

NIT bid 'shocks' cagers

Saturday (see story below), was considered dead on arrival Saturday after losing by 21 points to Stanford, which also got an NIT offer.

It's time to reconsider. Coach Don Monson and his players offered the same reason for Oregon's unexpected inclusion in the NIT's 32-team field.

All agreed the fans who made Oregon's home attendance the second highest in the conference were the deciding factors.

"Give credit to the fans. They're probably the reason we were picked," said senior Rick Osborn, who was caught completely off guard by the news.

Taylor and Osborn, believing their college hoop careers were history, were hitting the books and thinking about class finals. not tournament finals.

"I was shocked. I thought we needed a win against Stanford to get in, but I guess we got lucky," Taylor said.

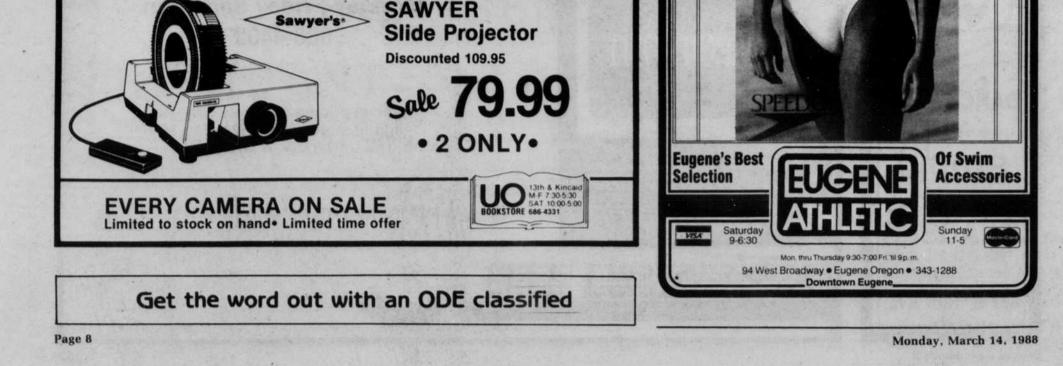
Ducks take early Pac-10 exit

of the second-round game.

The Ducks, 15-13 overall. were a model of inconsistency. They played two separate games after leading by as much as eight in the first half, then shooting .303 (10 of 33) in the second.

The victory gave Stanford (20-10, 11-7) its first 20-win season since 1941-42.





SLIDE PROJECTOR