

# Ducks heat up the Sun Devils

By Robert Collias  
Of the Emerald

The Oregon basketball team heated up McArthur Court Sunday afternoon with an 89-65 win over Arizona State University in a Pac-10 basketball contest.

The Ducks played like men with a mission all afternoon, and came out with the most convincing victory of their Pac-10 season. The win moved Oregon to 4-11 in the conference and 9-16 overall, while ASU fell to 6-9 in the conference and 12-13 overall.

The Sun Devils are probably used to warm temperatures as their nickname might imply, but the 6,831 spectators were probably not ready for the temperatures inside McArthur Court as the mercury rose to about 80 degrees inside the stuffy building.

The fans didn't seem to mind much when public address announcer Don Essig jokingly said the air conditioning in the structure was kaput.

They were having too much fun watching the Ducks avenge what was arguably their worst performance of the season in a 76-58 loss to the Sun Devils earlier in the season in Tempe.

"It was obviously good to win at home," Oregon coach Don Monson said. "I think this reinforces a little bit of what the kids have been working for."

The Ducks were led once again by senior captain Jerry Adams. Adams has been on fire lately as his five-year career winds down to a close with

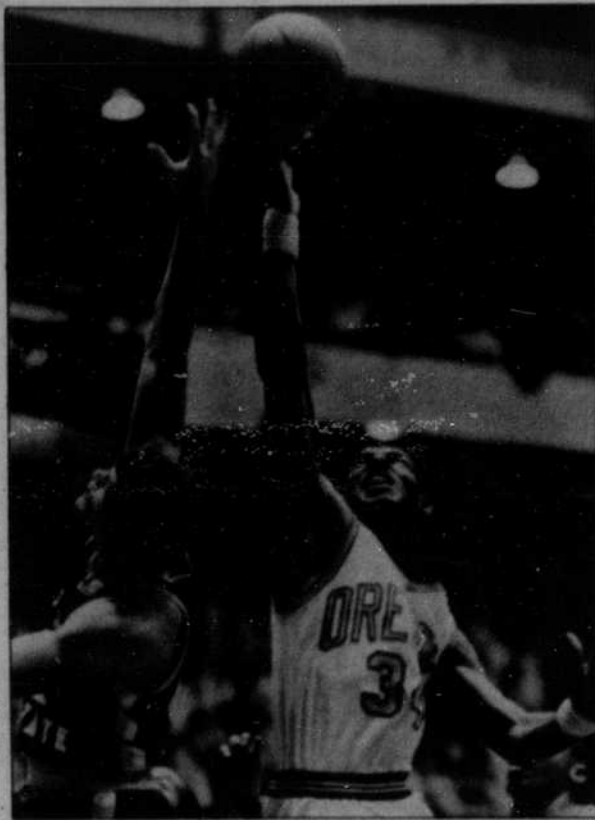


Photo by Ross Martin

Jerry Adams scored 21 points to go along with 14 rebounds including this one Sunday as he outdueled ASU's Mark Carlino in McArthur Court.

three games remaining. The 6-foot-8 senior has virtually come from nowhere to lead the conference in rebounding this season, and has recently added an offensive prowess to his repertoire. Sunday he had 21 points and 14 rebounds.

In the last four games, Adams has established three new career-highs in the scoring column as he has hit for 85 points in that four-game span.

"Everybody has been telling me that I'm stronger than most people we face inside," Adams said, "so I have been taking it to the hole a little better."

Adams has been in the shadows much of his career at Oregon, and a big reason for that was that there were simply better players ahead of him. One of those players was at the game Sunday to give Adams and his teammates some encouragement.

Blair Rasmussen, who graduated to the NBA's Denver Nuggets last year, couldn't have been happier for Adams or the rest of the Ducks.

"I have been hearing that these guys were struggling," Rasmussen said. "Watching them today I couldn't have told that. Jerry played the best I've ever seen him play."

Monson surprised almost everyone when he started freshmen guards Steve Ranniger and Kevin Mouton in place of veterans David Girley and Rick Osborn.

Asked about when he found out about the starting assignment Mouton said, "I guess it was about five minutes before game time."

The move worked to perfection as both rookies played with confidence with Mouton running the Oregon offense smoothly in 32 minutes of action. Mouton hit all three of his shots from the field enroute to eight points to go along with seven assists.

Ranniger shot with a confidence rarely found in a freshman as he hit five of 11 from the floor and finished with 10 points.



Photo by Ross Martin

Oregon's Anthony Taylor catches some air, and a piece of Arthur Thomas on his way to the hoop Sunday in the Ducks 89-65 win over Arizona State.

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