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## Women Ducks go 1-1 at toumey

□ Oregon scores well against two ranked teams in Nashville

By Steve Mims  
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team upset 13th-ranked Southwest Missouri State and almost pulled off a major upset against No. 3 Vanderbilt at the O'Charley's Classic in Nashville, Tenn., during the weekend.

The Ducks entered the tournament as heavy underdogs but surprised Southwest Missouri State in the opening game Friday, beating the Bears 58-56.

The Ducks got off to a horrible start against the Bears, falling behind 22-4 during the first nine minutes of the game before going on a 15-4 run to cut the deficit to 31-24 at halftime. Oregon shot 57 percent from the field in the first half.

Oregon forward Debbie Sporcich scored the Ducks' first seven points of the second half, and forward Jessica Schutt scored on a lay-in to cut the Southwest Missouri State lead to 35-33 with 16 minutes left in the game.

Schutt scored again on a fast break to give the Ducks their first lead of the game at 40-38 with 10 minutes remaining in the half. The Ducks never relinquished the lead but had to hold off a late run by the Bears to secure the victory.

Point guard Missy Stowell made two free throws with 43

seconds left in the game to give the Ducks their largest lead at 58-52, but Southwest Missouri State cut the lead to four points on a turnaround jump shot by Tonya Baucom with 32 seconds remaining.

The Bears got the ball back with 15 seconds left after Sporcich missed a free throw, but they could only manage another jumper by Baucom as time expired.

Oregon finished the game shooting 51 percent from the field and 48 percent from three-point range. The Ducks made nine of 15 three-point attempts in the second half. The game was sloppy, as each team committed 31 turnovers.

Sporcich led the Ducks with 17 points, making six of 11 shots from the field. Stowell scored 12 points for the Ducks and Schutt added 11. Center Sara Wilson struggled offensively, scoring only five points, but she led the Ducks with seven rebounds.

Oregon faced third-ranked host-team Vanderbilt for the tournament championship on Sunday, but blew a seven-point halftime lead before losing 72-68.

The Ducks fell behind early for the second straight game and trailed 20-11 halfway through the opening half before Stowell hit a long three-pointer to get the Ducks on track. Stowell's shot started an 18-8 run that gave the Ducks their first

lead at 29-28 when Sporcich scored on a three-point play.

Wilson scored as the first half ended to give the Ducks a 37-30 halftime lead. The Ducks shot only 47 percent in the first half but attempted 10 more shots than the Commodores.

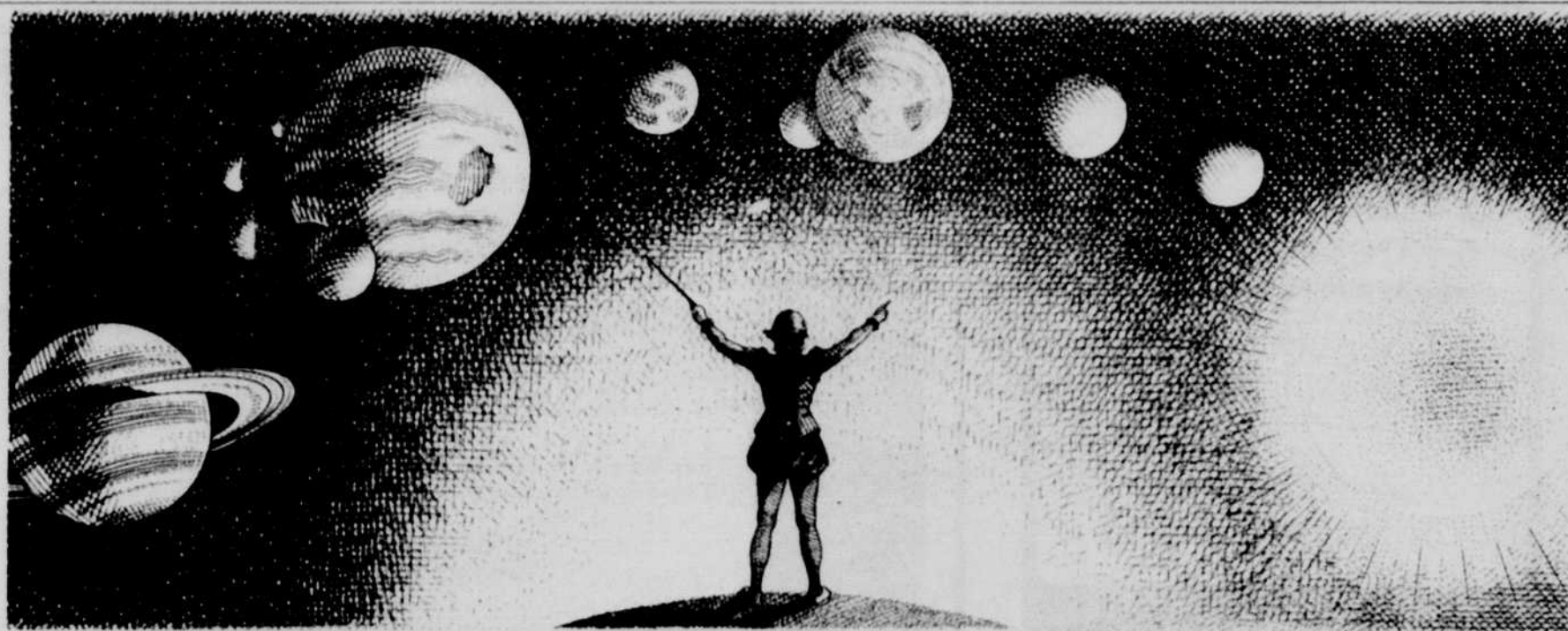
Oregon stretched its lead to 50-40 when Wilson hit a short jump shot with 13:41 left in the game, but Vanderbilt responded with 10 consecutive points to tie the game at 50-50. The Commodores took the lead for good when Heidi Gillingham scored to give Vanderbilt a 57-56 lead with 7:20 remaining in the game.

The Commodores led by as many as eight points in the final minutes, but Oregon cut the lead to 71-68 with 23 seconds remaining when Sporcich hit two free throws.

Powell led the Commodores with 27 points and six assists, and Gillingham added 12. Vanderbilt shot 50 percent from the field and hit 10 of 15 three-point shots.

Sporcich led the Ducks again with 25 points and pulled down 18 rebounds. Wilson scored 21 points for Oregon and grabbed nine rebounds. Oregon shot 47 percent from the field but connected on only four of 19 three-pointers.

The Ducks will return to Eugene for their home opener on Wednesday against Brigham Young at 4:30 p.m.



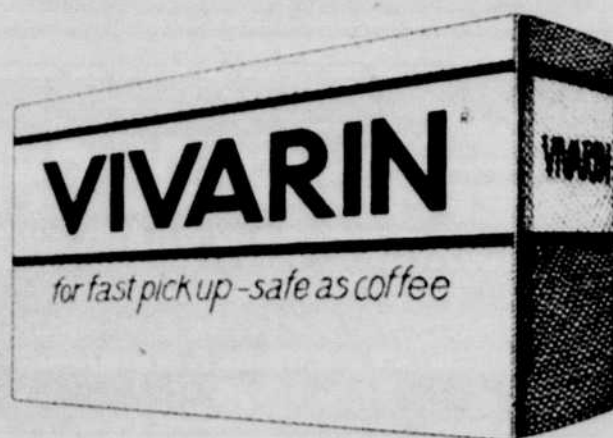
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