Ducks win with 98-71 rout of UAB

Guards lead way as Brandon, Mixon combine for 55 points

By Jake Berg **Emerald Sports Reporter**

Oregon guards Terrell Brandon and Kevin Mixon combined for 55 points Tuesday night at McArthur Court, lead-

ing the Ducks to a 98-71 romp over Alabama-Birmingham for their first win of the season. Brandon, Oregon's point guard, scored 29 in the game, and Mixon broke out of a 6 of

24 shooting slump from the Ducks' first two games by going 10 of 14 against UAB for 26 points.

Oregon raised its record to 1-2 with the victory, and the Blazers fell to 3-2

The Ducks shot a blistering 63.8 percent from the floor and approached the game with much more intensity than in the the team's home opener, a 72-70 overtime loss to Wiscon-

"We came out and felt that if we played with the kind of intensity that we had against Missouri ... that we would beat would beat some teams," said team captain Richard Lucas.

Alabama-Birmingham is no slouch, they're a real good team," he said.

The game was much closer in the first half than the final score indicated as the Blazers quietly kept up with Oregon during the opening half and led the Ducks for much of that

But the Ducks made it clear they were intent on winning their first game of the season.

Mixon canned his first two three-point attempts to help set the fast pace which the Oregon offense would follow.

If Mixon had been hitting those at Missouri (a 65-58 loss). it would have been a different story there too," said Oregon Coach Don Monson.

"Personally, I knew I had to come off and have a good game for us to get us into it," Mixon

The guard tallied 14 of his team's first 24 points including a steal leading to a breakaway

lay-in on which he was fouled. He hit the ensuing shot from the foul line to up the Ducks' lead to 24-19

UAB came right back, however, and used a 7-0 run to take a 26-24 lead

After going back in front by a 30-28 score. Oregon rode 11-2 spurt to the lead 49-42 at half-

Saving its best half of the year for after the break, the Ducks completely shut UAB down in the game's final 20 minutes

The Duck defense limited UAB, which hit for a 60 percentage from the floor in the first half, to a poor second half efficiency of 30.8 percent and only 29 points.

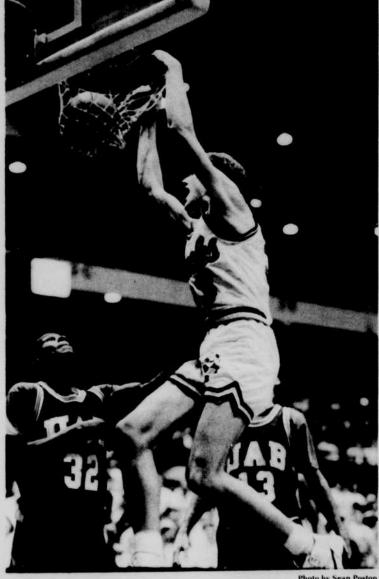
'I think our defense definitely made the difference," Brandon said.

And the Ducks' offense wasn't too shabby either - the offense complemented the defense by hitting 20 of their 31 shots in the half en route to another 49-point half.

Oregon's Bob Fife ignited the Mac Court crowd with several dunks including one where he burned a UAB defender from the high post by driving in for a two-handed slam and a 67-50

"I gotta see that on tape - I don't know what I did," said

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Seven-footer Bob Fife had a big game for the Ducks against UAB, scoring a career-high 16 points on dunks like these.

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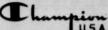
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