

Bruins breeze past Jordan-less Ducks, 84-65

By Jayson Jacoby
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's basketball team stayed with third-ranked UCLA for about 20 minutes Saturday afternoon, but the Bruins started firing on all cylinders in the second half and cruised to an 84-65 Pacific-10 Conference win in front of 7,061 at McArthur Court.

Oregon, playing without its best defender and second-leading scorer Clyde Jordan, trailed by just 11 at halftime before UCLA started the final half with an 18-4 run to put the game out of reach. The Bruins led by as many as 33 before the Ducks closed the gap in the final minutes.

The loss drops Oregon's record to 6-14 overall and a last place 2-9 in the Pac-10.

Jordan was diagnosed with a stress fracture in his left foot after a bone scan Friday afternoon, and Oregon coach Don Monson said the 6-foot-5 sophomore forward will miss the rest of the season.

Monson said Jordan had been experiencing pain in the foot last week, but an X-ray didn't show the fracture.

"If he'd played, there was a 90 percent chance it would be broken, and he would need surgery and a pin in it," Monson said.

Jordan, who was given the option to play anyway, decided Friday night after talking with his mother to sit out the team's final eight games, Monson said.

Jordan, who was averaging 10.5 points and a team-leading 6.9 rebounds per game, is the third Oregon starter to suffer a season-ending foot injury this year.

The Ducks came out Saturday like a team that had its best defensive player on the bench.

UCLA's Tracy Murray, a 6-foot-8 junior forward who leads the nation in three-point shooting at 53 percent, had a trio of treys and 11 points in the first six minutes.

Then Bruin guard Gerald Madkins got into the act, hitting two consecutive threes, — his only points of the game, — and all of a sudden Oregon was down 28-11.

The Ducks came right back, though, scoring six straight to get within 28-17 with 3:30 left in the half. Freshman forward Jeff Potter closed the run with a rebound basket just seconds after taking a hard fall while going after a missed UCLA shot.

Had the Bruins not shot well from three-point range, the Ducks might have been even closer than 35-24 at the break. Oregon actually outshot UCLA, which leads the Pac-10 with 51 percent shooting. The Ducks hit 48 percent on 10 of 21 compared to the Bruins' 43 percent on 13 of 30.

Unfortunately for Oregon, six of the 13 were three-pointers, and Oregon hit just one of four from long range. Murray made 4 of 6 threes and led all scorers with 14 points at the half.

The Ducks also hurt them-

selves with sloppy ball handling, ending several offensive possessions without getting a shot by turning the ball over. Had UCLA not contributed to the rat-ball style of the first half by matching Oregon's eight turnovers, the lead would probably have been more than 11.

The Bruins quickly erased any thoughts the Ducks might have had about an upset in the early minutes of the second half.

UCLA made its first five shots, and before four minutes were gone, the Bruins led by 20, at 48-28.

Don MacLean, who passed Lew Alcindor as UCLA's all-time leading scorer in last Thursday's win at Oregon State, gave the Bruins their largest lead at 71-38 with 8:26 remaining.

"The first half I thought we played pretty well defensively," Monson said. "Then they hit two or three quick shots, and it was a 20-point game. It's tough to come back with those types of players they have."

Murray was a constant thorn in Oregon's side Saturday, always getting wide open for a three just when UCLA needed a lift. He finished with a game-high 22 points on 6 of 8 three-point shooting.

"You've got to locate Murray," Monson said. "When he gets a good look ..."

Monson didn't have to finish his sentence, but guard Orlando Williams summed it up pretty well.



Photo by Sean Poston

Oregon's Antoine Stoudamire (right) keeps the ball away from UCLA's Don MacLean (left) during the Duck's 84-65 loss to the Bruins at McArthur Court Saturday

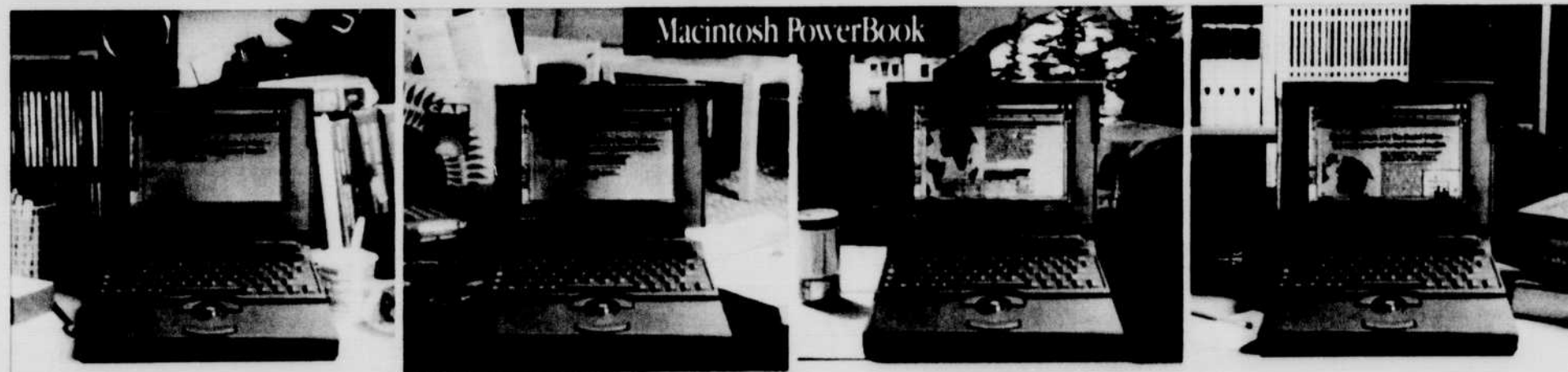
"I've never really played against anyone who shoots that well from that far," Williams said.

UCLA coach Jim Harrick couldn't figure out why Murray didn't shoot well against Oregon State, when the Bruins'

sharpshooter made just 3 of 15.

"He had the same exact look at the basket the other night," Harrick said. "He just didn't make them then. You can't leave him open; he's a good

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