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Victory: Wilkins' jump shots clinch it

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ing forced to sit after he picked up his second foul. Arizona responded with a run of its own, coming within one point midway through the half. The rest of the half was all Oregon as the Ducks went on a 10-0 run and then a 9-5 run to take a 12-point lead into the locker room.

Both teams were off and running again in the second half. The Wildcats took the first two turns, first scoring 12 points to the Ducks' five in the first five minutes, then going on a 9-1 run to tie the game at 58. Mike Bibby hit all four of his three-pointers in the second half to help the Wildcats cut Oregon's lead. With 3:23 to go in the game, Miles Simon hit a three of his own to give Arizona the 72-70 lead.

But unlike so many other times

this season, the Ducks did not sit still and watch the game slip away. Thanks to two jump shots from Wilkins and a steal on the other end of the floor by the point guard, Oregon was up by two with a minute to go.

It was 41 seconds later that Madden was fouled by Bennett Davison. It was not suppose to be Madden at the line, but an Arizona double-team kept him from passing the ball.

"I wanted to just beat the press and get it to Jamal Lawrence on the right hand side because he's [been] shooting great at the free-throw line all year," Madden said. "I knew if he had the ball in his possession he would be ice water at the free-throw line."

Lawrence, who admits he has been struggling in the past couple

of weeks, rediscovered the shooters' touch against Arizona, scoring 20 points. The Ducks also got good games from the other two players who, along with Lawrence, Green says are the key to winning ballgames. Wilkins had 15 points, including six of Oregon's last eight, and Kyle Milling scored a double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Although Oregon was unable to contain Bibby, who scored 22 points, and Simon, who threw in 19, Davison and Michael Dickerson combined for only 20 points. In addition, Arizona's bench only contributed seven points, while the Ducks got 21 points from their non-starters.

Oregon looks to make it a winning streak as it takes on Arizona State on Saturday night.

Green: Controversy inspires team, crowd

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to act out of character, but all of our fans were out celebrating, and they have just took the blunt of the blow [this week], and I truly believe that they are special kids. So I just kind of joined them just to show them how much they mean to us and how much they mean to McArthur Court."

Not to be lost in all the celebrating, though, is how much the win means to the Oregon team.

"This is something I've wanted to do ever since I came here," Lawrence said. "Ever since I've been here we have never beaten Arizona. This is just a great feeling."

"This is great," Kenya Wilkins agreed. "It was a goal coming into the season: beat Arizona. It came when we needed a win and recognition across the nation. They are highly ranked and people didn't believe that we could beat them."

After last weekend's disastrous trip to the Bay Area that included lackadaisical losses to Stanford and

California, Oregon didn't look like it could beat anybody, let alone the Pac-10's highest nationally ranked team. But after a week of emotional incidents, including a practice scuffle between players and the ASUO's decision to withhold student tickets in reaction to alleged racial and homophobic taunts at past men's basketball games, it all seemed to inspire the crowd — and the team.

"Tonight we came out and played hard and played together and made a lot of unselfish plays," Henry Madden said.

In the end, though, the night belonged to Green.

"They do a great job," Green said of the crowd. "When I went up stairs at the 12-minute mark [before the game], the place looked like a morgue. It has just been a misery for two days. We've spent quite a bit of time on this, trying to explain to people that we are the good guys."

And on Thursday night, they were winners also.

UO softball plays at UNLV Classic

The Oregon softball team will head to Las Vegas this weekend to take another shot at the UNLV Softball Classic. The Ducks have an even 13-13 record at the tournament over the last five years that they have competed and go into play this week with a 3-3 record in non-league match-ups.

The Ducks will face Loyola Marymount to open the 16-team tournament. Last season, the Ducks split with the Lions in their season series, losing the first meeting 1-5 and winning the second 5-1. Loyola Marymount is 7-9 on the season after dropping its first five games. The Lions played second-ranked UCLA tough earlier in the season, losing 0-1.

Oregon's second match-up will be against Bowling Green, also on Friday. The Falcons haven't played a game yet this year, so their first

SPORTS NEWS BRIEFLY

tournament game will be their opener. The last time they faced the Ducks, in 1990, Oregon won 6-3.

UO track and field preps for outdoors

Returning to action for the first time in three weeks, the Oregon men's and women's track and field teams travel to Reno, Nev., this weekend for the Mountain Pacific Championships.

The meet, which runs today and Saturday, is the Ducks' final preparation for the outdoor season, which begins next month.

"I'm looking forward to seeing

some competitive performances from everybody after a winter of training," men's head coach Bill Dellinger said. "It'll be nice to break up the monotony a little. I'm not expecting any miracles, just that they compete well."

UO women's tennis faces New Mexico

The Oregon women's tennis team will try to bounce back from last weekend's Pacific-10 Conference loss to Stanford with two matches in Albuquerque, N.M.

Oregon head coach Jack Griffin will return to his old stomping ground today to face New Mexico. Griffin was an assistant coach at New Mexico for three years and in 1995 helped guide the Lobos to their first ever NCAA Tournament.

The Ducks (2-1 overall, 1-1 in Pac-10) will match up against the Ohio State Buckeyes Sunday.

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