

SPORTS

Oregon survives scare from last-place Huskies

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon is currently the hottest team in the Pacific-10 Conference, but the Ducks were hardly breathing fire Saturday against Washington.

The Huskies, 3-10 in the Pac-10 and 12-11 overall, lost their sixth consecutive conference game, a 67-64 decision to Oregon at McArthur Court, giving the Ducks their fourth consecutive win in the Pac-10.

Combined with a Washington State loss at Oregon State, the Ducks, 7-5 in the Pac-10 and 12-10 overall, and the Beavers moved into second place in the league, two games behind first-place Arizona.

Yet, figure this out: In the first half, Oregon shot 52 percent from the field and Washington hit only 29 percent of its shots; the Ducks were 5-of-11 from three-point land to the Huskies' 2-of-8 performance. Oregon led by as many as 15 in the half and was up 10 at the intermission, but won by only three.

But a mark in the victory column is still a win, and that's what counts, Oregon Coach Don Monson said.

"I don't want to take away anything from winning because our players did what they had to do: win the ball game," Monson said. "The name of the game is winning it."

Oregon's Terrell Brandon and Richard Lucas agreed with their coach.

"We can't complain," Bran-

Pac-10 Men			
	Conf	Overall	Games
	W	L	Behind
Arizona	9-3	20-5	—
Oregon	7-5	12-10	2
Oregon St.	7-5	13-9	2
Washington St.	7-6	15-8	2½
UCLA	6-6	18-7	3
California	7-7	11-12	3
Stanford	7-7	14-10	3
Arizona St.	5-7	14-8	4
USC	5-7	14-8	4
Washington	3-10	12-11	6½

don said. "We won the game, so I'm just happy with that."

"I guess all the cylinders of the team weren't going at the same time, but the victory is what we mainly were after and that's what we got," Lucas said.

For a while, however, a win over the last-place Huskies looked to be in question. Oregon failed to immediately add on to its halftime lead, and the Huskies gained ground on the Ducks to start the second half.

"The thing that bothers me a little is we get a lead, and we can't build on it," Monson said. "It was really a chore getting through the game with a lot of interest or inspiration."

Freshman Jordy Lyden's three-pointer at 15:33 in the second half was Oregon's lone score in the first six minutes of the second period, a time in which Lyden's basket was the only one made out of Oregon's 10 attempts.

Washington pulled to within three, 41-38, on Tom Caviezel's trey at the 13-minute mark, and fortunately for Oregon, it was the Huskies' closest whiff of the Ducks until the final score.

"I'm really proud of our effort," Washington Coach Lynn Nance said. "We could have come in here against a team as hot as Oregon is and backed off and taken a loss and gone home, but we didn't."

Saturday's win and a Thursday triumph over Washington State avenge what were perhaps the Ducks' most frustrating losses of the year.

Oregon held a nine-point halftime advantage at Seattle in the season's earlier matchup with Washington before the Huskies won the game in overtime, 88-86.

"We were looking forward to both of these games not just because we lost them," said guard Kevin Mixon, who had 17 points. "But now we're in second place. It was two big wins for us."

The Ducks will attempt to extend their winning streak at UCLA Thursday night and at USC on Saturday.

WASHINGTON (64)
Brown 7-13, 3-4, 19; Meekins 4-16, 3-5, 11; Hayward 2-6, 3-6, 7; French 0-0, 0-0, 0; Merritt 4-6, 2-2, 13; Caviezel 3-13, 2-2, 9; Youngblood 1-2, 0-0, 2; Woods 0-0, 2-2, 2. Totals 21-57, 15-21, 64.

OREGON (67)
Lyden 2-5, 3-5, 9; Fife 3-5, 2-4, 8; Lucas 1-5, 4-5, 6; Brandon 9-18, 6-7, 25; Mixon 5-15, 2-2, 17; Jordan 1-1, 0-0, 2; van der Veen 0-0, 0-0, 0; Patterson 0-0, 0-0, 0; Johnson 0-0, 0-0, 0; Blair 0-0, 0-0, 0. Totals 21-49, 17-23, 67.

Washington 26 38 64
Oregon 36 31 67

3-Point goals — Washington 7-18 (Merritt 3-5, Brown 2-3, Caviezel 1-8, Youngblood 1-1, Hayward 0-1), Oregon 8-21 (Mixon 5-12, Lyden 2-3, Brandon 1-6). Fouled out — Brown. Rebounds — Washington 33 (Meekins 10), Oregon 35 (Lucas, Lyden 9). Assists — Washington 12 (French 6), Oregon 13 (Fife 5). Total fouls — Washington 23, Oregon 16. A — 8,351.

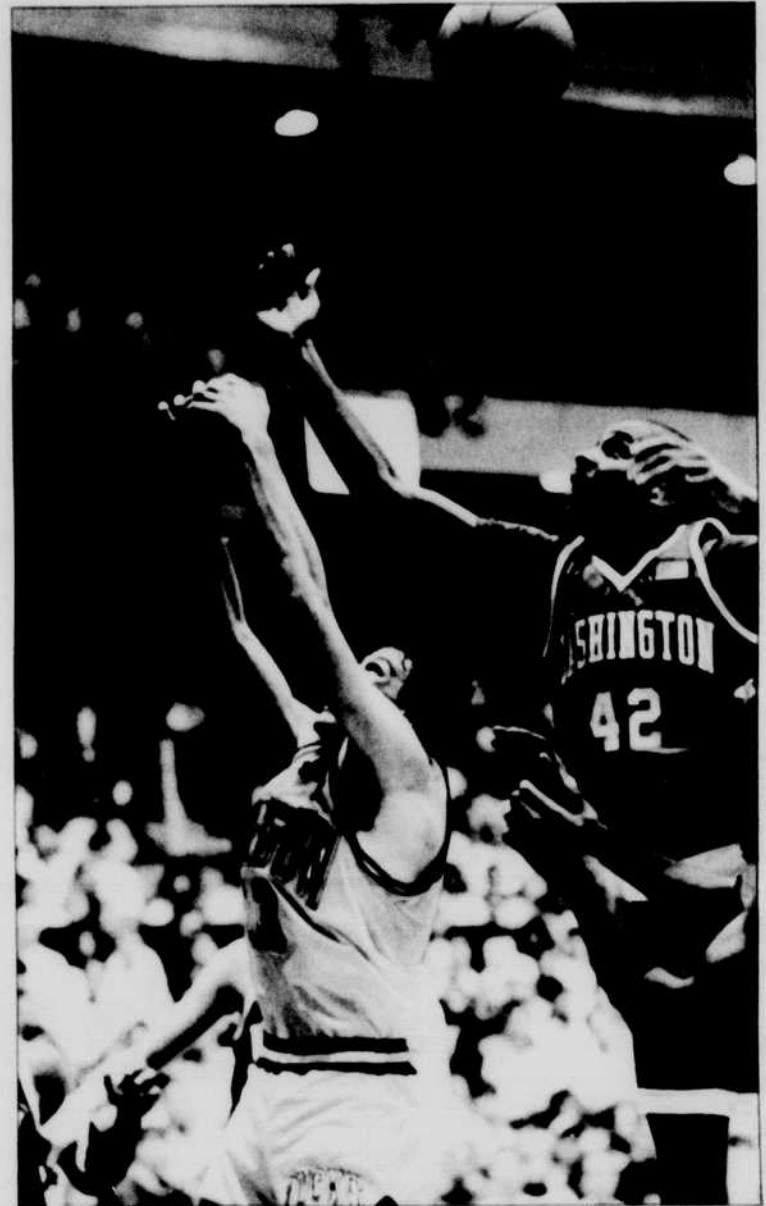
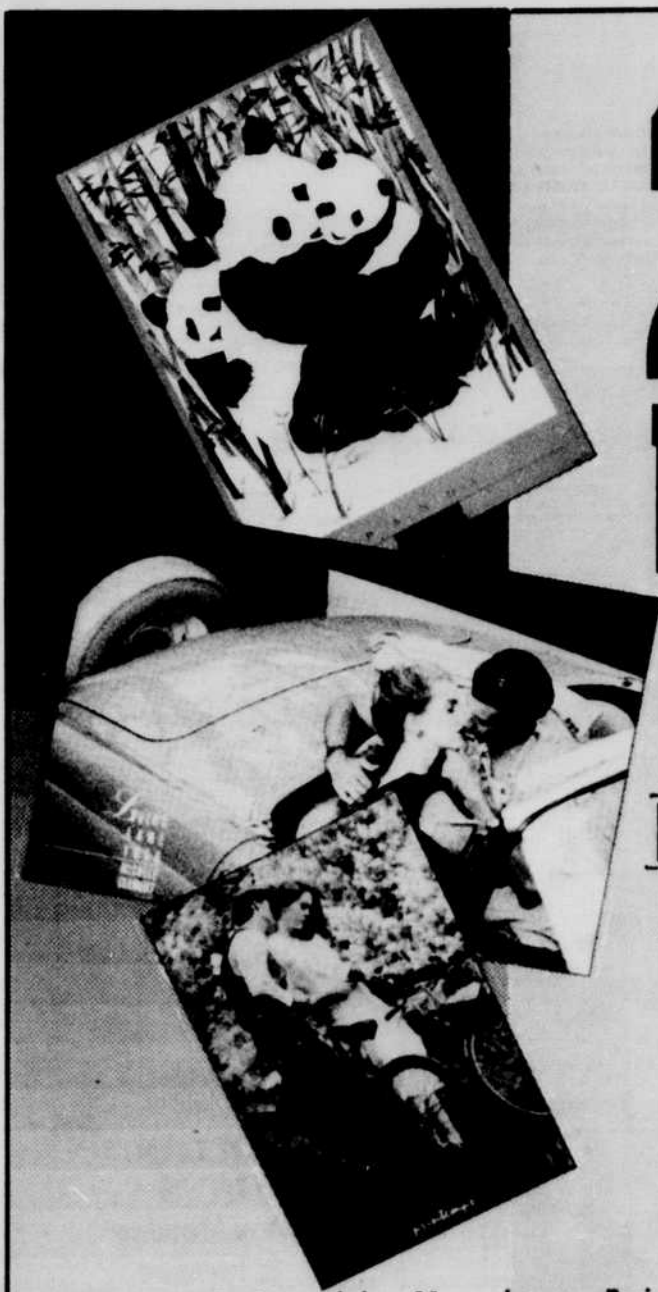


Photo by Andre Kamert
Oregon's Jordy Lyden and Washington's Doug Meekins battle for a rebound in a 67-64 Duck win Saturday afternoon.



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