

Men's Basketball: Free throws ice win

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shots from the line.

After another Arizona timeout, the ball was inbounded and passed to Brown, who attempted a three-pointer, but the ball bounced off the rim and the Wildcats grabbed the rebound.

The Wildcats were able to inbound the ball, but junior forward Kyle Milling trapped sophomore guard Miles Simon in the corner of the court and looked to force his foot out of bounds. The referee did not call it though, and Arizona got the ball down the court, where Davis was fouled with three seconds to go.

The Ducks were down 65-68, but Davis put both in the hoop, putting the game out of Oregon's reach at 70-65.

Despite another three-point attempt from Brown, the Ducks fell short just as they had to Arizona State two nights earlier.

But Ramaker said some good things came out of Saturday's loss.

"We eliminated some of the turnovers, which is a step in the right direction," Ramaker said. "I don't know how we ended up on the boards, but at halftime we were kicking their butts."

The Ducks did in fact lead the game in rebounds with 36. They also committed only 14 turnovers, compared to 23 against Arizona State.

But perhaps the most impressive spectacle in Saturday's game was Lawrence's performance. He ended with a career-high of 34 points.

Lawrence didn't know why he shot so well — all he knew was that he did.

"I just came out and was shooting and my shot felt good," Lawrence said. "It was falling, so I just kept shooting. I came out in the second half thinking I needed to score more since I was still feeling it. So I came out and just shot more."

Head coach Jerry Green said sometimes games like these can be helpful.

"I think we've been in so many close games that this will



Sophomore guard Jamar Curry led the Ducks in assists and provided inspiration down the stretch.

be a learning experience for us," Green said. "I think that it's going to make us a little bit tougher mentally; it's going to give us some confidence that we can beat a team ranked in the top 20. I am proud of our young men. I think if they keep playing that hard and that competitively, maybe we'll win some of these close games."

When asked about the official not calling Simon's foot out of bounds, a call that could have meant the game for the Ducks, Green said what really happens sometimes doesn't matter.

"I really believe there are a lot of these games that are decided before the basketball ever goes

up," Green said. "It's almost that this group isn't supposed to [win] and that group is supposed to."

The Ducks now must take to the road for the next two weeks, traveling to USC and UCLA.

OREGON (65)	
Lawrence 12-17 4-4 34, Wilkins 3-10 2-3 8, Curry 2-6 1-2 6, Ramaker 2-7 1-2 6, Brown 1-8 2-2 5, Carson 2-5 0-0 4, Milling 0-4 1-2 1, Smith 0-1 1-2 1, TOTALS 22-59 12-17 65.	
ARIZONA (70)	
Davis 7-14 5-7 19, McClean 6-10 0-0 16, Williams 6-11 2-2 15, Simon 2-7 3-5 7, Dickerson 2-4 1-3 6, Geary 1-7 2-2 5, Bramlett 1-1 0-0 2, TOTALS 25-54 13-18 70.	
3-point goals: Oregon 9-19 (Lawrence 6-8, Curry 1-2, Ramaker 1-2, Brown 1-6), UA 7-19 (McClean 4-6, Dickerson 1-3, Williams 1-3, Geary 1-4). Rebounds: Oregon 36 (Ramaker 8, Milling 7, Carson 4), UA 33 (Davis 11, Williams 5, McClean 4).	

The 'Magic' is coming back ... again

■ **JOHNSON:** The star will probably be back on Tuesday when the Lakers host the Golden State Warriors

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Magic Johnson reportedly has signed a contract with the Los Angeles Lakers and will return to the NBA Tuesday night in a home game against the Golden State Warriors. NBC-TV reported Sunday that Johnson's comeback would be officially announced Monday at a news conference in Los Angeles. The network cited unidentified sources in the league and close to Johnson.

The Lakers have worked out a way for Johnson to sell his 5 percent ownership of the team to make his comeback, the network said.

Lakers spokesman John Black declined to comment on the report. Johnson's agent, Lon Rosen, did not immediately return calls made to his home and office.

The Los Angeles Times, citing unidentified sources, reported Saturday that Johnson had agreed in principle to a contract that would pay him \$2.5 million for the rest of the season.

Lakers forward Cedric Ceballos indicated Saturday night that Johnson likely would return to the team this week.

"Tuesday's the day; all indications prove that," Ceballos said before the Lakers game at New Jersey. "He's trying to sell his percentage. He's bought about 100-something tickets for the game. I know he wants to play in that game and warm himself up for Michael Jordan."

Johnson, 36, initially retired in November 1991, after announcing he had HIV.

He retired from the NBA for a second time before the 1992-93 season because some players opposed

his playing because he was HIV-positive. The virus causes AIDS.

Johnson has been non-committal about returning to the Lakers. However, he has practiced with the Lakers the past two weeks.

"It's always in the rumor stage until it definitely happens ..." Lakers coach Del Harris said Saturday night. "But I'm on record, coast-to-coast, as saying I've always been in favor of it and our team is in favor of it."

There also is seemingly little opposition from others in the league to his return. Everyone from Jordan to Charles Barkley is ready to welcome him back.

"I think now it's 3-4 years later," said Philadelphia's LaSalle Thompson, who worked out with Johnson daily until signing with the 76ers Jan. 11. "I think everybody's a lot more cognizant of this disease and knows a lot more about it. They know you don't catch it from casual contact like that. I think there'll be a lot more understanding than there was."

Jordan made his comeback with the Bulls last March after 17 months of retirement.

"I don't have any fears [of playing against Magic]," Jordan said. "I'm sure he's taking it into consideration. If he can deal with some adversity, I'm happy for him. I want what's best for him."

Chicago's Scottie Pippen said Johnson's HIV status is not an issue.

"I competed [with] him in the Olympics and it's not a concern to me," he said. "I know once you leave the game, you can miss it and I know he misses the competition."

Doctors said Friday that Johnson is fine and his health has been constant since 1992. But they do not know what kind of impact a NBA schedule would have because no one has conducted such a study.

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