

# Ducks knock off BYU, lose to Ohio State in Classic

□ Oregon plays well against two highly touted teams

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Editor

The Oregon men's basketball team geared up for Pacific-10 Conference play by knocking off a top-25 team during the break and nearly defeating a Big 10 power in taking second place at the Far West Classic in Portland.

The Ducks defeated No. 25 Brigham Young on the opening night of the tournament, 76-70, and lost 79-75 the following night to Ohio State in the championship game.

The two games put the Ducks at 6-5 heading into their game tonight against Hartford. Oregon opens Pac-10 play at California Thursday.

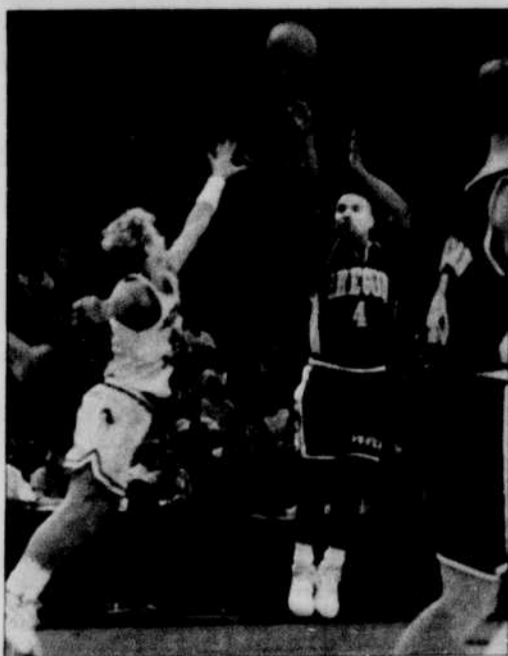
The Ducks came back from an early 17-11 deficit against Brigham Young, building a first-half lead of eight points. The Cougars were able to come back and cut the lead to only three at halftime.

BYU picked up where it had left off in the first half, building a seven-point lead and hovering around there for much of the second half.

Oregon was able to regain the lead with about seven minutes remaining when guard Antoine Stoudamire scored on a layup to put the Ducks up 65-64.

Forward Clyde Jordan hit a short jumper to give Oregon a 67-64 lead, and the Ducks never looked back.

With one minute left in the game, forward Aaron Johnson scored in the lane to give the Ducks a 73-68 lead. Oregon hit its free throws down the stretch



Photos by Dyan Couter

Oregon guards Johnnie Reece (above) and Antoine Stoudamire led the Ducks to a second-place finish at the Far West Classic. Stoudamire was named the tournament's most valuable player, averaging 23 points a game.



for the victory, its second over a Division I opponent this season.

Stoudamire led the way for the Ducks with 22 points. Jordan and guards Johnnie Reece and Orlando Williams each had 12 for the Ducks.

The following night, Oregon played for the title against Ohio State, which came into the game with a 5-2 mark.

Oregon led many times in the game, but couldn't hold off the Buckeyes.

The two teams battled closely for much of the first half, with neither team seeming to take control.

Late in the first half, Oregon took a 27-26 lead on a three-point play by Johnson. Johnson's tip-in gave the Ducks a 30-28 lead. Buckeye Greg Simpson gave Ohio State the lead with a three-pointer, but Johnson answered again to give Oregon the lead back.

Ohio State took an early 37-34 lead in the second half, but the Ducks went on a 7-0 run to take a 41-37 lead.

The Buckeyes regained the lead at 53-52 with nine minutes left. From there the two teams battled back and forth until Jamie Skelton's three-pointer put Ohio State up 64-62 with a lit-

tle more than five minutes remaining.

Oregon took its last lead after a pair of free throws by forward Jeff Potter, 68-67. Four straight free throws by the Buckeyes put them up 72-68 with two minutes remaining, and five of six down the stretch to seal up the 79-75 victory.

Stoudamire led the way again for the Ducks with 24 points. Reece and Williams each scored 11, and Skelton led the way for Ohio State with 21 points.

Stoudamire was honored with the tournament's most

valuable player award. He was joined on the all-tournament team by Ohio State's Lawrence Funderburke and Jamie Skelton, Oregon State's Brent Barry and BYU's Gary Trost.

Stoudamire averaged 23 points and 6.5 rebounds a game in the tournament. Jordan also averaged 6.5 boards for the two-game tournament.

Oregon State dropped its opener to Ohio State, but rebounded to beat BYU in the third-place game.

Tonight's game against Hartford begins at 7:05 at McArthur Court.

## BOWL

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When I asked the cab driver what I could do in town on New Year's Eve, he replied, "You like strip joints?"

Uh, I'll pass.

It was at this point that it became crystal clear to me why the Ducks jumped on the first

plane out of town after the game. Who wants to spend New Year's Eve in Shreveport? I ended up spending my New Year's Eve in my hotel room with a pizza watching the Porky's trilogy on USA's Up All Night.

It may be unfair for me to knock Shreveport, because this bowl is not for the media, it's

for the teams. Because of this bowl, two mediocre teams get a chance to say they went to a bowl game. Oregon would not have been invited to another bowl game, and I doubt Wake Forest would have been either.

My point is, I wonder how much of a reward it is for two teams to lose a majority of winter break because of prac-

tices and fly down to a slum-laden city and participate in a second-rate bowl? This is especially questionable when your team ends up losing and finishing the season at 6-6, instead of ending the season 6-5 with a victory over your intrastate rival.

Sure, most of the Duck fans who made the trip will argue

that they had a great time. But anyone who will shell out about \$900 to watch a 6-5 team play in Shreveport, La., is probably not too hard to please.

Dave Charbonneau is sports editor of the Emerald.

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