

# Ducks get a couple of wins for Christmas

By Steve Mims  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the first time all season, the Oregon men's basketball team appears to have a pulse.

While students were away opening presents and stuffing themselves during the holidays, the Ducks were beginning to build a little confidence. Oregon was left for dead when it headed into the winter break 1-2, and it didn't get any better during losses at home to Santa Clara and at Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Yet, after splitting up for a shortened break of their own, the Ducks won two of their final three during the break, broke a long road losing streak and almost picked up a tournament championship in Portland.

Oregon entered the Far West Classic Dec. 27-28 with a 1-4 record and given little chance to succeed even though the tournament field was down from past years. The Ducks entered their first-round game at the classic against Portland shooting 39 percent from the field, but quickly put those memories to rest.

The Ducks shot 54 percent against the Pilots, but even that was almost not enough. The game was close throughout and when Portland's Matt Houle drilled a three-pointer with 9.5 seconds left, the game was tied at 72-72.

Left without a timeout, Oregon quickly inbounded the ball and headed upcourt where Jordy Lyden buried a three-pointer of his own with 2.8 seconds left to give the Ducks the win. Lyden finished with a team-high 16 points, hitting on five of only seven shots.

Lyden, counted on to be one of Oregon's top shooters this year, was shooting less than 36 percent from the field entering the game. For a night, the game-

winning shot took a lot of basketball and personal problems away from Lyden.

"The pressure, the slumps I've been in, the death of my grandmother, a lot of things contributed mentally to taking away from my game recently," Lyden said. "I wanted to come out here and show what I can do in front of my fans and parents, especially."

The victory gave Oregon head coach Jerry Green a chance to speak out positively about his much-maligned team.

"Everything I read and everything I see is disaster striking, everybody's falling apart and everything's wrong with Oregon basketball," Green said. "Sometimes things improve, and hopefully, this is the time we can continue to improve."

Improvements were not as easily seen the next night when the Ducks lost 79-75 in a sloppy performance against Oregon State. The game was anything but a classic, as the teams combined for 51 fouls and shot 61 total free throws.

The Ducks never led in the game, but stayed close to the Beavers throughout. The Ducks reverted to their old, familiar form, connecting on only eight of 24 shots in the first half, but came back to shoot almost 47 percent in the second half. Oregon trailed 70-66 after a Jeff Potter lay-up with 1:59 in the game, but could not get any closer, and eventually lost for the eighth time in eight classic finals against the Beavers.

Oregon forward Jeff Potter was named to the all-tournament team after scoring 31 points combined in the two games. Potter, a career 68 percent free throw shooter, hit 13 of 16 free throws in the tournament. Although just a junior, Potter is

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MORGAN SMITH/for the Emerald  
Oregon forward Jeff Potter, a junior, was named to the Far West Classic all-tournament team after scoring 31 points combined in games against Oregon State and University of Portland last week.

# Women win three during holidays

By Scott Simonson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

After going 3-1 during winter break, the Oregon women's basketball team returns to action today with a game against Texas-El Paso.

Oregon, 5-3 on the season, defeated Idaho State at home and Weber State and San Diego on the road before a road loss to San Diego State snapped a four-game winning streak.

Oregon cruised to easy victories in its first two games during the break. The Ducks beat Idaho State 56-36 on Dec. 11. Forward Jessica Schutt led Oregon in scoring with 17 points.

Oregon defeated Weber State 95-70 Dec. 13. Forward Cindy Murphy's 17 points paced the Ducks. Freshman forward Arianne Boyer made major contributions in the two games, leading Oregon in rebounding in each contest.

The Ducks traveled to Southern California last

week and split a pair of games against teams that reached the NCAA tournament last season. The Ducks beat San Diego 74-67 last Tuesday behind forward Debbie Sporchich's 21 points and 15 rebounds and center Sara Wilson's 20 points and eight rebounds.

Oregon shot 53 percent from the floor and 45 percent from behind the three-point arc against the Toreros. The Ducks also enjoyed a decisive advantage on the boards, outrebounding San Diego 42-25.

Oregon's winning streak came to an end with a 84-77 loss to San Diego State last Thursday. Oregon head coach Jody Runge said Oregon got in trouble early when it had difficulty handling the Aztecs' quickness and pressing defense.

Oregon trailed by 10 points at the half. The

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## Peace Corps

On UO Campus

Jan. 11 & 12

### Information Table

Tue & Wed, Jan 11-12,  
10 am-3 pm, EMU

### Recruitment Presentations

"How to Qualify"  
Tues., Jan 11, 12:20-1:30 pm  
EMU Cedar A&B,

"Peace Corps Projects in Africa"  
Tues., Jan 11, 7-9pm  
EMU Cedar A&B,

### Peace Corps Director speaks on campus

Peace Corps Director  
Carol Bellamy  
Wed., Jan 12, 4-5pm,  
EMU Fir Rm

### Interviews

Interviews for Fall/Winter '94 openings will be held Jan 26-27 To schedule an appointment, call Anna Aguilar at 346-6026. (Note: You must bring a completed application to the interview)

Monday Jan. 3 **FREE**  
**John Fohl**

Tuesday Jan. 4 **\$3**  
**Nothing Rhymes With Orange**  
guests

Wednesday Jan. 5 **\$3**  
**Billy Jack**  
**Supernova** (from San Diego)  
Elmer

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