

Ducks use defense, boards to clip Lamar, 58-47

By Capi Lynn
Of the Emerald

It may not have been the prettiest game to watch in McArthur Court, but the Oregon men's basketball team got the job done — especially defensively and on the rebounding end — as it upended Lamar University, 58-47, Tuesday night.

Head coach Don Monson, whose team improved to 3-2, was more than pleased with the Ducks' effort.

"We were brutal in a few instances, but I really can't say enough about how hard we played, particularly defensively and on the boards," Monson said. "And I can't say enough about Balderston (forward Keith)...He had an outstanding game."

In fact, Balderston had as close to a perfect game as you can get and was definitely a key, if not *the* key, to the win.

He scored a career-high 23 points on nine of 10 from the field and five of six from the free-throw line, grabbed seven rebounds, blocked one shot and played tough man-to-man defense on Lamar's post man James Gulley — all in 39 minutes of action. Not a bad night for someone who had stomach cramps all day.

Balderston was less than modest about his stellar performance: "Some days the ball just goes in better than others, and tonight was one of those nights."

Luckily Balderston was on target because the rest of the team hit just 11 of 46 for a chilly 23.9 percent. With Balderston's statistics, the Ducks managed to outshoot the Cardinals 36.4 percent to 30.2 percent.

Oregon's top two scorers on the season, guard Anthony Taylor and center Sven Meyer, were held to 12 and eight points, respectively, while shooting a combined six of 30.

But Taylor and Meyer contributed in other ways: Taylor had two steals, dished out four assists and grabbed six rebounds, and Meyer dominated the boards with a season-high 16 rebounds.

The Ducks narrowly outbounded the Cardinals, 43-41, despite the presence of Lamar's 6-foot-8, 255-pound Gulley.

Gulley essentially carried Lamar throughout the game, finishing with 22 points and seven rebounds before fouling out with 3:11 remaining in the game.

Gulley almost single-handedly brought Lamar within reaching distance in the opening 4:30 of the second half, as he poured in eight of the Cardinals' first 10 points, to trim a 25-17 halftime lead to one point (28-27).

But the Ducks, specifically Balderston with his man-to-man coverage in the second half, shut down Gulley — he scored only two points in the final 16:43 of the game.

Five minutes after Gulley had brought the Cardinals within one, teammate Danny Gauthier canned an 18-foot jumper to tie the game for the first time, 37-37.

Balderston came right back for the Ducks nailing a 17-footer from the baseline, but Gulley responded in the lane with a fadeaway to tie the score again, 39-39.

Oregon outscored Lamar 9-0 in the next stretch to establish control of the game for good. Rick Osborn scored from five feet out, and Balderston hit two free throws and converted a three-point play during that span.

Monson was pleased with Osborn's contribution coming in off the bench: "He came back and got some key baskets and some rebounds and played well...He was really a big factor."

"I made up my mind going in that I was going to do something quick — to be decisive about it," Osborn said. "Any time you can contribute immediately off the bench it really gets you into the game."

Osborn did just that, scoring eight points on four of six from the field, collecting five rebounds and handing out two assists in just 16 minutes of playing time.

"One of these games we're all going to put it together offensively," Monson said.

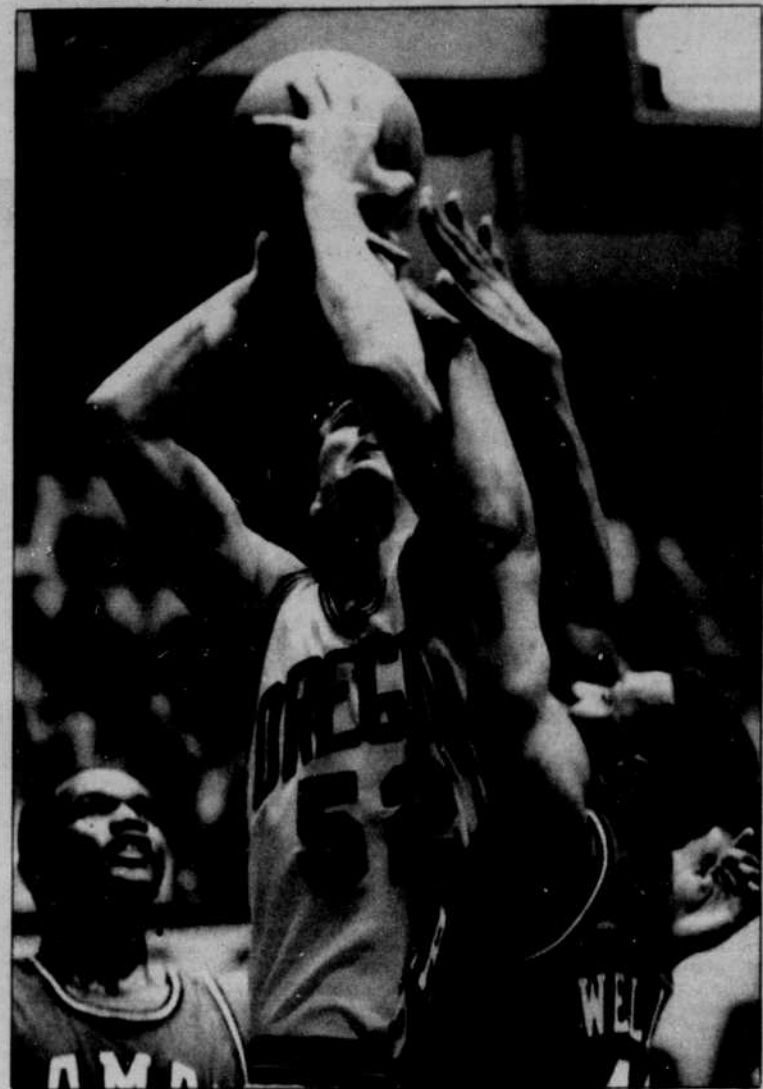


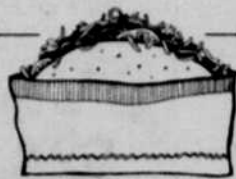
Photo by Michael Wilhelm
Junior forward Keith Balderston takes it to Lamar's Jules Wells underneath the basket for two of his season-high 23 points, as the Ducks beat the Cardinals 58-47.

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A Taco

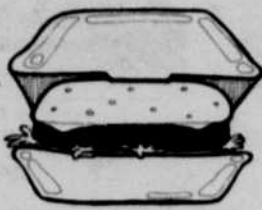
Protein	12 g
Carbohydrates	30 g
Fat	10 g
Vitamin A	82 IU
Vitamin B ₂	.18 mg
Niacin	4.0 mg
Calcium	51 mg
Calories	244



3 oz. (serving)

A Cheeseburger

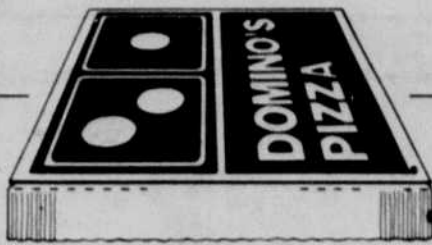
Protein	15.1 g
Carbohydrates	30 g
Fat	14 g
Vitamin A	301 IU
Vitamin B ₂	.16 mg
Niacin	4.0 mg
Calcium	115 mg
Calories	307



4 oz. (serving)

Domino's Pizza

Protein	20 g
Carbohydrates	52 g
Fat	5.8 g
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Vitamin B ₂	.36 mg
Niacin	6.9 mg
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