

## Sports

# Women drop another close one; USC deals Oregon 66-64 setback

By Capi Lynn  
Of the Emerald

When it comes to close games this season, the Oregon women's basketball team has had some difficulty getting over the hump.

The Ducks suffered their second straight Pacific-10 Conference loss to 15th-ranked University of Southern California, 66-64, Saturday in the Sports Arena. Two nights earlier Oregon lost narrowly to UCLA, 75-71.

The Ducks were in the game with the Trojans right down to the wire, just as they were Thursday night in Pauley Pavilion against the Bruins.

With 1:20 remaining in the game, Oregon center Stefanie Kasperski slipped inside for two points off a Carol Drouet pass to bring the Ducks within four, 66-62.

Both teams exchanged turnovers and missed shots before Gabi Neumann scored the Ducks' final bucket at the 14-second mark.

Oregon elected not to call timeout, but waited until just five seconds were showing on the clock before fouling.

USC missed the front end of the one-and-one and Drouet scrambled for the rebound and rushed down the court for one last desperation shot, which fell way short.

Although the Ducks missed opportunity after opportunity, the Trojans' Cherie Nelson gave Oregon fits inside. Nelson replaced standout Monica Lamb (who had left the game with four fouls with 12:55 still left in the game) and went on to score 24 points and grab 15 rebounds.

One of the areas of missed opportunity for Oregon was at the freethrow line. In one stretch in the second half, the Ducks were unsuccessful on seven of nine freethrow attempts. For the game, Oregon was a shaky 10 of 21 from the charity stripe.

The Ducks, who prevailed in the field goal percentage column 47.4 to USC's 37 for the game, struggled with a 34.3 percent first half shooting effort to stay close to the Trojans.

Oregon even led by six with 3:20 left in the half, but skidded back to a 33-32 disadvantage by

half time.

Oregon dropped to 9-4 overall and 3-2 in the Pac-10 with the two losses on the Los Angeles road trip.

The Ducks will try to bounce back tonight when they host the University of Portland in McArthur Court at 7:30 p.m.

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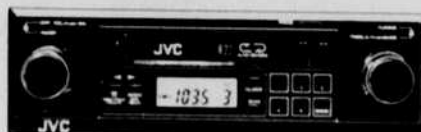
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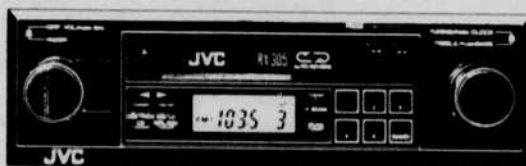
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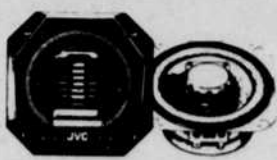


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