



The Oregon men's basketball team has been hurt at the free throw line this year as the Ducks are shooting just over 60 percent from the charity strip.

Game day: Inside play problem for ASU

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three-game skid, including a 32-point loss to intrastate rival Arizona. The Sun Devils have used nine starting lineups in their 13 games, and are ninth in the league in five categories and 10th in the league in scoring defense.

One of Arizona State's major problems has been their inside game, as its biggest player is 6-foot-8 freshman Okeme Oziwo, who is averaging just over five rebounds but only three points per game.

Senior forward/guard Ron Riley has constantly been the player that other teams have put pressure on. Though he is averaging just over 20 points and five rebounds per game, the Sun Devils are ninth in the league in rebounding and seventh in scoring offense.

"Our biggest problem is that we don't have a good inside game," Frieder said. "For whatever reasons, we are just weak on the inside. We have all new players this year. We are just not where we need to be on the inside game and that has affected everything."

"And yet our team seems to hang in there. They don't quit. They battled UCLA on Thurs-

day, we cut [the lead] to six in the second half. We battled Southern Cal on Saturday and cut it to four with five minutes to go, but we just never seem to be able to get over the hump."

Arizona State guard Jeremy Veal is averaging 20.4 points per game, partly, Frieder said, because teams have been keying in on Riley.

"Jeremy Veals has done a great job," Frieder said. "He has been our best and most steady player from day one. They are stopping Riley and it is freeing Jeremy a little more."

The Ducks are led by junior guard Kenya Wilkins, who is averaging 15.1 points and just over six assists per game. As a team, the Ducks are shooting just over 60 percent from the free throw line, and only three players — Wilkins, junior Kyle Milling and freshman Donte Quinine — are over the 70 percent mark.

Oregon will probably start freshman guard Terik Brown, who is averaging 10 points per game and led the Ducks in scoring against Stanford and California with 18 and 23 points respectively.

"We will probably start two [freshmen] against Arizona State on Thursday," Green said,

adding that freshman forward A.D. Smith may get the other start.

But, Green said, the Ducks need to get better play from their older players if they want to get past the .500 mark this weekend.

"We are looking forward to the games this week," he said. "We have got to get some of the veterans — the few that we have got back this year — playing a little bit better and not have to rely on our freshman. Our three leading scorers against Cal were freshman and that is something that you don't like to depend on, on a day-to-day basis."

"We have got to play a little bit better than we did down in the Bay Area."

Arizona State, however, is hoping that it can capitalize on Oregon's slump of late and notch its first Pac-10 win.

"I was very impressed with [Oregon's] play last week," Frieder said of the Ducks' two losses. "They are a pretty solid team. My biggest concern right now is to keep our kids upbeat and get them to continue to play with enthusiasm, play hard and try to find a way to get into the win column. But it won't be easy this week."

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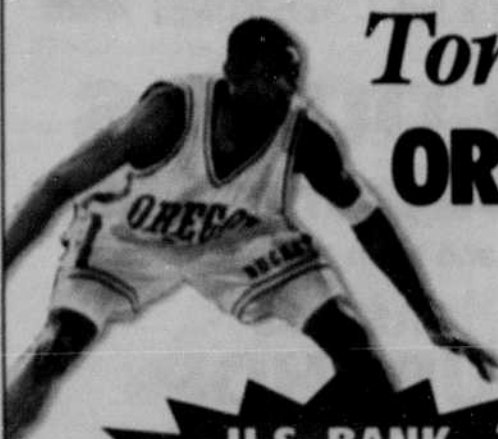
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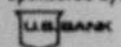
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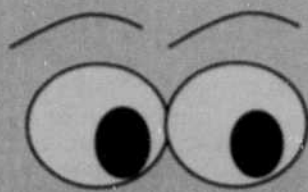
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