

WE'RE BEYOND THE FAR SIDE



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Seasons Greetings

Despite the challenges confronting all members of the UO family, let us not forget the true meaning of the holiday season: This is a time to reflect on our good fortunes and reach out to help others, particularly the less fortunate.

Best wishes for a successful, prosperous new year.

Myles and Peg Brand

(paid for with personal funds)



Pacific zones in on the Ducks

By Dave Charbonneau
Oregon Daily Emerald

A few things the Oregon men's basketball team may want to include on its Christmas list: The ability to shoot free throws, an offense to counter zone defense and a confidence-building win over a respectable opponent.

After Saturday's 75-69 loss to Pacific at McArthur Court, the Ducks are still in search of all three, and it's taking a toll on the young team.

Oregon had its chances against the Tigers, but in the end, it was the Ducks' reliance on the outside shot and their inability to hit free throws that proved, once again, to be their downfall.

Pacific, obviously aware of Oregon's past troubles with zone defenses, stayed in a zone the entire game, forcing the Ducks to launch 27 three-pointers — of which they hit only seven — and leaving the Oregon offense at a virtual stand-still for much of the game.

"The big thing was the zone," Oregon head coach Jerry Green said. "It was a problem for us. We worked on the zone all week in practice this week. We knew we'd see it, but we didn't think we'd see it the whole game."

Pacific coach Bob Thomason said the game-long zone was not originally in his game plan.

"Before the game, I didn't think we'd be able to zone them," he said. "All of a sudden, we started to break a little more out of the zone and we got the momentum. I thought our kids did a nice job of making them take the tough shot."

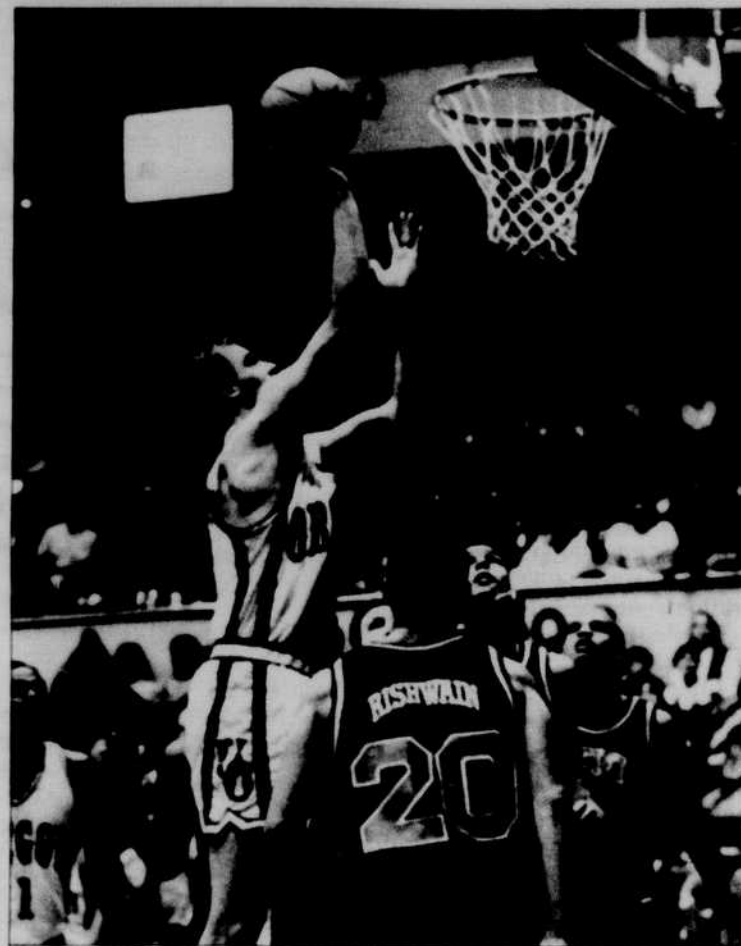
"Tough shot" is a relative term, and for the Ducks, it's starting to include the easiest shot of all: the free throw.

Oregon continued its season-long woes at the line, hitting less than 50 percent of its shots and only one of seven in the second half.

Pacific didn't do much better at the line, hitting only eight of 17 shots from the line, but the Tigers didn't need them because they had Michael Jackson.

No, not the glove-wearing, moonwalking pop star, but rather a 6-foot-5 forward who Saturday night gave the name "King of Pop" a new meaning. Jackson popped 13 of 22 shots, including six of 10 from the three-point line, to finish with 32 points.

Jackson hit three three-pointers early and had 11 of Pacific's



MORGAN SMITH for the Emerald
Oregon center Aaron Johnson scored 17 points and had seven rebounds in the Ducks' 75-69 loss to Pacific Saturday.

first 18 points as the Tigers took an 18-14 lead. He then ended the half by scoring nine points in the final three minutes, giving Pacific a 45-34 halftime lead.

Jackson had 21 points by half, and hit nine of 12 shots, including four of five from the three-point arc.

Jamar Curry, who played a total of one minute in the first half, started the second half and helped the Ducks get back in the game with six points and a block of a Jackson jumper. Oregon guard Orlando Williams added a three-pointer and a driving lay-up to bring the Duck crowd to its feet, and after a Curry rebound basket, Oregon cut the Tiger lead to 51-50.

Jackson silenced the Oregon crowd quickly with a three and a short jumper to put Pacific up by six. The Tigers eventually got the lead back up to nine and the closest the Ducks could get the rest of the way was six points.

Williams led Oregon scorers with 21 points, hitting five of 12 three-pointers. Center Aaron Johnson pitched in 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds for

the Ducks. The victory was Pacific's first road win against a Pacific-10 Conference team since 1954, giving Oregon a dubious distinction and putting some doubts in Green's mind about his team's ability to win games.

"The thing that concerns and scares me as much as anything is falling back into a funk of the six- and 10-win season," he said. "Our team is young and we seem to have a better attitude, and the guys that were on the past teams seem to have a better mental outlook on things."

Things won't get any easier for the Ducks during the winter break. They must now go on the road to face Idaho Sunday and then return home for a game with Santa Clara, a team that defeated Arizona in NCAA tournament last season and knocked off California Saturday.

The rest of the Oregon schedule in December: Dec. 18, at Wisconsin-Green Bay; Dec. 27-28, Far West Classic with Portland, Oregon State and North Carolina-Wilmington; Dec. 30, at St. Mary's.

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Applications and further information can be picked up at 180 Esslinger Hall after Dec. 7th.

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