

Photo by Michael Shindler

Staci Wallenborn had a team-high 22 points and eight rebounds Thursday night for Oregon.

Ducks close at half but lose big

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

It's almost over. The Oregon men's basketball team is only a game away from finishing its worst season in years after it lost to Stanford on Thursday 70-47 at Maples Pavilion.

Oregon will round out the season Saturday against California in Berkeley.

The Ducks played better than the score indicates, especially in the first half. At halftime, Oregon trailed by only two at 31-29, and despite being overpowered underneath, the Ducks were able to stay with the Cardinal with good shot selection and scrappy defense.

Stanford used an 8-0 run early to take a 14-7 lead, but Oregon stormed back with a 10-2 run and took the lead 17-16 with 10 minutes left in the half.

The Cardinal then ran off six straight points, which Oregon coach Don Monson was partially responsible for by picking up a technical foul.

Antoine Stoudamire's bank shot put Oregon

back in the lead, 25-24, with four minutes left. The Ducks led 29-27, but Stanford forward Paul Garrett scored two straight buckets to give the Cardinal a 31-29 halftime lead.

Oregon hit 54 percent in the first half as Stanford could only sink 41 percent of its shots.

The Cardinal couldn't have been feeling too good about its first half performance considering it has hopes of earning a birth in the NCAA Tournament, and a loss to the last-place Ducks would not bode well with the NCAA selection committee.

So Stanford changed things in a hurry. The Cardinal came out with fire in its eyes and touch in its shots, blitzing Oregon 19-4 to take a 50-33 lead in the span of seven minutes.

Monson said a team like his can't afford to lose a step against a team like Stanford.

"It just takes a few minutes for these teams to get up by six or eight points," he said.

Stoudamire had 20 points for Oregon, and Marcus Lollie led Stanford with 19.

The Ducks fall to 6-20 on the season and 2-15 in Pacific-10 Conference play.

Ducks lose to Trojans in heartbreaker, 81-76

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

USC guard Joni Easterly pulled up, shot, and broke Oregon's heart.

Easterly's three-pointer with 34 seconds remaining broke a 76-76 tie and helped give the Trojans an 81-76 win over the Ducks Thursday night at McArthur Court.

Oregon dropped to 14-13 overall and 6-11 in the Pacific-10 Conference with the loss. USC upped its record to 20-7 and 13-4.

"Joni Easterly put up a shot that was going to go in no matter who was guarding her," Oregon coach Elwin Heiny said.

"It was a great shot."

The Trojans may have won the game, but the Ducks had an equal opportunity to do so, too, despite a poor start.

USC jumped out to a 15-4 lead, but Oregon snuck back and tied the score at 33 with an 8-2 run. The Trojans regained control, however, and led 43-38 at the half.

The Trojans appeared to have complete control after an 8-0 run broke a 47-47 tie yet the Ducks wouldn't quit. Oregon scrapped its way back within five points before launching its main offensive of the game.

Turn to **DUCKS**, Page 10

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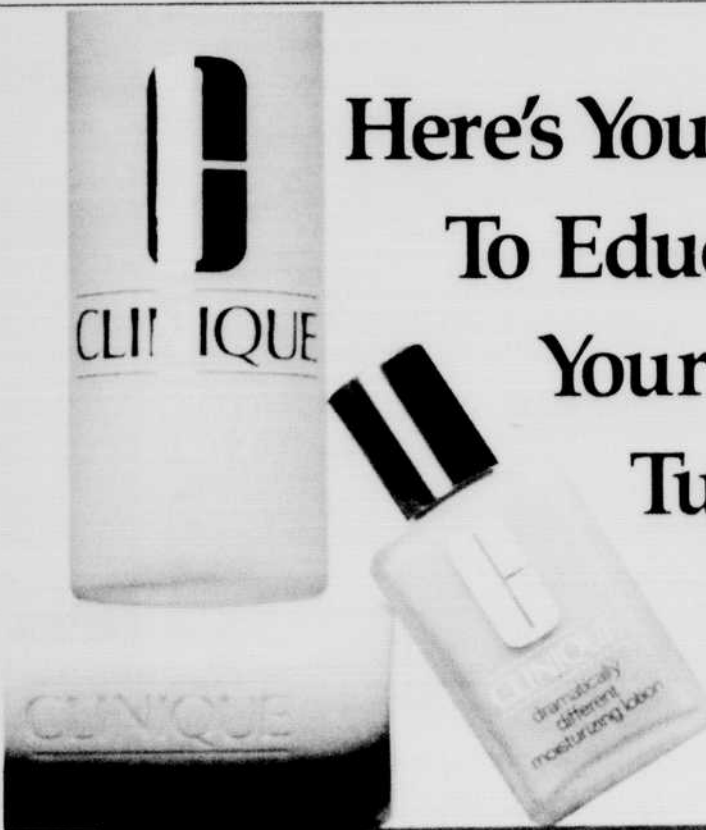
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