

**BEST BETS**

Women's basketball
Pepsi Shootout,
Mac Court, 6 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Ducks lose home opener to PSU

Oregon's offense struggles to score in a losing effort against Portland State Tuesday night

By Chris Hansen
Assistant Sports Editor

Not exactly what Oregon wanted for its home opener.

Derek Nesland's three-point basket with 3.5 seconds remaining in the game broke a 53-53 tie and sealed Portland State's upset victory over the Ducks before 5,568 people at McArthur Court Tuesday night.

Oregon had a chance to tie the game when Terik Brown was fouled by Wayne Rhymes with 2.1 seconds left on the clock, sending the Oregon guard to the free-throw line. Brown made the first attempt to pull Oregon within two.

After an Oregon timeout followed immediately by a Portland State timeout, Brown intentionally missed his second attempt. Oregon's Jamar Curry got the rebound but took a 17-foot jump shot that fell short as the buzzer sounded.

"It felt good when I let it go," Nesland said of his game-winning shot. "You try not to think what it means and just shoot it."

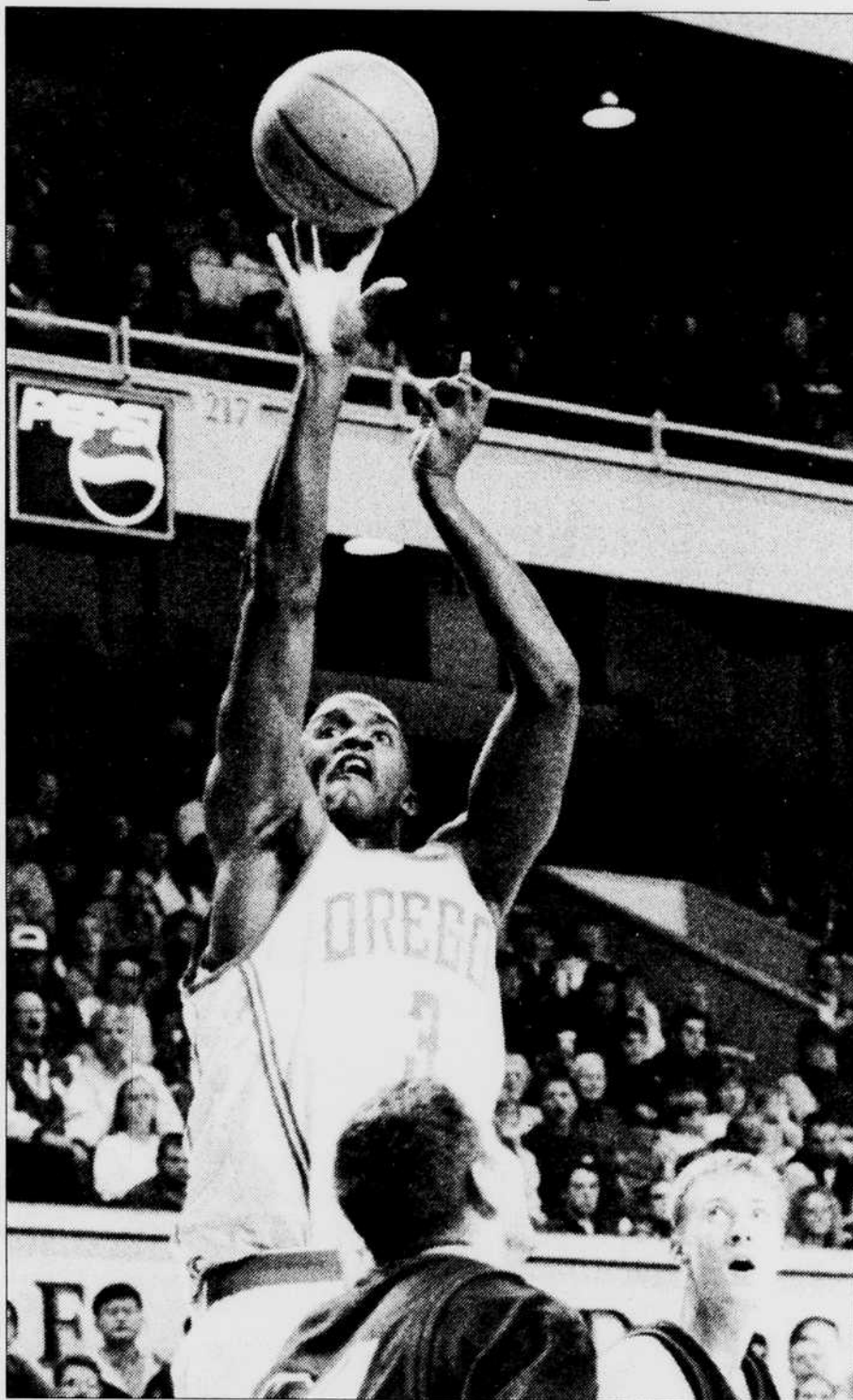
It was a big win for a Portland State (2-0) team that came into Mac Court to play its second basketball game of just its second season after a 15-year hiatus from the sport. Instead, though, it was Oregon (1-1) that had the look of inexperience and youth.

Which shouldn't be that much of a surprise, said Oregon head coach Ernie Kent, since that is exactly what the Ducks are.

"We are going to be up and down. We are going to be ugly at times. We are going to be in a lot of close games. There is no question about that," Kent said. "Here's one of those growing pains we are going to go through."

But what Kent said he won't accept is the mental let downs and the lack of intensity shown by his team.

"We didn't have a spark tonight," Kent said. "We played flat and that was something that concerned us even before we came home from Brigham Young."



Henry Madden, shooting over the Vikings' Matt Ambrose, led Oregon with 13 points.

Viking coach's 'vision' comes to fruition

Ritchie McKay leads Portland State to success in just his second year in charge

By Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

Three years ago, Portland State head coach Ritchie McKay was an assistant at Washington when he was selected to lead a program that had been inactive for the past 15 years.

Taking with him nothing but Husky recruit Brian Towne and what he calls, "the vision," McKay built a team that finished 9-17 last season, including wins over Big Sky champion Northern Arizona and 1996 conference champ Montana, and is now 2-0 in 1997 after the Vikings' 56-54 win over Oregon Tuesday night.

"It's been a long haul because we had to create some balance in our recruiting class," McKay said. "We had nothing there."

So just how does one recruit players into a program that has been on such a long hiatus and would be making the jump from Division-II to Division-I for the first time in its history?

"You lie to them," McKay joked. "No, the guys call it 'the vision.' We had a vision for our program and where it could go, and our guys believed in it. They wanted to be a part of something special. It was an opportunity to play and to compete against a great schedule for a young coaching staff, and I think guys like that."

McKay was able to lure players from four states and Vancouver, B.C. with nothing but that vision to offer. The Portland State roster includes just three players from Oregon now that their second-leading scorer from last season, Matt Vanderhoff, has left school with the intention of transferring to a school closer to his Medford home. It also includes five players from California, two from Washington and one from Arizona.

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Turn to **VIKINGS**, Page 8

Pepsi Shootout gives Oregon chance to regroup after loss to Pilots

The Ducks will open the Shootout with a matchup against the Saints, a professional club team from Portland

By Alex Pond
Sports Reporter

Poor free-throw shooting, too many turnovers and an inability to handle the zone defense led to the Oregon Ducks' loss at Portland on Monday.

The Oregon women's basketball team (1-1) will get a chance to tune up those areas and regroup with an exhibition game Friday in the first round of the Pepsi Shootout at McArthur Court.

The two-time defending Shootout champions will open up the tournament's fourth edition with a non-counting contest at 8 p.m. against the Portland Saints.

Portland State (1-1) takes on San Diego State (1-1) in the other first-round game Friday at 6 p.m. The winners of the first-round games meet for the championship Saturday at 8 p.m. Friday's losers meet in the consolation game Saturday at 6 p.m.

Oregon looks to rebound from the 67-59 loss at Portland, which extended the Pilots' home-court winning streak to 25 games. The Ducks shot just 57.1 percent from the free-

throw line (20 of 35) and 34.6 percent from the field and committed 23 turnovers.

"I think they're very upset about [the loss to Portland]," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said. "They know they have a lot of things they need to work on, yet it could have been a different story if the situation was different. I don't think they're beating themselves up over it. They're just working on the things they think they need to keep improving on."

Oregon center Jenny Mowe played just nine minutes against the Pilots because of tendinitis in her knee. Runge said she would likely be held out of Friday's game, but could play Saturday.

"Hopefully, within the next three or four days that she won't be practicing, the rest and the anti-inflammatories will calm it down enough where she can play without pain," Runge said.



MICHAEL CRISP/Emerald

Junior Sonja Curtis will be asked to play an increased role for the Ducks as their only true center. Jenny Mowe, continues to be bothered by tendinitis in her knee.

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