

Duck men earn a little respect in loss to Bruins

By Dave Charbonneau
Oregon Daily Emerald

It could have, and maybe should have been a lot worse.

But the Oregon men's basketball team at least made a game of it Thursday, eventually losing to sixth-ranked UCLA 89-73 at Pauley Pavilion in the Pacific-10 Conference opener for both teams.

The Ducks came into the game as 28-point underdog, but managed to stay within 10 points for much of the game against a much bigger, stronger and more talented Bruin team.

The tradition-rich Pauley Pavilion may have got the best of the young Oregon team as the Bruins pulled ahead 26-10 10 minutes into the game.

"We spotted them a 16 point lead early, and it was even the rest of the game," Oregon head coach Jerry Green said. "We played a smart game once the first 10 minutes were over. I wish we could go back and throw those first 10 minutes out, but obviously we can't."

Kenya Wilkins, Oregon's freshman point guard continued to show that as he goes, so goes Oregon. Wilkins, playing in his town of Los Angeles, arguably outdueled the Bruins' star point guard Tyus Edney.

Wilkins scored 17 points to lead all scorers in the game and drove past Edney on numerous occasions creating shots for his

teammates and himself.

"Kenya represented our team well tonight," Green said. "It's too bad he got his fourth foul early in the second, but I thought he played Tyus very smart."

Wilkins, however, struggled with the rest of the Ducks at the beginning as Edney stole the ball from him the first time he touched the ball and knocked the ball away again the next time down the court.

But after that, Wilkins settled in and played on a par with Edney the rest of the way.

The Ducks were able to stay close with the Bruins in the first half thanks to their free throw shooting, hitting 14 of 16. Still, Oregon watched UCLA turn a 16-10 lead into 26-10 within two minutes and it looked as if the slaughter was officially under way. But point guard Kenya Wilkins' three-pointer started an 8-0 Oregon run to bring the Ducks back within eight.

The Bruins retaliated with a 13-4 run to put them back up 39-22. Once again, Oregon came back scoring 11 of the final 15 points in the half including Wilkins' jumper at the horn to make the score 43-33 at half-time.

The second half was more of the same as UCLA's lead grew to 50-35 to start the second. The Ducks came back and Jeff Potter's power move inside cut the

Bruin lead back down to 10 points at 50-40. Wilkins then picked up a fourth foul and it looked as if that would be the end of Oregon. But minutes later, UCLA starting center George Zidek picked up his fifth fouls giving the Ducks renewed hope to climb back in the game.

UCLA looked as if they might actually cover the 28-point

spread as their lead ballooned to 71-53 midway through the second half, but a three-pointer and a lay-in off a steal by Wilkins cut the lead back down to 13.

Still again UCLA pumped the lead back up to 17 at 78-61, but the Ducks reeled off six straight to pull back within 11.

With four minutes left in the game, Oregon trailed 81-70, but

made mistakes down the stretch and couldn't buy a hoop.

Wilkins' 17 led all scorers and Orlando Williams added 15 despite going one for six from three-point range. The Ducks will face USC Saturday in Los Angeles. Tip off is set for 11:00 a.m. and will broadcast live on the Oregon Sports Network (KVAL).

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Women Cougs defeat California in Pullman

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Sue Jarosch scored 21 points and Camille Thompson added 19 as Washington State went on a second-half scoring run to defeat California 88-82 in a Pacific-10 Conference women's game Thursday night.

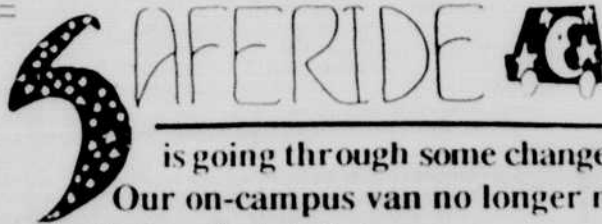
The Golden Bears (6-5 overall, 0-1 conference) led 62-61 with 10:39 remaining. But the Cougars (6-4, 1-0) went on a 14-2 scoring run fueled by two steals by Jarosch and one each by Thompson and Kelli Kronberger.

Washington State held on to its lead as Jarosch scored five of the team's 10 free-throw points in the final two minutes.

California took an early four-point lead but was unable to increase the margin to more than five points in the first half.

Ingrid Dixson scored a career-high 23 points to lead the Golden Bears, who committed 22 turnovers. California also got 15 points from both Jackie Lear and Kim Robinson.

Kireen Ellis and Erika Wheeler each added 14 points for Washington State.



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