

Ducks beat Trojans 96-79, look toward postseason play

Senior trio leads way to victory

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

There were more plots to Sunday's Southern Cal-Oregon-Pacific-10 basketball game than in a good spy movie.

You had the final game in McArthur Court for the three Oregon seniors — Eric Dunn, Keith Reynolds and Steve Ranniger. Then you had the Ducks trying to build on a three-game winning

row at one point in the game. Brandon added 25 points and nine assists.

Lucas gave his usual workhorse effort with 12 points and 13 rebounds while Dunn had his second outstanding game with 13 points.

Ranniger, the seldom-used guard who got the start in Monson's tradition of starting seniors in their last home game, netted 11 points and made three-of-five from three-point range.

And with such a convincing win, it was a great way for the three seniors to go out.

"Knowing these were my last two home games, I was looking forward to helping the team," Reynolds said. "Any team watching us knows they can't box-and-one one guy like Terrell, but need to box-and-one the whole team."

For Dunn, who hit five of six field goals and also had six rebounds and three assists, the game was a big one for him for several reasons.

"It's important for a lot of reasons," Dunn said. "I hadn't been playing up to my expectations, and I wanted to win in a big way. The 15th win was also important."

It was an especially gratifying week for Dunn, whose from Playa del Rey, Calif., near Los Angeles. The Ducks swept UCLA and USC and this USC-Oregon game wasn't a close affair.

"We talked about it all week," he said. "We didn't want this game to be close. We didn't want to win a one- or two-point game."

Ranniger not only scored in double figures, but had a big hand in holding down USC guard Harold Miner as he and Kevin Mixon took their turns guarding the freshman star. Miner scored 18 points, but had to work hard for every one of them and scored only six points in the second half.

"I went out there really nervous and didn't really relax in the first half," Ranniger said. "In the second half I relaxed and enjoyed guarding him."

Pac-10 Men			
	Conf. W/L	Overall W/L	Games Behind
Oregon St.	14-2	21-4	—
Arizona	13-3	19-6	1
California	11-5	20-7	3
Oregon	10-6	15-10	4
UCLA	9-7	16-9	5
Stanford	8-8	16-9	6
Arizona St.	5-11	12-13	9
Washington	5-11	11-14	9
Southern Cal	4-12	9-15	10
Washington St.	1-15	7-19	13

streak and move closer to a National Invitational Tournament berth.

But there were twists, too: a much-improved USC team and a series that had seen Oregon win the last three games on last-second shots.

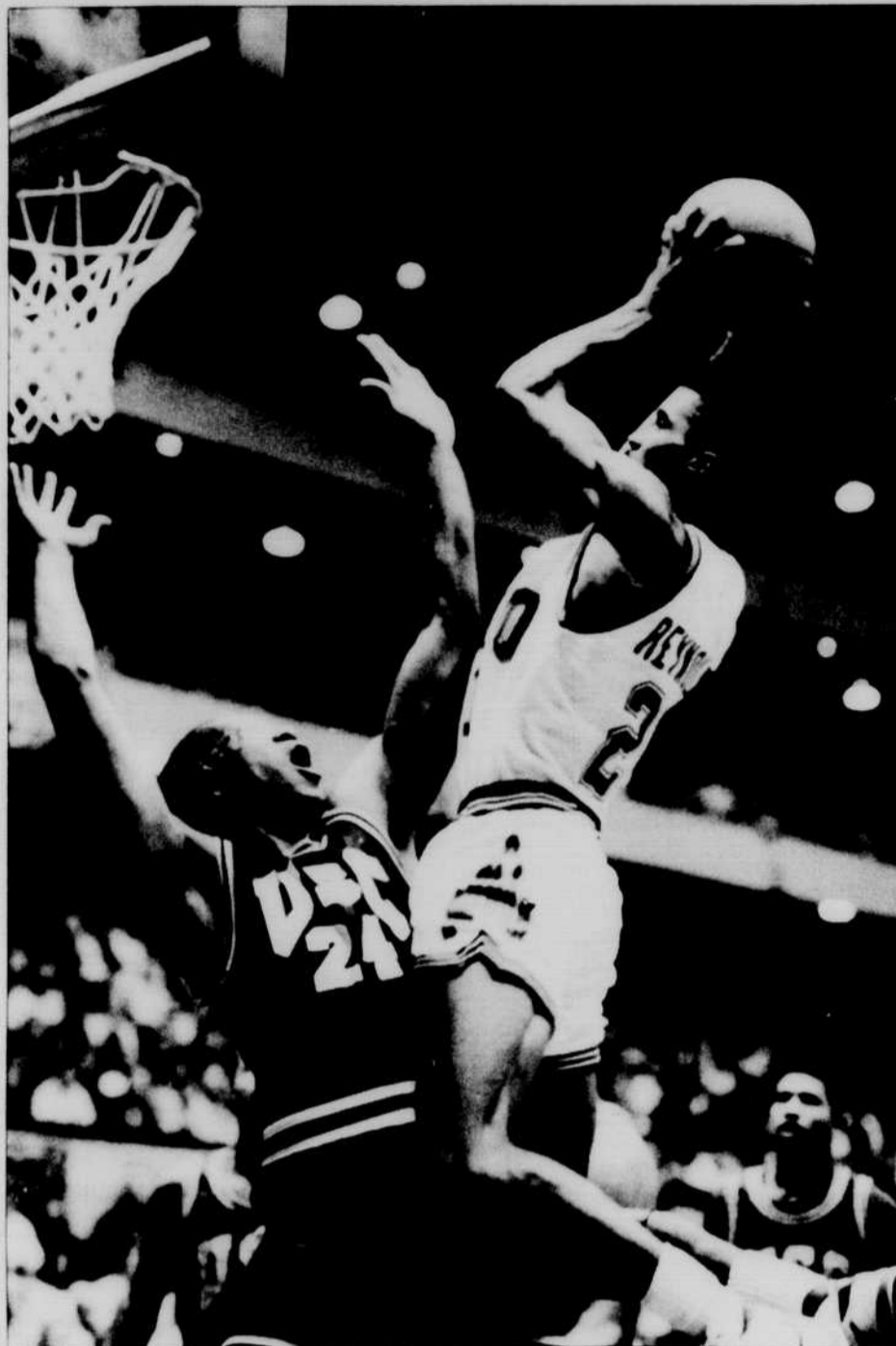
And because the home team had to win the game to make it a perfect ending, the Ducks did just that, with a 96-79 victory.

"Well, I guess I've gone through a few of these last games at home, but I don't think I could have written the script any better than today," Oregon coach Don Monson said.

"I was really pleased for my three senior kids who played well and did a good job," Monson said.

The Ducks got outstanding play from the usual cast of characters — Reynolds, Terrell Brandon, Richard Lucas — but also had great games from two supporting actors — Dunn and Ranniger — to give Oregon its 15th win of the season and a virtual lock for the NIT.

Reynolds tied a career-high mark with 26 points. He also hit 10 field goals in a



Keith Reynolds goes to the basket for two of his game-high 26 points in the final Pac-10 home game of his Oregon career. The Ducks beat USC 97-79. Photo by Mark Yuen

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