



Best Bet

NHL  
Montreal at Carolina  
4:00 p.m., ESPN

OREGON 70, COLORADO STATE 72

# Runge rung up in Oregon basketball loss

*Fouls were a deciding factor in the loss, causing the ejection of coach Jody Runge and two Oregon forwards*

By Joel Hood  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Jody Runge has made a million great coaching decisions in her five-year career at Oregon. On Monday night she made a poor one.

With the Ducks leading 39-28 and less than one second to go in the first half, Oregon guard Natasha O'Brien fouled Colorado State point guard Becky Hammon as she drove to the basket with just .4 seconds remaining on the clock. The referees tagged O'Brien with a flagrant foul and awarded Hammon with two free throws and returned the ball to the Rams.

Runge challenged the call made by official Tom Little, who swiftly charged Oregon's head coach with a technical foul and awarded two more free-throw attempts to Hammon.

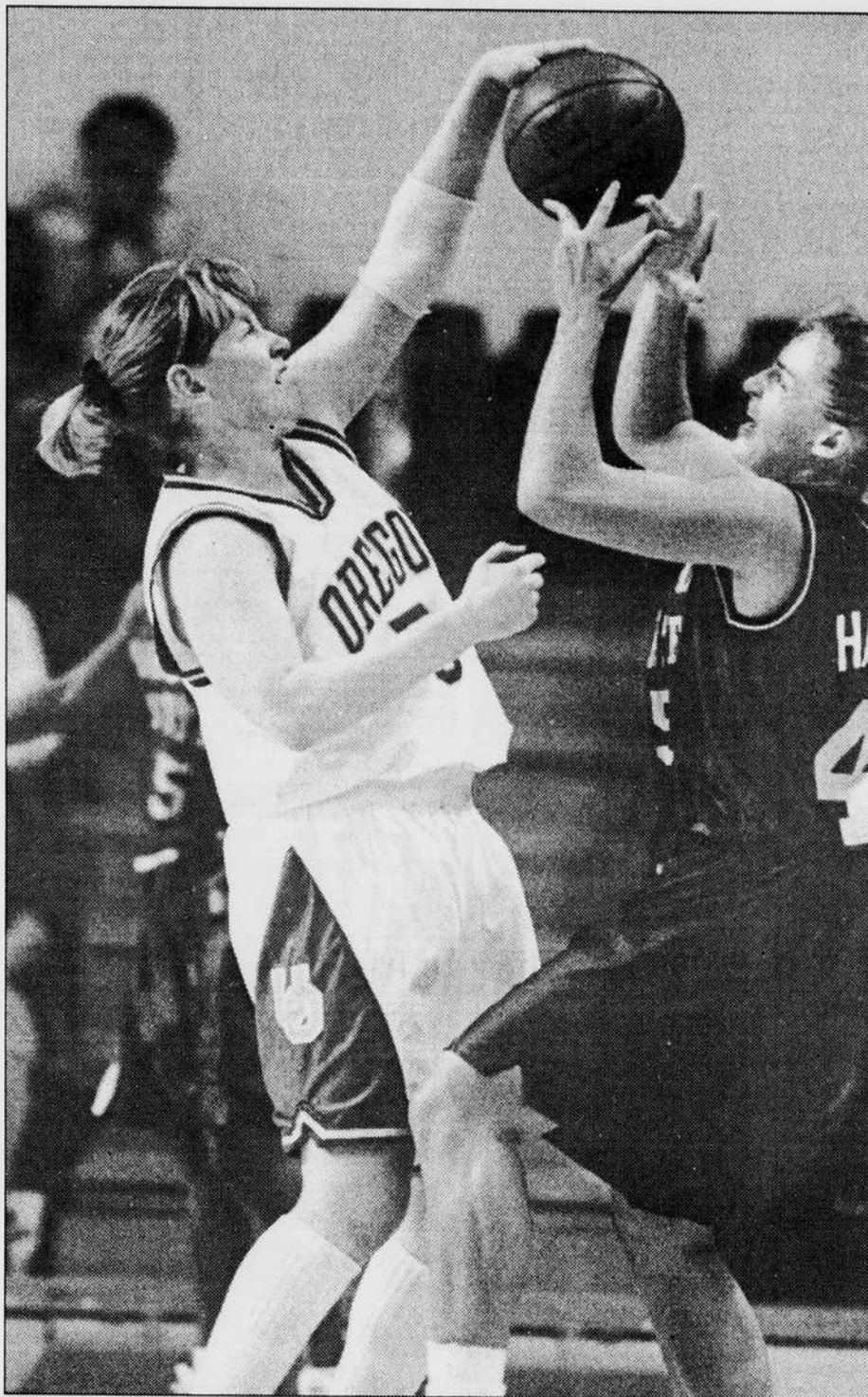
With Runge, and nearly all the raucous 3,198 fans in attendance at McArthur Court still disputing the call, Little hit Runge with a second technical foul and ejected her from the game for the first time in her coaching career.

Hammon went on to sink five of her six free-throw attempts to shave Oregon's 11-point lead down to just six at the half as the Rams came away with a hard-fought 72-70 victory to advance to the semi-final round of the Women's National Invitation Tournament on Thursday night.

"The whole thing could have been avoided if we would have just let them score at the end of the half," said assistant coach Fred Litzenger, who took over for Runge in the second half. "Even if she would have gotten the lay-in it would have only been two points. I'd say it made a difference."

Trailing by five at the half, Colorado State chipped away at the Ducks' lead and took the lead for the first time with just two minutes to play. Following two missed free throws by Sonja Curtis that could have given Oregon a two-point lead, Colorado State's Kate Cronin

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In a scramble for the ball, the Duck's forward Natasha O'Brien forced the Rams' Heather Haanen to loose the ball out of bounds in Monday night's game at McArthur Court.

## Ducks unable to overcome Rams' defense

*The Ducks lost their 12 point lead because of heavy pressure by Colorado State in the second half*

By Allison Ross  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For a team that prides itself on its ability to play defense, Oregon sure had the tables turn on them Monday night.

For the Ducks it was business as usual in the first half of their 72-70 loss against Colorado State, holding the Rams to just 9 of 32 shooting from the field and allowed them just two successful three pointers on 10 attempts.

But Colorado State pressured the Oregon offense and despite leading most of the way, the Ducks seemed to fall under the pressure in the second half.

With 11 minutes, 55 seconds remaining in the game, Oregon center Jenny Mowe powered over two defenders to put the Ducks up 60-47.

But that's when Colorado State's defense shifted from nuisance to sure-fire threat.

The Ducks turned the ball over six times before they would score again, with the exception of free throws by Mowe and forward Brianne Meharry.

"I think when we had the 12-point lead we relaxed off of them," Mowe said. "They had the double team down pat. There was definitely a momentum change out there."

With Oregon stalled at 61 points, the Rams exploited Oregon's defense for 10 points to narrow the gap 61-60. Colorado State guard Becky Hammon fueled the comeback with a three pointer and a lay up, in which she was fouled by Oregon defender Sonja Curtis.



MOWE

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## Ducks may know bowl fate after Saturday's Civil War game

*Oregon is a good bet to play in either the Sun Bowl or Holiday Bowl in late December*

By Joel Hood  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's difficult to know for sure, but the Ducks could know as early as Saturday if they should pack their bags for either El Paso, San Diego or Honolulu for the holiday break.

Norwest Sun Bowl officials also said Monday that while Oregon would be a solid pick for the Dec. 31 Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas, the Ducks may move into a tie for second in the Pacific-10 Conference if Arizona loses to Arizona State on Dec. 5.

The Culligan Holiday Bowl, played in San Diego on Dec. 30, is scheduled to select the Pac-10's No. 2 team and the Big 12 Conference's No. 3 team. However, if Oregon finishes in a second-place tie with

Arizona, it could still get a Holiday Bowl invite on the condition that UCLA finishes first or second in the Bowl Championship Series rankings and is selected to play in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 4. The Bruins currently rank second in the BCS standings, but have two regular season games left on their schedule, Nov. 21 against Southern California and Dec. 5 against Miami.

"If UCLA remains No. 2 in the BCS, the Rose Bowl would probably take a 10-1 Arizona team and Oregon would go to the Holiday Bowl," said John Folmer, chairman of the football committee for the Norwest Sun Bowl. "Oregon's a good football team — we've tried to get them in the past. They travel with a lot of people and are an exciting team to watch."

However, even if UCLA does get an invitation to the championship game on Jan. 4, the Rose Bowl has

its choice to select either the next-highest ranking Pac-10 team (Arizona) or an at-large team like Notre Dame or Florida. What is known for sure is that the Big-Ten Conference champion (either Michigan or Ohio State) will be in the Rose Bowl because neither team will finish the season ranked No. 1 or No. 2 in the BCS.

"We think that [the Rose Bowl committee] will certainly take into account their long relationship with the Pac-10," said Jim Muldoon, assistant commissioner of Public Relations for the Pac-10.

Southern California only enters the picture if it beats UCLA next week and Oregon loses its Civil War game with Oregon State. If Oregon gets an invite to the Norwest Sun Bowl, it will match-up against the No. 5 team from the Big-Ten, possibly Purdue, Penn. State or Michigan State. This weekend, Purdue (7-4 overall, 5-2 Big-Ten) hosts Indiana (4-6, 2-5), Penn State (7-2, 4-2) plays at Wisconsin (9-1, 6-1)

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