

Sports Payton, Beavers fire first salvo

By Gary Henley Emerald Sports Reporter

The men's basketball version of the Civil War hasn't been much of a battle. The Beavers, with Thursday night's 59-47 Pacific-10 Conference win over the Ducks at sold-out Gill Coliseum, have now won 19 out of the last 20 wars.

Oregon State (12-5 in the Pac-10, 18-8 overall) improved its chance for an NCAA tournament bid, while the Ducks' NIT chances hopes continue to fade. The loss dropped Oregon to 9-8 in the conference, 14-12 overall.

As was the case when the two teams met at the Far West Classic earlier in the season (a 62-51 OSU win), the Ducks played well in the first half, but untimely turnovers and poor passing down the stretch cost them the game.

"Again, in the second half we just didn't handle the pressure," said Oregon coach Don Monson. "We just didn't get it done. We need to have a better performance for the whole game."

Oregon State was led by Payton, who scored at will down the stretch, hitting all six second half shots to finish with a career-high 30 points.

Bill Sherwood, the Beavers' starting center and one of three OSU seniors honored before the game, was contained for the most part in his final home appearance, scoring only six points with one rebound,

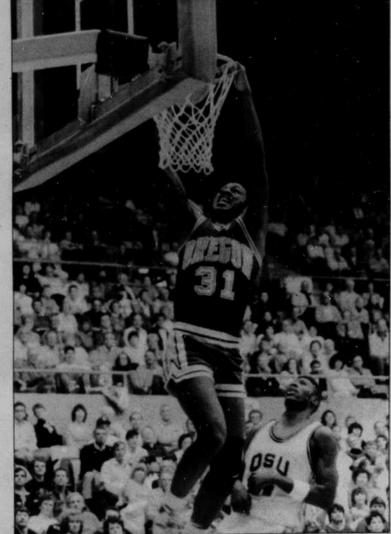
But it was Payton and backcourt teammate Eric Knox who combined for 57 points on 18 of 25 shooting to gun down the Ducks. Only seven Beaver turnovers on the night didn't help Oregon's cause.

Both teams took ten paces back and started firing threepointers at each other to open the game.

The Ducks hit five treys in the first half, and finished the game 8 of 15 from three-point country.

Oregon's Anthony Taylor hit his first five three-pointers, his third giving the Ducks a 29-26 halftime lead.

After five lead changes to begin the second half, the Beavers took off on a 10-0 run, culminated when Earl Martin's



Richard Lucas started at center Thursday night. This slam dunk helped the Ducks to a 10-point first half lead before OSU came roaring back to win and clinch second in the Pac-10.

18-foot jumper with 4:50 remaining gave OSU a 50-39 lead.

Taylor scored 16 points without hitting a two-point goal to lead the Ducks, while point guard Frank Johnson added nine points.

An intense first half was highlighted when Oregon's Randy Grant was fouled by Payton midway through the half.

To add insult to injury. Payton picked up a technical foul after arguing the call and was taunted by Grant and Johnson.

Taylor hit the technical free throw, then came back seconds later and canned a three-pointer to complete a five-point possession as the Ducks sprinted out to a 10-point lead.

A tough zone defense and continued backcourt pressure applied by Oregon State led to 17 Oregon turnovers, many early the second half when OSU tightened the screws on its fullcourt press. "We knew it was the one thing we couldn't let happen and it happened. I threw the ball away a couple of times," Taylor said. "I try not to let it bug me. But they keep pressuring you and pressuring you, especially when they're down and when they're successful at it."

After hitting 58 percent of their first half shots, the Ducks cooled to 7-of-25 in the second stanza

Taylor moved up a notch on

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