

Sports

Beavers do Ducks no favors

By Robert Collias
Of the Emerald

The frustration of losing to an arch rival is hard to describe, but Oregon guard Rick Osborn seemed to do a pretty good job of it after Oregon's 15th straight loss, this one by the count of 63-56, to the Oregon State University Beavers on Saturday night in McArthur Court.

"I'm sick of losing to Oregon State," Osborn said. "I'm sick of everyone just assuming we're going to lose to the Beavers, but we can't say anything until we beat them."

The loss drops the Ducks to 5-8 overall and 0-3 in the Pac-10, while the Beavers improve to 7-4 and 3-0.

The Ducks certainly gave it a valiant effort Saturday as they used the muscle of Jerry Adams and the outside shooting of Kenny Sprague to control the early going and eventually build a 33-30 halftime lead.

"We played a solid first half," Oregon coach Don Monson said. "Jerry Adams played a very strong first 20 minutes." Adams led the way for Oregon in the first stanza as he had 11 points and perhaps more importantly, he held the Beavers' Jose Ortiz to just six first half points. Ortiz came into the game averaging 17.8 points per game, and Adams definitely had the better of the battle in the first half. Adams' strong board play also helped the Ducks to an amazing 17-5 rebounding advantage in the first half.

Unfortunately for the Ducks, the second half was not more of the same.

After trading baskets to open the second half, the Ducks opened their biggest lead of the night on an Osborn drive to the hoop and Keith Balderston's three-point play with 15:30 left to make the score 40-32.

The Beavers, who had only four turnovers the entire game, kept their composure and from there things got steadily worse for the Ducks.

Oregon State went on a 10-3 spurt to climb to within 43-42 with 11:40 left in the contest.

Then the clock finally struck midnight for the upset-minded Webfoots as Kenny Sprague, who had 13 points and seven rebounds, traveled under pressure from the Beavers press, and in the process fell to the ground and limped off the court. Sprague would not return for the rest of the game as the Ducks clung to their one-point lead.

"Losing Kenny really hurt," Monson said. "He was having

his best game of the year."

OSU promptly took the lead on a Darryl Flowers jumper with 11:15 remaining.

The two teams traded baskets and Oregon did regain the lead briefly on Osborn's driving layup at 7:14 to put the Ducks up 49-48.

Ortiz, who had 12 points in the second half to lead all scorers with 18 for the game, promptly gave the lead back to the Beavers with two free throws.

With the lead, OSU went to its inside game of Ortiz and Steve Woodside, who combined for 10 of the Beavers' last 13 points down the stretch.

Adams, the Ducks lone senior who has been on the losing side in this contest 10 times now, summed up his feelings on the subject.

"It was kind of nice to be home," Adams said. "But all that seems lost when we lose to the Beavers."

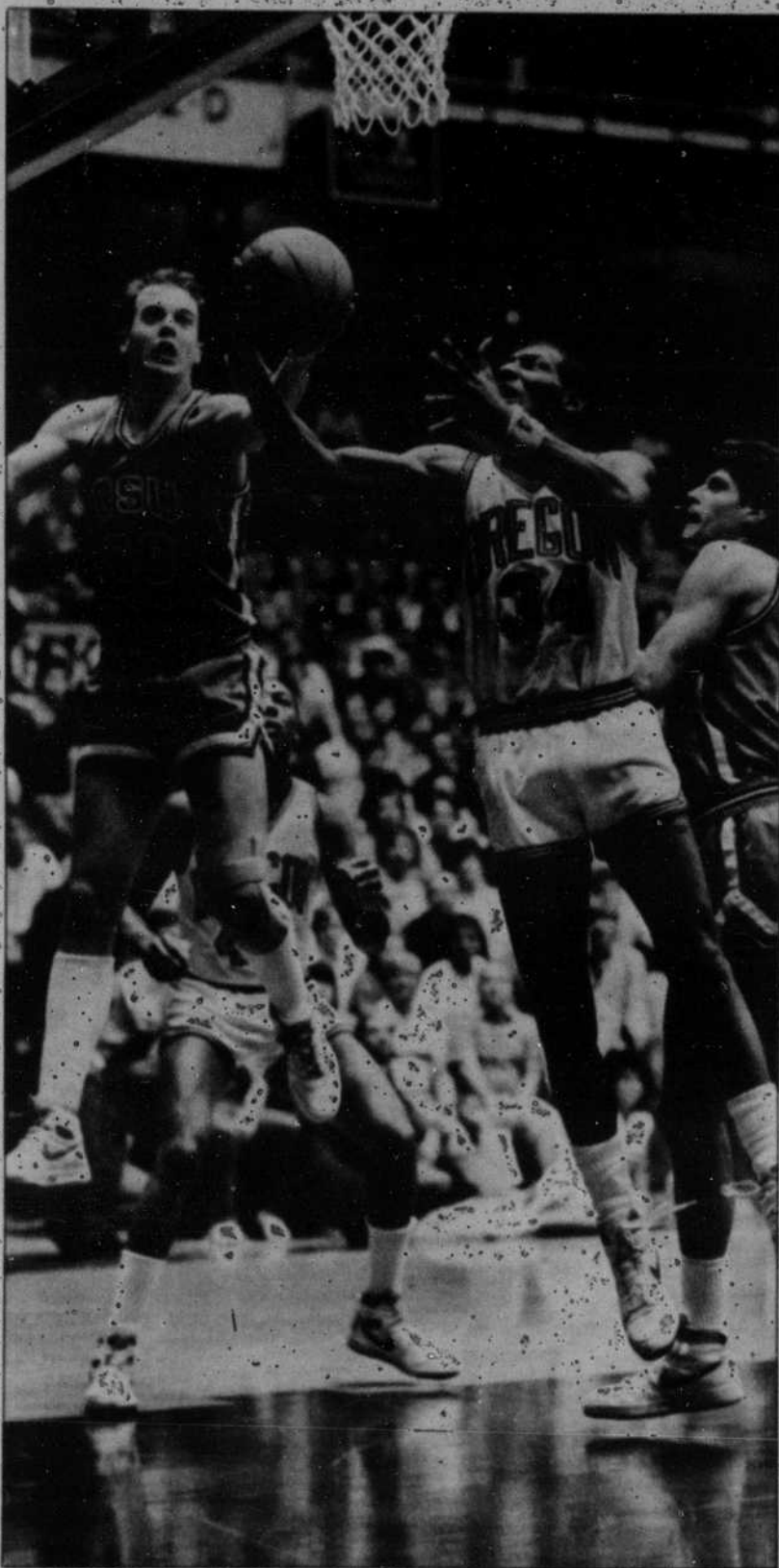


Photo by Russ Martin
Jerry Adams (34) snares a rebound away from OSU's Steve Woodside (00) while Jose Ortiz looks on. The Beavers won Saturday night in McArthur Court 63-56.

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