

# Mac Court: Fans give Ducks advantage

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89-73 and 94-78.

And this year has proved to be no different. Two weeks ago, the Ducks beat a young and promising California team 60-58 in the waning moments of the game, prompting the fans to rush the court in celebration of the victory that came less than a month after the Ducks were drubbed by the Golden Bears 97-72 in Berkeley.

Two days later, the Ducks beat a veteran Stanford team 64-62 on a last-second jump shot from Kenya Wilkins, all but erasing the memories of the 94-74 whipping the Cardinal handed Oregon the previous month.

"They have always been great defensively and much more physical there, which is probably typical of a lot of us in the league, but Mac Court probably accentuates it more than anything else," Montgomery said.

"They are much more aggressive at home than they are away," UCLA coach Jim Harrick said. "They shoot a lot better because that is where they practice everyday. They are capable of shooting the lights out up there. I imagine it will be a heck of a war up there on Saturday."

In short, the Ducks have historically played well in big games at home, and when you combine that with Mac Court's surroundings and atmosphere, it is tough for a visiting team to find its rhythm.

"I think McArthur Court is a tough place to play," Green said. "I think you need to have a tough arena to play in, a tough situation for people to come in and play in. But that alone is not

enough. We have got to play good, too.

"But the combination of the two — when we are playing good and fans are really into it — makes McArthur Court a very abnormal place to come into and play college basketball."

Mac Court is abnormal, all right. With its ivy-covered exterior and street-side positioning, McArthur Court does not typify a college basketball facility. The seating inside McArthur Court gives it a unique look because the crowd is right above the court.

"Certainly it is an abnormal arena," Green said, adding that it is similar in this respect to Duke, where UCLA lost last week. "Duke is a little abnormal, and so is McArthur Court — the fact that it goes straight up and that everybody is on top of you. The new and more modern arenas that exist in the Pac-10 are more spread out and not quite on top of the court as much as they are here."

"Mac Court is unique, just the way it is structured if nothing else," Montgomery said. "It is straight up-and-down. They have 9,000-plus people in there, and a lot of it has to do just with their attitude. They come to get after you, they come to yell, as compared to coming to watch."

Green agrees that the crowd adds to the aura of Mac Court.

"They don't come to watch; they come to participate, and to me that is the key word. They get into it and get into the game, and that is what I like for our team to do," Green said. "I like to think that is the home court advantage."

# UMass gets back on the winning track

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL:

The No. 2 team beat St. Joseph's in its first game after its only loss

AMHERST, Mass. (AP) — Marcus Camby had 21 points, 15 rebounds and his 300th career blocked shot Wednesday night as No. 2 Massachusetts rebounded from its only loss with a 68-66 overtime victory over St. Joseph's.

Camby hit a turnaround jumper in the lane with 1:44 left in overtime to break a 63-63 tie, then registered the milestone block at the other end. With 16 seconds left and UMass leading 67-66, Edgar Padilla missed two free throws that could have iced it, but Camby grabbed the rebound.

Padilla went back to the line with 13 seconds left and made one of two free throws. The Hawks went for the win at the buzzer, but Terrell Myers' 3-point attempt bounced off the rim.

Myers and Reggie Townsend each had 14 points and Townsend added 11 rebounds for St. Joseph's (13-11, 8-7 Atlantic 10), which had won four in a row.

UMass (27-1, 15-1) was coming off its only loss of the season, 86-76 Saturday to George Washington. The Minutemen haven't lost two in a row in three years.

It was the fourth overtime win this season for the Minutemen, who beat the Hawks 94-89 in overtime earlier in the year.

The Massachusetts backcourt of Padilla and Carmelo Travieso combined for six points and each was 1-of-8 from the field.

St. Joseph's had a 58-52 lead with 2:01 left but didn't score again in regulation. UMass crawled back, going 4-for-10 from the free throw line the rest of regulation and repeatedly failing to convert on offensive rebounds.

The Minutemen trailed by three with 34 seconds left in reg-

ulation when the officials emerged from a lengthy conference with a flagrant foul call against the Hawks.

Rigoberto Nunez hit one of two foul shots to make it a two-point game.

Then UMass stole the inbounds pass to set up Donta Bright's fallaway jumper in the lane with 3.6 seconds left to send the game into overtime. Bright finished with 15 points and 15 rebounds.

Camby became the fourth player in NCAA history to top 300 blocked shots by his junior year. Others are LSU's Shaquille O'Neal, Wake Forest's Tim Duncan and St. Joseph's Rodney Blake.

For what it's worth, the victory guaranteed the Minutemen the best record in the Atlantic 10 for the fifth consecutive year, an accomplishment diminished by the league's split into divisions this season. UMass had already clinched the A-10 Eastern Division title.

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