

## SPORTS

# Ducks drop opener to Wisconsin, 72-70

By Ashley Conklin  
Emerald Sports Editor

Any team hoping for an NCAA Tournament bid must win the games they are expected to, especially at home.

That isn't to say Big-10 foe Wisconsin wasn't a formidable opponent for Oregon Saturday night at McArthur Court, but in a game in which the Ducks had plenty of opportunities to put the Badgers away, Oregon simply couldn't get the job done.

When Wisconsin's Jay Peters hit a three-pointer as time expired, the result was a 72-70 overtime loss for the Ducks in the season-opener for both teams.

"We couldn't get a streak going or keep it going," Oregon Coach Don Monson said. "In our place, we've got to put people away."

"It's really a hard loss," Oregon point guard Terrell Brandon said, "because we had certain goals in mind not to lose here at Mac Court. This one game won't determine the season."

It might not determine the season, but it's a win the Ducks needed. Oregon has an exhibition game with Athletes in Action Tuesday, but then must face 20th-ranked Missouri on the road and host Alabama-Birmingham.

It was certainly a game the Ducks had plenty of chances to bury Wisconsin in the second half.

After a Billy Douglass lay-in pulled Wisconsin within 46-45 with 13:20 remaining, Oregon increased the lead to 61-56 on a Jordy Lyden lay-in with 5:29 to go.

But the Ducks would go almost another five minutes until scoring again as the Badgers forced a 63-63 tie and the overtime session.

"It was rough," admitted Oregon center Richard Lucas.

"They're a tough Big-10 team used to playing Michigan, Michigan State and the Indians. They're a big-time team and they came in here and got the job done."

"It's a tough way to get beat, particularly in the opening game," Monson said. "We didn't want to open at home with a loss."

"I'd like to give Wisconsin credit," he said. "I thought they played a good, gritty game on the road."

While the Badgers might have given a gritty effort, it was far from the same for the Ducks.

Oregon shot only 42.4 percent from the floor in the first half and finished the game at a .474 clip by hitting just 27 of 57 shots.

The Ducks didn't seem comfortable on the offensive end of the floor all night, maybe because it was their first game of the season.

"I thought generally we got up and down the floor pretty well on the break," Monson



Photo by Eric Evans

Point guard Terrell Brandon had 19 points and 10 assists for Oregon, but the Ducks still came up short, 72-70, against Wisconsin.

said. "I think their zone probably affected us a little bit."

Brandon led the Ducks with 19 points, 10 assists and six

steals, but like the rest of his teammates, had his problems on the offensive end.

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