



Ducks ride fans' energy to victory

Kris Henry
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball team sent a message to the rest of the Pacific-10 Conference with Thursday night's upset of No. 2 UCLA: Don't come a knockin' when the Pit is a rockin'.

The Ducks upset the Bruins 82-72 in front of a standing room only crowd of 10,086 which kept the Greenballers rolling and lifted Oregon to the top of the Pac-10 Conference.

For the first time since 1983, the Ducks, 9-1 overall and 1-0 in conference, can boast back to back triumphs against the Bruins, 6-1 and 0-1. And the electricity produced between those two infamous court-swarming crowds could be enough to light up Eugene for a year.

"The crowd was just yelling and you could feel the energy from the crowd," an awestruck Jamal Lawrence said following the game. "That just makes you work harder."

And work harder is what Oregon did, using patience on offense and a suffocating defense that forced UCLA into

21 turnovers.

"We got completely outplayed in every phase of the game," UCLA head coach Jim Harrick said.

After trailing by 11 points with 15:42 left in the second half, the Ducks never gave up and the crowd never let them give up.

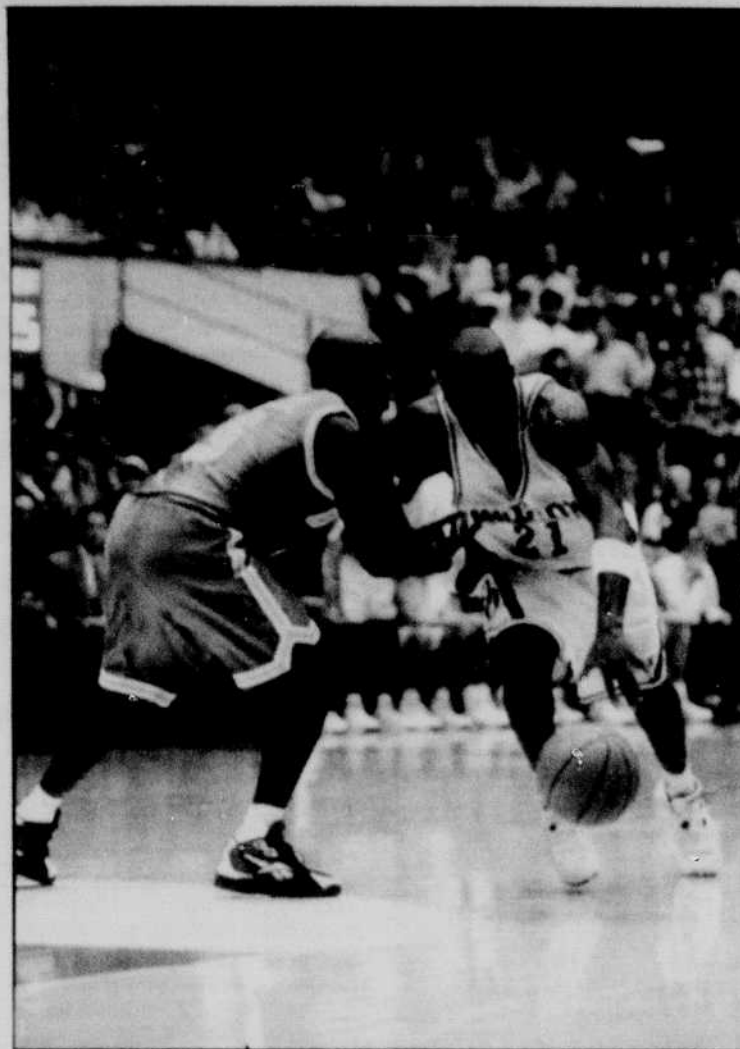
"I think we have the greatest fans in the nation," Henry Madden said, "because they're behind us whether we're down or whether we're up. I think that when we were down 11 in the second half, by getting up on their seats and stomping, the fans in the Pit really gave us this victory."

Oregon went on a 23-11 run in the next seven minutes to even the score at 63-63 and send the fans at Mac Court into a frenzy.

After a basket each by the O'Bannon brothers, Ed and Charles, Madden hit a turnaround in Ed O'Bannon's face and then, following a steal, hit a three-pointer from the top of the key that he practically begged for.

"I really felt that one," Madden said.

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Oregon guard Orlando Williams attempts to get by UCLA's Cameron Dollar in Thursday's 82-72 upset victory over the No. 2 Bruins.

Improved second-half shooting lifts Ducks

Chris Metz
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was just like old times Thursday night — in more ways than one.

The Ducks seem to be making a habit of disposing of the Bruins, but it was their old nemesis — shooting — that almost spelled their doom.

As they did last year, the Ducks put the pressure on in the first half against the favored Bruins. But unlike last year, the Ducks went into the locker room trailing, victims of lackluster shooting.

Oregon was a dismal 7-15 (.467) from the line in the first half and the Ducks weren't any better from the field hitting on only 11 of 35 shots (.314).

"At halftime coach told us to stop being nervous and go out there and shoot it," said Oregon guard Jamal Lawrence.

Whatever Oregon head coach Jerry Green said apparently worked as Oregon came out in the second half and shot .727 (16-22) from the line and .429 (15-35) from the field to overcome a 13-point deficit and hand UCLA its second loss in as many trips to McArthur Court.

Despite the enormity of the win, there were no delusions of grandeur on Green's behalf following the game.

"Our offense has still got to get better to do it on any sort of consistent basis," Green said. "Our offense is like Jekyll and Hyde. We can be a much better team if we played

like we do in practice. We played not as well as I wanted to in the first half."

One key to the win for the Ducks was their ability to force turnovers.

With the aid of more than 10,000 Pit faithful, the Ducks forced 21 turnovers while committing just 11.

"We knew that our defense would eventually put pressure on them," Oregon forward Henry Madden said. "We just took advantage of the turnovers."

Following the game, Green credited the sellout crowd for helping the Ducks along in their second straight conference upset.

"I've been to a lot of places," Green said. "I don't think I've ever been in a place as loud as the Pit."

In Pasadena, it really is more than a game

It only seemed fitting that, only one day removed from Oregon's Rose Bowl loss, the once sunny skies of Pasadena turned gray and uncharacteristically opened up and made way for a pounding rainstorm on Tuesday.

For me, it signified the end of an experience that undoubtedly will remain with me in the form of memories of the game and everything that went with it for the rest of my life. I'm quite confident that many people feel the same way.

As the rainy skies of Pasadena faded into the distance and the always somber mood that accompanies the imminent return home from a vacation set in, things still seemed O.K. for some reason.

Aside from the game, there was the Batman ride at Magic



CHRIS METZ

Mountain, a lot of sushi, Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles, Rodeo Drive and various other attractions unique to the Southern California that somehow made the week before the game a tolerable one.

It sounds kind of corny, but the Rose Bowl is more than just a game. The actual game itself almost becomes and after thought to the pageantry and energy that surrounds it. It is for we only about a game, no one

would bother returning to Oregon and all the Duck players, coaches and fans would simply cease to exist as they had just lost the most important game of their lives.

But everybody is alive and well. Danny O'Neil can take a rest from his personal media blitz to have a seat on his couch, flip through the channels and, I'll just bet, he will eventually remember the greatest game of his career with fond memories.

Matt Belden's all right. Sure he missed three field goals, but it's just a game. One thing that can't be said about Matt Belden is that he is not a stand-up guy. For a freshman to handle himself the way he did following Monday's game is amazing.

For the seniors, life will go on away from Oregon football. None of them should have any

regrets about the way they went out. Guys like Chad Cota, Herman O'Berry, Dino Philyaw, Steve Hardin, Jeff Sherman etc. left it all on the legendary turf of the Rose Bowl, going out in a blaze of glory. For some reason, though, there's an extra bit of sadness bidding this group of seniors goodbye.

"The 1994 team is never going to be back in the locker room together," tight end Josh Wilcox said moments after the game. "I'm never going to get to play next to Steve Hardin again. Or have Danny O'Neil bark out the count and Philyaw run behind me. And watch Cota and Sherman — guys like that. They don't have alumni games anymore when you come back and you're 50 pounds overweight and drinking beer at halftime."

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FRIDAY

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SPORTS SHORTS

Kotite in, Carroll Out

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — It turns out that owner Leon Hess was just as disgusted with the New York Jets as the rest of their fans. The only difference was he had the clout to do something about it.

On Thursday, Hess fired coach Pete Carroll after just one year and hired deposed Philadelphia Eagles coach Rich Kotite to replace him.

The owner, in a rare appearance at the Jets camp, made it clear this was his move from the start.

"I'm one of the fans, disappointed just like the rest of them," he said. "I just felt I owed it to the fans, to the Jets and to myself to do something. I decided to change the coach."

Carroll was fired two days shy of a year after he was hired to replace Bruce Coslet.

Irvin promises Super Bowl

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Like Joe Namath, who guaranteed — then delivered — a victory by the New York Jets over the Baltimore Colts in the 1969 Super Bowl, Michael Irvin is making an identical "promise" on behalf of the Dallas Cowboys.

"We will do that, I promise," the wide receiver told Fox NFL Sunday co-host Terry Bradshaw in an interview to be aired Saturday after the Chicago-San Francisco playoff game.

"We will go to the Super Bowl," Irvin said. "We will get our third straight. We will do something that's never been done before."

SKI REPORT

- **ANTHONY LAKES** — partly cloudy 12 degrees 50 base frozen granular 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **COOPER SPUR** — clear 20 degrees 30 - 32 base powder 4 - 10 p.m.
- **HOODOO** — snowing lightly 10 degrees 54-78 base powder 3 lifts 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- **MT. ASHLAND** — snowing lightly 22 degrees 1 new 56 base packed powder 4 lifts 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- **MT. BACHELOR** — overcast 21 degrees 65-82 base machine groomed 8 lifts 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **MT. HOOD MEADOWS** — clear 28 degrees 76-95 base machine groomed 9 lifts 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- **MT. HOOD SKI BOWL** — clear 18 degrees 71 base hard packed 4 lifts 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- **SPOUT SPRINGS** — Plan to reopen Jan. 6
- **TIMBERLINE** — partly cloudy 23 degrees 102 base machine groomed 4 lifts 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- **WILLAMETTE** — snow 20 degrees 2 new 48-58 base powder 28 trails 4 lifts 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.