

Sports

Close win makes it two straight

Ducks slip by ASU 63-61

By Tracy Sumner
Emerald Sports Editor

Perhaps the best thing about Oregon's 63-61 Pacific-10 Conference win over Arizona State Saturday in McArthur Court is that it didn't have to be pretty.

And it wasn't.

The Ducks handed Arizona State a chance to steal the victory before 7,905 Mac Court fans with five turnovers in the last five minutes, but Arizona State returned the favor with turnovers, a missed layup and a missed free throw.

"It wasn't like the game Thursday night," Oregon coach Don Monson said referring to Oregon's surprise upset of No. 2 Arizona 48 hours earlier. "We lacked a little emotion, a little spark, and yet I think you've got to give credit to (ASU coach) Bill Frieder and his bunch.

"They came in here and did what they set out to do and that was to try to control the ball and control the crowd a little bit, and they did a good job of that," he said.

"We were very sluggish offensively. I thought," Monson said. "We didn't set good screens, we didn't execute our offense very well, we stood around quite a bit and, consequently, we kept them in the ball game."

Monson said the bottom line in the game was the final score and he was pleased with the way his team responded to adversity late in the game.

"Let's put it this way: Our kids hung in there and they did what they had to do and they didn't fold at the end and we won," he said. "We're 2-0, so we're quite pleased with the situation."

Terrell Brandon led four Ducks in double figures with 17 points.

Oregon held a nine-point lead at 53-44 with 7:53 remaining. But the Sun Devils, led by six points from forward Alex Austin and five from guard Matt Anderson, outscored the Ducks 17-8 over the next 6:52 to tie it at 61 apiece on Austin's three pointer with 1:01 remaining.

Brandon scored the game winner on a driving layup with 48 seconds left. Arizona State had

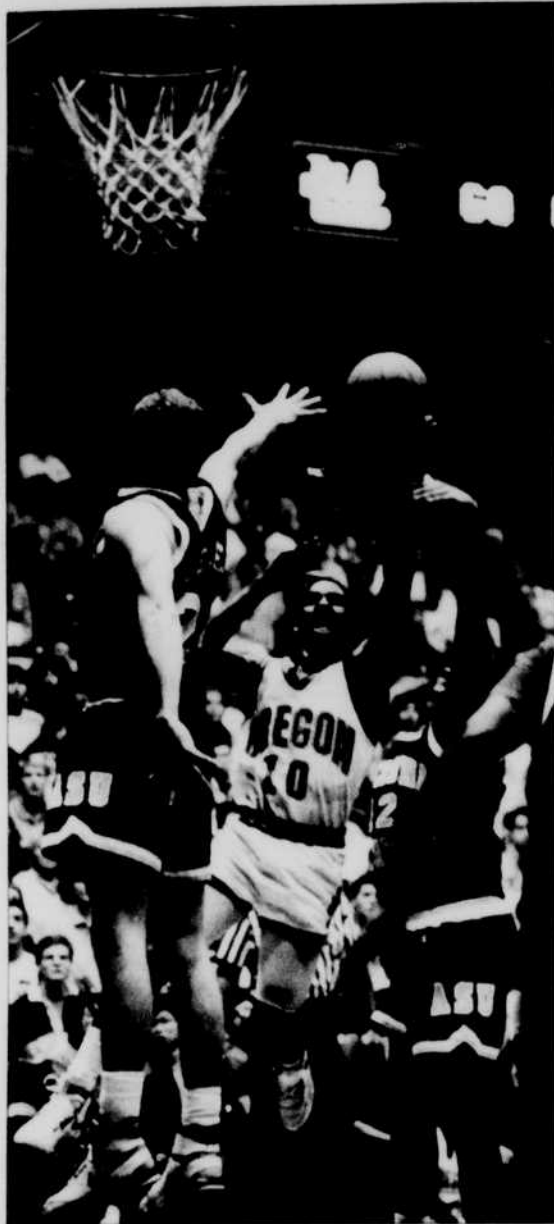


Photo by Martin Thiel

Terrell Brandon contributed 17 points and the winning layup as the Ducks won their second straight, beating Arizona State 63-61.

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