Oregon Daily Emerald Sports-

Men scare Bears in final game

By Dave Charbonneau **Emerald Sports Editor**

Obviously, the Oregon men's basketball team didn't get an invitation to the NCAA tournament.

However, the Ducks nearly threw a kink into California's postseason hopes, playing the heavily favored Golden Bears tough all the way to the final horn before losing 79-76 at McArthur Court Saturday night.

Oregon (10-20, 3-15) led by as many as 13 points in the first half and didn't relinquish its lead until the 14:22 mark of the second half. But the Ducks were still able to stay close, trailing only 78-76 when an Orlando Williams pass slipped through Andre Collier's hands with 16 seconds

remaining in the game. California (19-9, 12-6) guard Jason Kidd hit one of two free throws with six seconds left, leaving the Ducks with a chance to fie the game with a three-pointer. But Antoine Stoudamire, who scored 29 points in his final game for Oregon, drove the ball up the court and threw up a 30-footer that bounced hard off the backboard at the horn. The win gave the Bears a sec-

ond-place finish in the Pacific-10 Conference, earning them a No. 6 seed in the Midwest Regional of the NCAA Tournament. However, without the win Saturday, they may have been relegated to a top seed in the NIT.

Oregon led by as many as nine in the second half, but the Bears went on a 9-0 run early in the half

to take their first lead at 52-50. Williams hit a three-pointer seconds later to return the lead to the Ducks, but that was the last time Oregon would lead.

Lamond Murray's three-pointer and Brain Hendrick's dunk gave Cal a five-point advantage. and the Bears looked to be pulling away after Akili Jones scored and was fouled for a threepoint play to put Cal up 65-57 with nine minutes left in the game

But Oregon rebounded with a 7-1 run to pull within two at 66-64

From there, the Ducks answered every Cal bucket to keep themselves in the game.

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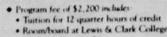
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