

# Ducks still in hunt despite blowout

Kris Henry  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Saturday's Pacific 10 Conference contest in Tucson was simply a matter of a traditional powerhouse program overwhelming a program on the rise.

The 13th-ranked Wildcats overpowered the Ducks 97-76 behind Damon Stoudamire, who messed around and had a triple-double, and some ball-hawking defense.

"[Arizona] defended well, and it was tough to get inside," Oregon forward Jeff Potter said following the game. "They have so much talent and are a tough team to stop."



GREEN

A loss is always a bitter pill to swallow, but realistically, the Ducks got what they needed on this road trip with Thursday's comeback upset of 15th-ranked Arizona State, 73-72.

"We have to look at this positively," Potter said. "We got a split this weekend, and now we have to look forward to our two home games against Cal and Stanford and take care of business."

Once all the dust had settled on the weekend contests, Oregon (16-7 overall, 8-6 Pac-10) had moved into a fourth-place tie with Stanford and Washington State.

The Ducks will have a chance to separate themselves from that

pack with the games against California and Stanford in McArthur Court on Thursday and Saturday, respectively.

A sweep of the two Bay area schools could put Oregon in prime position to earn an NCAA tournament berth for the first time in 34 years.

The season for Oregon has now come down to power ratings, index rankings and league standings to determine whether the Ducks will get an invitation to the dance.

For that specific reason, Oregon's dismal effort in the desert against Arizona could come back to haunt the anxious program.

"Our power rating will be affected by this game," said Oregon head coach Jerry Green of the Ducks' loss to Arizona. "We were projected to lose by 10, and since we lost by 21 it affects us because we don't have a national reputation. We have to watch the power ratings."

Each of Oregon's four remaining games will have a dramatic effect on the minds of the NCAA selection committee and whether it will grant the Ducks a berth in the tournament.

The Ducks are one of several teams across the nation that are considered "bubble" teams. Their chances of getting a bid can be swayed by the numbers in one or two games this season, or by a single committee member's viewpoint of the Oregon program.

All games this season will be evaluated and none of the remaining games are more important than another, but Oregon cannot allow itself to be outmaneuvered in a numbers crunch from any other bubble team in the nation due to its lack of tradition.

## USA-CNN POLL

The USA TODAY-CNN basketball coaches' poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 26, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	RECORD	PTS	PVS
1. UCLA (28)	21-2	839	3
2. North Carolina (3)	21-3	769	2
3. Kentucky	20-4	756	4
4. Kansas (3)	21-4	742	1
5. Connecticut	22-2	719	5
6. Maryland	22-5	677	7
7. Arkansas	23-5	629	8
8. Massachusetts	21-4	582	6
9. Michigan St.	20-4	571	10
10. Arizona	21-6	543	9
11. Wake Forest	19-5	479	12
12. Villanova	21-6	460	11
13. Virginia	19-7	376	13
14. Arizona St.	20-7	351	14
15. Syracuse	18-7	314	16
16. Purdue	20-6	308	20
17. Mississippi St.	19-5	275	19
18. Oklahoma	21-6	234	—
19. Stanford	17-6	209	18
20. Oklahoma St.	19-8	193	17
21. Missouri	18-6	181	15
22. Alabama	19-7	89	25
tie. Georgetown	17-7	89	—
tie. Iowa St.	19-7	89	24
25. Utah	23-5	67	—

Others receiving votes: Oregon 63, Georgia Tech 55, Xavier, Ohio 49, Brigham Young 40, New Mexico State 32, Western Kentucky 24, Texas 21, Minnesota 19, Louisville 17, Temple 17, Cincinnati 16, Pennsylvania 15, Miami, Ohio 14, Michigan 13, Utah State 13, Long Beach State 12, Indiana 11, Iowa 11, Tulsa 11, Saint Louis 10, N.C. Charlotte 8, Texas-El Paso 7, Ohio 6, Santa Clara 6, Memphis 4, Drexel 3, Florida 3, Texas Tech 3, College Of Charleston 2, George Washington 2, Canisius 1, Manhattan 1.

# Bruins claw way to the top, 100-77

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ed O'Bannon scored a career-high 37 points as No. 2 UCLA positioned itself to claim the nation's top ranking with its ninth straight victory, 100-77 over Duke on Sunday.

The Bruins (21-2) are expected to move into the top spot Monday for the first time since January 1994, when they held that position for one week.

Chants of, "We're number 1! We're number 1!" rang throughout Pauley Pavilion with four minutes remaining.

By then, the Bruins had turned the game into a slam-dunk contest, burning Duke's defense for easy fast-break baskets.

UCLA (21-2) is coming off its best stretch of the season, having won five games in 11 days, including home victories against both Arizona schools that solidified its Pacific-10 Conference lead.

## STANDINGS

Men's basketball

	CONF.	OVERALL
UCLA	13-2	21-2
Arizona	11-4	21-6
Arizona St.	10-5	20-7
Oregon	8-6	16-7
Stanford	8-6	17-6
WSU	8-6	14-9
California	5-9	13-10
Washington	4-10	8-15
Oregon St.	3-11	6-17
USC	2-13	7-18

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Ed O'Bannon took over the game during a critical stretch midway through the second half when Duke had closed within four points. O'Bannon scored 11 of the Bruins' next 15, giving them a 76-63 lead with 5:48 to play.

The Blue Devils (12-15) once got to 65-62 on Trajan Langdon's 3-pointer with 10:17 remaining, but UCLA quickly built its advantage to 10.

Duke is 3-8 against Top 25 opponents this season, but the total margin in 10 games had only been eight points until UCLA went wild. The Blue Devils had won three straight against the Bruins.

Cherokee Parks led Duke with 21 points. The Blue Devils trailed by eight when Erik Meek fouled out with 7:43 remaining. He scored eight of his 12 points early in the second half when Duke was still in the game.

UCLA never trailed in the second half after twice being down by seven before the break.

The Bruins twice led by nine points, the last time on Tyus Edney's basket that made it 61-52 with 13:27 to play. Edney added 18 points.

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