

SPORTS

Duck defense holds down WSU

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Reporter

Washington State, winners of three straight and the surprise team in the Pacific-10 Conference this season, had only a bad streak going Thursday night — cold shooting in a 75-69 loss to Oregon.

The Cougars, 12th in the country in three-point field goals per contest, found little beyond the three-point stripe, hitting only four of 19 treys, and shooting only 37 percent from the floor the entire game.

Only Tyrone Maxey found a rhythm from the outside, sinking a trio of three-pointers and finishing as the Cougars' leading scorer with 18 points.

Oregon forward Jordy Lyden credited the win to Oregon's defense.

"We pretty much stopped the three-point shots," he said, "and that was the difference in the game."

Lyden himself was three for three on three-pointers for a 12-point night, including two crucial treys with more than 14 minutes remaining in the game.

The Ducks, 6-5 in the Pac-10 and 11-10 overall, led 40-29 at the half, but a 15-4 Washington State surge fueled by five Oregon personal fouls locked the contest at 44-44. Two consecutive three-point bombs by Ly-

den broke the tie, and sent the Ducks on their way to a permanent lead, and the win.

"We had our chances to win the game," Washington State Coach Kelvin Sampson. "If you want to win here, you need to make plays and we didn't when we needed too."

Were it not for the unseasonably cold shooting from the Cougars, Oregon may have found itself lamenting a loss as the Ducks missed 17 of 40 tries at the free throw line.

"We just couldn't seem to put (Washington State) away," Oregon Coach Don Monson said. "Sure would've helped if we'd been hitting free throws down the stretch."

"The free throws killed us, and I was the main cause of it," admitted Oregon center Richard Lucas, who hit only 3 of 12 attempts at the charity stripe. "But we got a victory, and that's the most important thing right now."

Oregon hit 24 of 47 (51 percent) of its field goals, despite a sub-par performance by the Ducks' top gun, Terrell Brandon.

Brandon, leading the Pac-10 in scoring at 27 a game, hit five field goals in the first half, but was held in check in the second period, scoring all seven of his points at the free throw line.

"Some people might say they

stopped me, but I don't think they did," said Brandon, who finished with a game-high 21 points.

Not only did the win move Oregon within one-half game of second place in the Pac-10, but it also boosted Oregon's post-season aspirations.

While pointing to the Ducks' lockerroom following the victory, Lucas said, "Next door is written 'Think NCAA, and nothing else.' This is my last season here, and that's where I want to go."

Lyden echoed Lucas' statement.

"We know that we're really good and can go to the NCAAs," Lyden said. "If we win the games we should, then we should probably make it to the NCAAs."

WASHINGTON STATE (69)

Critton 7-10, 0-0, 14, Corkrum 1-4, 0-0, 2, Maxey 5-10, 5-7, 18, Lewis 3-12, 2-5, 8, Derrick 3-10, 3-5, 9, Seltzer 2-7, 0-0, 4, Hill 1-8, 2-3, 5, Paine 3-5, 1-1, 7, Thomas 0-2, 0-0, 0, Tresvant 1-2, 0-1, 2, Rowe 0-0, 0-1, 0, Vik 0-0, 0-0, 0. Totals 26-70, 13-23, 69.

OREGON (75)

Lyden 3-5, 3-4, 12, Fife 3-5, 2-2, 8, Lucas 6-7, 3-12, 15, Brandon 5-12, 11-16, 21, Mixon 3-12, 4-4, 11, Jordan 3-3, 0-2, 6, van der Veen 1-3, 0-0, 2, Patterson 0-0, 0-0, 0. Totals 24-47, 23-40, 75.

Oregon State 29 40 69

Oregon 40 35 75

3-Point goals — Washington State 4-19 (Maxey 3-7, Hill 1-4, Seltzer 0-4, Lewis 0-2, Derrick 0-2), Oregon 4-9 (Lyden 3-3, Mixon 1-4, Brandon 0-2). Fouled out — Maxie, Critton, Lyden. Rebounds — Washington State 46 (Lewis 10), Oregon 34 (Lucas 11). Assists — Washington State 9 (Maxey 4), Oregon 17 (Brandon 6). Total fouls — Washington State 28, Oregon 17. A — 7,271.

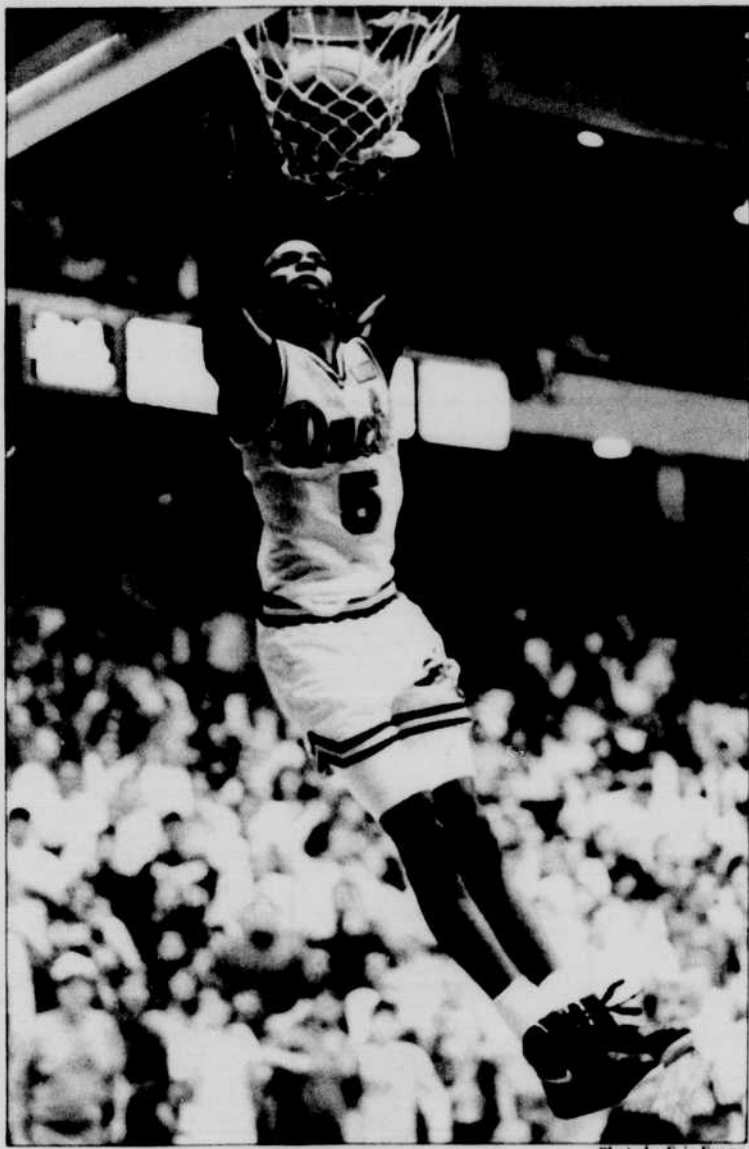


Photo by Eric Evans

Small forward Clyde Jordan slammed home two points here to help Oregon beat Washington State 75-69.

Oregon takes win streak up north

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team has developed a couple of habits during the past three games — hitting more than half of its three-point attempts and winning.

To be successful this weekend, on one of the league's toughest road trips, Oregon will have to be up to the same old tricks.

Oregon Coach Elwin Heiny and his Ducks (3-7 in the Pacific-10 Conference, 10-10 overall) face Washington State tonight before tangling with 10th-ranked Washington Sunday afternoon.

Heiny believes that for the Ducks to win up north, they will have to take care of the ball and get back on transition defense.

"I presume we know what happened last here against Washington State," Heiny said. "We played well against Washington and then must have thought we were good."

The last time the Ducks met the Washington teams, Oregon played the Huskies tough in a 55-50 loss before being humiliated by Washington State, 102-69, the Cougars' first win in the Pit since 1974.

Heiny said he believes his team is more prepared to face both schools this weekend.

"We thought all along that we would be a better team toward the end of the season than we would at the beginning," Heiny said. "We are seeing that happen now and hopefully it will continue."

Another thing Heiny hopes to see continue is the strong play of senior guard Jennifer Bourn.

Bourn, a 5-foot-5 native of New Jersey, saw her season turn around after facing the Washington

schools last month.

Entering those two games, Bourn had connected on only 20 percent (3 of 15) of her three-point attempts in Pac-10 play. Since then she has knocked down 18 of 24 bombs (75 percent), including 16 of 22 (72.7 percent) during the past three outings.

Debbie Sporcich, one of Oregon's freshmen posts, scored 20 points and snared 15 rebounds against Washington last time before being shut down against the Cougars. She leads the team in scoring (15.8) and rebounding (10.5) and has already collected 12 double-doubles this season.

While the Ducks may be hot, this weekend isn't exactly the best time to face either of the Washington schools, as the Huskies (9-2, 17-3) are fresh off a 69-68 win at conference-leading Stanford, while the Cougars (6-5, 13-7) were swept at California and Stanford last weekend.

Washington State features a balanced scoring attack led by Darci Wellsandt who is scoring at a 15.5 clip in Pac-10 games. Teammate Kristin Metson averages 13.7 points and 6.6 rebounds a game.

"Washington State is a very good team," Heiny said. "And they are probably going to its first ever post-season tournament."

The Huskies have their game in high gear after sweeping Cal and Stanford, leaving Heiny to be more than a little worried.

"They weren't playing very well when they were here," Heiny said, "but they are now."

Washington's Karen Deden was named Pac-10 player of the week for her effort in last weekend's sweep. She had 18 points and 13 rebounds against Cal and finished with 14 points, seven rebounds and three assists against the Cardinal, all team-highs.

Tennis teams headed to UNLV tourney, PSU

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon's tennis teams jump back into action this weekend with the men competing in a 16-team tournament at Las Vegas and the women's squad heading up I-5 for a match with Portland State this afternoon.

The UNLV tournament will be men's Coach Buzz Summers' first chance to see his team in action since the Pacific-10 Indoor Championships almost a month ago in Seattle.

After being shut out in Seattle, the men's team has put together three solid weeks of practice that has left Summers praising their improvements.

"The competition in Seattle was very intense," Summers said. "But we came out of it inspired and came back to have our best practice week ever."

The Oregon lineup begins with freshmen Lee Kirner and Ryan Marasigan playing first and second singles and

combining to play second doubles.

Meanwhile, women's Coach Tom Greider will be taking a slightly revamped squad to Portland to face Portland State.

Oregon has enjoyed a great deal of success against the Vikings in recent years, and the match gives Greider a chance to play some people in spots where they don't usually play.

"These girls deserve a chance to play because they have been practicing hard and need the match experience," Greider said. "If I didn't think they were good enough, I wouldn't take them."

Katie Glynn will play first singles and combine with Cynthia Armstrong, second singles, at first doubles for Oregon. Jackie DeFord moves up the singles ladder to play second singles and team with Tracey Miller, fourth singles, at second doubles.

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