

Remembering the '96 Oregon football season

So we're not going to the Aloha Bowl. And we might not be going to the Copper Bowl. And this season wasn't as wonderful as the ones in the last couple of years. But there are 10 moments in the season that stand out the most.

10. Tony Graziani lying on the field at Fresno State while Josh Wilcox celebrated with teammates in the end zone. The season began with the Pacific-10 Conference's first overtime game, which happened to involve Oregon. The Ducks came from behind to tie the Bulldogs 24-24 at the end of regulation, and on their first possession in overtime, Graz found Wilcox in the end zone to win the game.

9. The battlefield littered with bodies against Nevada. It seemed as if an Oregon player was getting injured every couple of plays. The most significant of the players taking an early trip to the locker room were Tony Graziani and Kenny Wheaton.

8. Derrick Barnes and Reggie Jordan kneeling on the grass of Stanford's field long after the defeated Ducks had gone to the locker room. The overtime loss gave Oregon its third Pac-10 loss in a row, and it was obvious that this was affecting the seniors the most.

7. Ryan Perry-Smith getting smacked in the head by a snap against Nevada. On an extra-point try, Perry-Smith was not watching the snapper and the ball careened into the side of the helmet. Already looking foolish, Perry-Smith fell to the ground and lay there for a couple of seconds while the officials, the teams, the sidelines and the fans all got a good laugh. Kudos to the guy for being able to laugh at himself.

6. Kevin Parker waving towels at any game. It's not difficult to pick out Kevin Parker when the Ducks rush out onto the field at the beginning of the game. He's the one with a towel being waved around and around and around in an attempt to get the crowd excited. Sometimes he would add another towel, making the fans even more riled up.

5. The weird fan who beats a stuffed animal against the ground every time Oregon scores. Students know Green Boy, but there is another guy who either loves the Ducks a little too much or is seriously drunk. It's hilarious to see and hear the fans counting and cheering every time a stuffed dog or

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Ducks bury Aztecs in season-opener



Oregon's Kyle Milling attempts the shot from underneath the basket during the Ducks' 91-66 win over San Diego State on Tuesday. Milling finished with 13 points and seven rebounds.

■ **BASKETBALL:** Oregon has five players score in double digits for the 91-66 victory

By Andrea De Young
Assistant Sports Editor

You know it's a blowout when the 12th man gets into the game. It's just a matter of which team is ahead that determines if it's a good blowout or a bad blowout.

For the Oregon men's basketball team, Tuesday night was a good blowout as the Ducks defeated San Diego State 91-66 to win their first game of the season.

Oregon (1-0 overall) took a quick lead to begin the game, going up 10-1, but watched the lead slowly dwindle until the Aztecs took their only lead of the night at 26-25.

But the Ducks went on a 15-3 run to end the first half, thanks to four points apiece from Kyle Milling, Henry Madden and Jamal Lawrence. Oregon took a comfortable 41-29 lead into the locker room.

The second half saw the Ducks play more consistent basketball, scoring 50 points, pulling down 26 rebounds and hitting four-of-nine shots from behind the three-point arch.

Kenya Wilkins said it just took Oregon a while to get into the game.

"We didn't start playing what we are capable of playing until 14 minutes had passed in the first half," he said. "The last five or six minutes is when we got into the game. I think we could have finished

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REBOUNDS:

Oregon 41
SDSU 37

TURNOVERS:

Oregon 16
SDSU 23

KENYA WILKINS:

21 points, 3 steals

JAMAL LAWRENCE:

16 points

OPINION



Andrea DeYoung

Point guard tandem shows what's to come

PLAYERS:

Kenya Wilkins looks to have a solid back-up in Mike McShane

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's basketball team, in its season-opening victory against San Diego State Tuesday night, put on a display of what could be its biggest asset of the season — a nice one-two punch at point guard.

Believe it or not, one of last season's biggest weaknesses on the team was at the point guard position.

While starter Kenya Wilkins played as solid as ever and put up his usual numbers last year, Oregon's depth

at the point offered him little relief. With no true back-up on the bench to come in and give Wilkins a breather, he averaged 34 minutes in all 29 games.

But on Tuesday night, Wilkins played only 28 minutes. The other 12 were played by true freshman Mike McShane.

McShane started out a little wild and reckless, but he was able to calm down enough to score five points,

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Ducks host three teams in the third-annual Pepsi Shootout

PREVIEW:

Oregon will be looking for revenge in a possible second-round match-up with Utah

By Ryan Frank
Sports Reporter

For the first time in two weeks, the Oregon women's basketball team will hit the hardwood Friday in the third edition of the Pepsi Shootout at McArthur Court.

The Ducks will be short-handed when they take the floor because of two NCAA suspensions, which were announced Tuesday.

"I think the heart of the struggle right now is just getting through the shock and making sure that we try not to stumble....," said Oregon head coach Jody Runge of the suspensions.

Renae Fegent, who has started 57 straight games, and sophomore Natasha O'Brien will both be absent from the Oregon bench because of the suspensions; and guard Kirsten McKnight is still recovering from an appendectomy that was performed on Nov. 20.

"I think right now, it is just important to have a good performance understanding what we are facing," Runge said. "It would be a great accomplishment to go the next four games and not lose one."

Oregon opens the Pepsi Shootout against Idaho State at 8 p.m., while Utah and Yale will kick off the tournament at 6 p.m. Friday's game will be the Ducks' first since a 64-55 exhibition win over the Portland Saints on Nov. 13.

Oregon guard Cindie Edamura said the Ducks need a strong showing in this weekend's tournament.

"We need to establish ourselves as a power team," Edamura said. "We need to come in and blow these teams away, and prove to ourselves and everyone

else that we are going to compete this year in the Pac-10."

Idaho State comes into the 1996-97 season after a last-place finish and an 8-18 overall record last year. But the Bengals have not shied away from top-ranked opponents early this season.

The Bengals took on No. 3 Connecticut Tuesday, but came away with a 97-50 loss.

If the Ducks can get past the Bengals, they will most likely have a championship match-up with Utah — which is something the Ducks relish.

Last season, the Ducks opened the preseason NIT with a surprising 73-55 loss to the Utes, the eventual co-WAC champions.

"We were out of sync in that game. And the elevation definitely had an impact on us, but we just did not come to play," said Oregon forward Betty Ann Boevig.

