

Ducks defeat Golden Bears

Oregon's 71-69 win Saturday is an auspicious beginning for the team's regular season

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

Two members of the nation's best college basketball conference lived up to that billing Saturday in front of 9,879 fans at the New Arena in Oakland, Calif.

Freddie Jones' tip-in with 0.8 seconds remaining in overtime gave Oregon a 71-69 victory over California in the regular season opener for both members of the Pacific-10 Conference, which was recently named the nation's best by The Sporting News.

After Thomas Kilgore tied the game with 38 seconds left in the extra period, Oregon's Darius Wright lost control of the ball after crossing halfcourt but managed to call timeout as he fell and regained possession. That was the first of three officiating controversies that would cause the last 24 seconds of game time to take at least 10 minutes to play.

Following the timeout, Wright waited as 15 seconds elapsed on the clock after receiving the inbounds from Alex Scales, then passed to A.D. Smith, who took a leaning 6-foot jump shot from the baseline that missed off the front of the rim.

Scales and Jones both were in

position for the rebound, with Jones getting the tip for the Oregon lead.

Mayhem ensued as Cal head coach Ben Braun argued first that Smith's shot had come after the shot clock had expired, and then that offensive goaltending should have been called on the tip-in. Officials checked the replay to verify that the shot clock buzzer sounded while Smith's shot was in the air, and then ruled that the ball was outside the cylinder for the tip.

Cal's Geno Carlisle missed a desperation three as time expired to end the second loss of the season for the Golden Bears (9-2 overall, 0-1 Pac-10), who knocked off No. 9 North Carolina 78-71 at home Tuesday.

"When they beat North Carolina, they were playing like a top-10 team," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said on KUGN.

"For us to play as well as we did in the first 12 minutes of the game ... that's huge for this team to go through that."

Oregon (9-1, 1-0) led just 32-31 at halftime after jumping out to an early 17-8 lead, due in large part to Scales, who scored 10 of the Ducks' first 15 points on his way to leading all scorers with 21 for the game.

Jaguars beat Patriots in playoff

By Eddie Pells
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Mark Brunell was limping and frustrated. Jacksonville's lead was slipping away.

So Jimmy Smith stepped in and bought his quarterback another week to get better.

Smith beat fellow Pro Bowler Ty Law for a momentum-shifting touchdown Sunday, leading the Jaguars to a 25-10 victory over the New England Patriots in the wild-card playoffs.

Returning from a sprained ankle he sustained five weeks ago, Brunell never really got into a groove, finishing 14-for-34 for 161 yards.

But Fred Taylor ran for 162

yards and a touchdown and Brunell threw a great pass in the fourth quarter to Smith, who simply outran Law on a sideline pattern for a 37-yard touchdown after the Patriots cut a 12-point halftime deficit to 12-10.

"Ty Law was on Jimmy every play on the field today and for a good part of the time, he did a good job," said Jaguars coach Tom Coughlin. "But it was something Jimmy does so well — him and Mark on the fade. They've done it consistently over and over for the last four years and they hooked up again."

Meanwhile, Taylor easily won the matchup against fellow 1,000-yard rookie Robert Edwards. He

finished with 162 yards — 115 in the first half — while Edwards finished with just 28.

"There were rumors coming out of New England that we were a finesse team," Taylor said. "When you think of finesse, you think of divers and all that swimming-type stuff. That was an insult."

New England's up-and-down season ended at 9-8 and with a rash of injuries, placing doubt whether Pete Carroll will return for a third season.

Carroll was not only missing quarterback Drew Bledsoe, but receiver Terry Glenn and middle linebacker Ted Johnson, who were placed on injured reserve last month.

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