

# Sports

## Wildcats clip Ducks' feathers in a close one

By Robert Collias  
Of the Emerald

The Oregon basketball team added another chapter to a season of horrors Thursday night with a hard-fought 65-59 loss to Pac-10 Conference co-leader University of Arizona Wildcats in McArthur Court.

The script is all too familiar for the Webfoots this season as they play well enough to stay close throughout the game only to come up short at the end. Thursday's loss could not be blamed on lack of effort or desire on the part of Oregon as the team played its hearts out only to lose.

The loss left the Ducks at 8-16 on the season and 3-11 in the Pac-10, while the Wildcats moved into a tie for the Pac-10 lead with Washington at 10-3 in the conference and 19-7 overall.

"It was kind of typical out there tonight," Oregon coach Don Monson said following the game. "We hung in there and played well enough to win, but we just didn't do the right thing down the stretch to win."

Monson believes his young team just may not have

the right feel to win the close ballgames.

"We have to get a feeling for what it takes to win and we just haven't experienced that enough this year to help us," Monson said.

The loss certainly could not be put on the shoulders of Oregon senior Jerry Adams, who had his second-straight career-high scoring night with 25 points on 10 of 13 from the field to go along with 12 rebounds. Adams, who is leading the conference in rebounding, did not miss a shot in his first nine attempts and basically kept the Ducks close all night long.

"Without Jerry in there we would have been way out of it," Monson said as he saw his starting guard trio of Rick Osborn, Anthony Taylor and David Girley combine for a 12 of 37 shooting night from the floor.

Arizona coach Lute Olson also had high praise for the 6-foot-8 senior.

"In my three years at Arizona that is the best effort we have faced by a big man," Olson said. "I'm glad he is a senior and we won't have to face him again next year."

The game was a stark contrast to the last game played between the two teams Jan. 25 in Tucson in an 85-68 Wildcat win. The play in that game was largely on the perimeter as Arizona guard Steve Kerr used his patented long-range jumper to control the game with 19 points.

Thursday it was a different story as the Ducks controlled Kerr and held him to 10 points on five of 10 shooting from the floor.

"We worked on playing Kerr all week in practice," said freshman guard Kevin Mouton who came in to play 13 solid, second-half minutes while running the Oregon offense.

While Kerr and his running-mate Craig McMillan were basically shut-down, the Wildcats looked inside to senior post-player John Edgar, who scored 18 points, and freshman forward Sean Elliott, who added 14.

"With the defenses we have been facing lately it is a must that we have good production from our inside people," Olson said. "With the perimeter shooting of our guards we will face a lot of pressure-type defenses to neutralize that shooting."

Kerr echoed his coaches thoughts.

"They played me pretty tight tonight," Kerr said. "But when that happens it opens up the inside, and Edgar and Elliott did a good job tonight."

After a 31-26 halftime deficit, the Ducks came out and made the game exciting right from the start of the second half.

Adams scored his sixth-straight bucket to start the second half and cut the deficit to three at 31-28. Arizona answered with two-straight hoops of its own to open up the biggest lead of the game at 35-28 with 19:05 left in the game.

From there the game moved inside as Adams and Edgar went head-to-head underneath. Adams scored 15 of his points in the second stanza and Edgar had 12.

The Ducks tied the game at 41-41 with a three-point play from Adams with 12:10 left.

The game stayed close and was tied at 45-45 with 8:02 left.

Oregon guard Steve Ranniger swung down the baseline to receive a pass from Mouton. Ranniger put up a rainbow that looked good, but it rimmed out and Adams was in perfect position for the tip-in. The play seemed to be just the way it would be diagrammed in a textbook, but Adams was whistled for offensive goaltending and Arizona promptly went down and

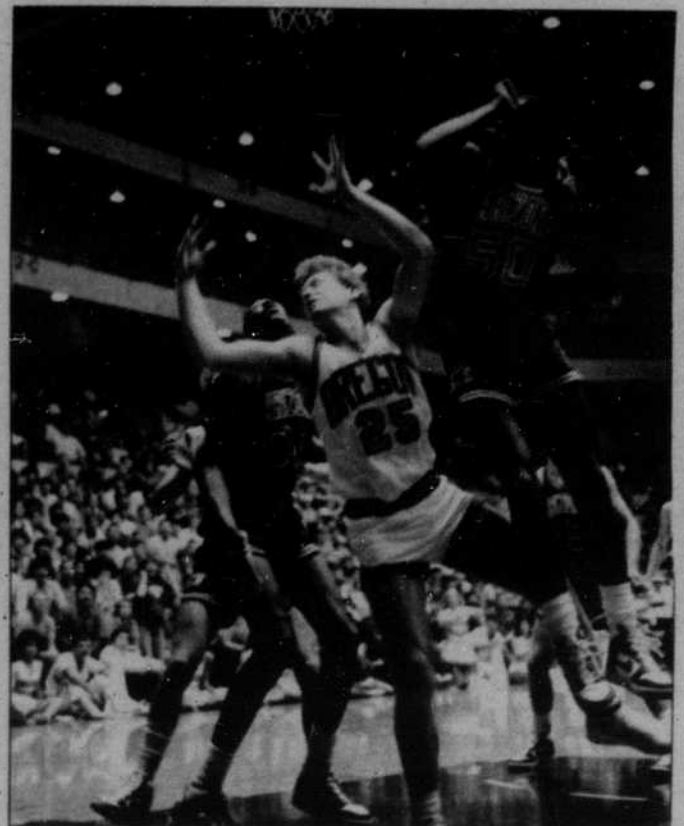


Photo by Karen Stallwood

Oregon's Rick Osborn (25) battles inside with Arizona's John Edgar (50) and Anthony Cook (00).

scored on a shot in the lane from Elliott.

Instead of an 47-45 Oregon lead, it was a two-point cushion for the Wildcats and the Ducks never seemed to recover.

"I couldn't believe they called that (offensive goaltending)," Adams said. "I waited and timed it as well as I could. I made sure it was out of the cylinder because I hung in the air as long as I could. I can't wait to see the film."

That play seemed to be a turning point for the Ducks as they could never regain the lead, although the game was close the rest of the way.

Arizona opened a 56-51 lead with 3:36 remaining on a rebound basket by Edgar, but the Ducks answered with two Adams free throws to close the margin to 56-53 with 3:02 in the game.

Arizona went back inside as Edgar and Elliott put in shots to put the game out of reach at 60-53, and the Ducks had lost another close one.

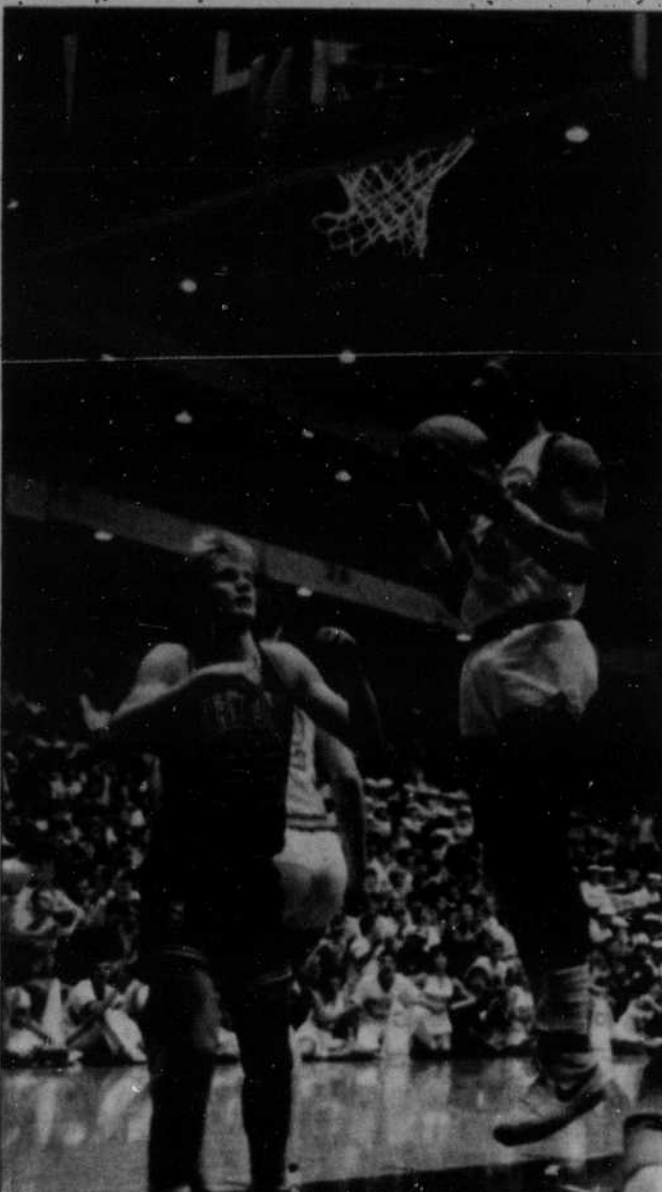


Photo by Karen Stallwood

Jerry Adams (34) had a career-high 25 points, but he couldn't do much here as he catches the ball after it goes through the net in Oregon's 65-59 loss to Arizona Thursday. Steve Kerr (25) looks on.

### Sports Shorts

The Oregon men's tennis team will take an undefeated record into today's match against Sonoma State University at the covered courts adjacent to Leighton Pool. The match is scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

The Ducks are 3-0 on the year thus far, and Oregon coach Buzz Summers believes his squad could be the best in recent years.

"We're very young but have some very talented players," Summers says. "Next year we should be able to say that the team is the best in a long, long time."

The Oregon wrestling team will be in Corvallis tonight to take on the Oregon State University Beavers.

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