

Ducks jump on Canberra early, cruise to 89-60 win

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Editor

The uniforms worn by Oregon's opponents Tuesday night had a striking resemblance to those worn by Pacific-10 Conference foe Arizona.

But the team was not the Wildcats, and the game was far from a Pac-10 showdown as the Oregon men's basketball team rolled over the Canberra Cannons 89-60 in Oregon's first game at McArthur Court under head coach Jerry Green.

The Cannons, at times, looked no better than the worst NCAA teams in the country, but the Ducks tried to avoid assumptions that this is a game they were expected to win.

"It was a lot of fun," said forward Jeff Potter, who had 11 points and six rebounds. "After last season, I don't mind beating anybody that bad."

From the start, it was obvious Oregon was the better team as the Ducks jumped out to a 23-2 lead ten minutes into the game. In that stretch, Canberra hit only one of its first 23 shots.

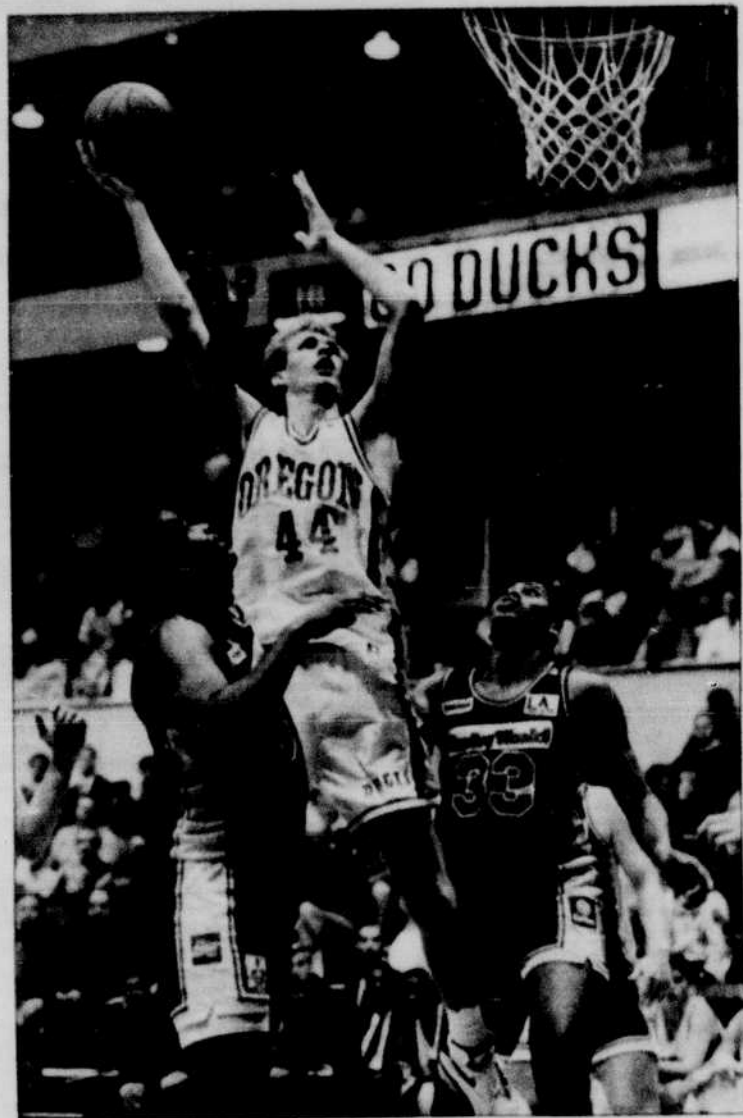
Oregon ended up with a 41-15 lead at halftime, and never let the team from Australia back into the game.

The Ducks looked sloppy at times, but at other times seemed to be clicking with Green's up-tempo game plan.

"We hit in the groove a couple of times," Green said, "but not we're still not where we'd



Photos by Jeff Paslay
Duck guard Johnnie Reece (above) tries to steal the ball from a Canberra player during Tuesday's game. Oregon forward Damon Runyon (right) throws up a hook shot for two of his 10 points.



like to be all the time."

Green took advantage of the blowout by substituting wildly throughout the game, trying many different combinations within a ten-player rotation.

"We wanted to see a lot of players tonight," Green said. "With our style of basketball, players are going to get tired, and therefore we have to get a lot of players in there."

Senior guard Antoine Stoudamire led all scorers with 20 points and said the Ducks have made great strides since their six-game trip to Europe in September.

"Tonight, we played a lot more aggressively than when we played in Europe," he said. "Our new system is really starting to click with the players."

Guard Johnnie Reece — who scored 12 points and had four assists — said the team has a lot better flow to it than last year's team that finished 6-21.

"Last year, when a play broke down, one of us would just go one-on-one," he said. "This year, when the play breaks down, we get right back into the flow. Tonight, it finally hit me that we're getting better as a team."

Lyden to skip season

Junior guard-forward Jordy Lyden will sit out the 1992-93 season as a redshirt to enable his injured right foot to fully heal.

Lyden has been limited in practice time during pre-season

drills and is playing well below 100 percent. The injury is strained ligament damage in the his foot which occurred last January and forced Lyden to miss the remainder of the 1991-92 season.

Women lose in closing seconds

Kristi Harrower scored and hit a free throw with four seconds remaining to push the Australian Institute of Sport past the Oregon women 70-67 in an exhibition basketball game Tuesday evening at McArthur Court.

Trailing 67-65, Oregon tied the game when Sarah Wilson hit from the left post with 33 seconds left setting the stage for Harrower.

Wilson led the Ducks with 20 points. The game opened with a series of streaks by

both teams, with AIS pulling out to a 10-2 lead before the Ducks came back to tie the game at 10. AIS scored 11 of the next 13 points but Oregon responded with 10 straight points to take their first lead at 23-21, and went into the locker room at halftime leading 32-28.

The second half was back and forth with the lead changing hands nine times before AIS took the lead for good at 64-63 on two free throws by Nerida Jeffrey.

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