

ROSE GLICKMAN Department of

History, Stanford University, will speak today at 3:30 p.m. Room 167 EMU. She will speak on women in the Soviet Union: Does work bring liberation?

DR. FEDERICO MORALES will speak on "Racism and Ethnic Relations in Central America" today at noon in Room 101 EMU.

MISCELLANEOUS

CENTURION AWARD Recognition of outstanding student leadership is now underway. Information sheets are available in Room 202 Johnson Hall, Suite 4, EMU, or at the information booth in Oregon Hall. Deadline for submitting Et Als to the

Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et Als are run only once, depending upon space availability. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus-originated events will be given priority.

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