

Ducks fall short in exhibition play

By Don Peters
Emerald Associate Editor

After last week's mauling in Montana, the Oregon men's basketball team returned Saturday night to the friendlier confines of McArthur Court hoping for a change.

Oregon got it, even though the Ducks suffered an exhibition loss to Athletes in Action, 98-86.

Frigid shooting, turnovers and defensive lapses plagued the Ducks the last time they took the court. Saturday, Oregon had no problems shooting, though the other work remained.

"Offensively, we played a lot better," Oregon coach Don Monson said. "We executed better, but we had no consistency."

Against the much more experienced AIA team, the Ducks fell behind early and never caught up. Former Washington star Lorenzo Romar canned a three-pointer to put AIA up 15-9, and Oregon could pull no closer than three points after that.

Romar, who played four years in the NBA with Golden State and Milwaukee, led all scorers with 27. Former Bethel College standout Dale Turnquist added 22, and Kevin Smith, who starred at California, chipped in 14.

Jordy Lyden was high man for the Ducks, pouring in 23 points on 7 of 9 shooting. Andre Collier scored 16 and dished off five assists, while Clyde Jordan and Chuck Patterson each finished with 14.

Collier drew the defensive assignment against Romar — a tough job for the junior transfer from DeAnza College.

"It was a good experience for Andre," Monson said. "He did a credible job against Romar."

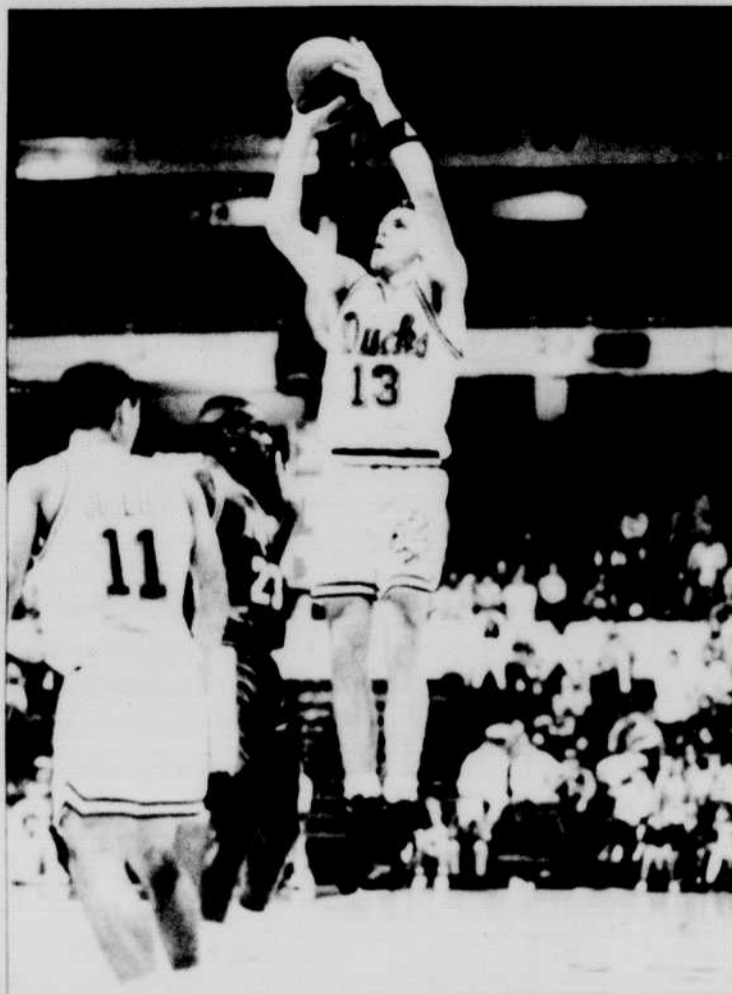


Photo by John Stook

The Ducks played well, but could never get AIA within reach. The first half looked much like the Montana game, with Oregon getting poor shot selection, 14 turnovers and several calls for illegal screens.

"We've got young, inexperienced kids," Monson said. "They just haven't played against this type of team before."

AIA's experience showed. The Ducks made several runs in the first half, closing to 25-22 on a Jordan free throw. But Or-

gon was tagged with three consecutive fouls, and AIA went up 29-22.

"We played in spurts," Collier said. "We have yet to play 40 minutes of basketball together. If we play in spurts, we can't win."

AIA led 45-31 at the half on Romar's 25-footer with three seconds left. AIA came out hot in the second half and led by as many as 17 before Oregon got the inside game going.

Turn to AIA, Page 12

Women win big on road

By Victor Chi
Emerald Contributor

EVANSTON, Ill. — Northwestern had shaved Oregon's 15-point second-half lead to three. The crowd of 633 at Welsh-Ryan Arena screamed approval, sensing the Ducks were about to fold.

Instead, the Oregon women's basketball team responded to the challenge. The team cranked the lead back to 12 and held on for a 79-69 victory over the 16th-ranked Wildcats Sunday afternoon.

Oregon, which won its opener at North Dakota, 68-63 Friday, completes the road trip tonight with a 5:30 game at DePaul.

After leading 57-42, the Ducks looked as if they were going to give the game away when Northwestern, 2-1, battled to within 61-58.

"In the back of your head you can feel the momentum changing with the crowd getting into it," said Oregon's Debbie Sporcich, who posted a game-high 24 points and 12 rebounds. "But you don't want to let a lead like that slip away, especially on the road," she said.

If the Ducks had died, nobody would have blamed them. They had been grounded in Fargo, N.D., because of heavy snow and were obliged to stay over an extra day.

They flew out of North Dakota at 4 a.m. CST Sunday, arrived at their Evanston hotel at 11 a.m., and at 2 p.m. played Northwestern, a team that was coming off a smashing road win at fourth-

ranked Auburn.

"I was trying to lose because now the team might want to prepare for games the same way," Duck coach Elwin Heiny joked.

But losing was not on the itinerary Sunday. After the Wildcats cut the lead to three, Missy Stowell, who finished with 22 points, canned two of her six three-pointers, and Sporcich shook free inside two for three lay-ups to squelch the comeback bid.

"We had them on the ropes," Northwestern coach Don Perelli said. "But you have to give them credit. They did what they were supposed to do. They out-hustled us, too. I don't think we were mentally into the game."

Which does not speak too highly of the Wildcats' intensity. They weren't the ones who flew out of North Dakota at 4 a.m. They were the ones who should have been fired up about their home opener.

"I thought they were slow," said Sporcich, who also donated five assists and three steals to the cause. "I was surprised. I thought we'd be slow because of the travel. Then I saw they were slow. After that I thought we should blow them away."

Stowell came off the bench to hit 6 of 9 shots from three-point land.

"I've been shooting well in practice, and today it just came together for me in the game," Stowell said.

Oregon point guard Vanessa Selden made the Northwestern guards look silly, stealing the ball from them six times.

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