

SPORTS

MONDAY
January 4, 1999Best Bet
College Football
Tennessee vs.
Florida State
5 p.m., ABC

Ducks pound Cal 64-49, face Stanford tonight

Saturday's win over California gives the Ducks momentum to overcome a struggling Stanford

By Joel Hood
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team needed a spark to beat California, and once again Lindsey Dion was ready to deliver.

The sophomore guard scored nine of her career-high 16 points in the second half on Saturday to lift the Ducks to a rousing 64-49 victory over the Golden Bears in the teams' Pacific-10 Conference opener at McArthur Court.

With Oregon holding on to a slim 17-15 lead late in the first half, Dion energized the 3,927 in attendance with a three-pointer

over the outstretched hand of California's Sherrise Smith. Seconds later, Dion hit a 12-foot jumper along the baseline to give Oregon a 22-16 advantage.

The Ducks (10-2 overall, 1-0 Pac-10) closed the half with

on a 14-6 run and led by eight points, 29-21, at the break.

But California (6-4, 0-1) jumped back in front 34-29 following a 12-0 run to start the second half. Guard Courtney Johnson, who paced the Bears with 13 points, capped the California rally with a leaping jumper eight feet from the basket.

Oregon took back the lead following two free throws from forward Brianne Meharry and a 15-foot jumper from Dion with 11 minutes, 54 seconds remaining.

The Ducks outscored California, which averages a conference-low 37 percent from the field, to 18-6 over the next eight and a half minutes to cruise to its first Pac-10 victory this season.

"You never really know whose going to lead this team each night," said Dion, who also had two assists and three steals in just 27 minutes of play.

"I guess tonight was just my turn. For the most part our guards played very well. Our goal was to beat them on the boards and we were able to do that."

Forward Angelina Wolvert scored 16

Turn to **STANFORD**, Page 10



Oregon's Nicole Strange tears down the court Saturday night while winning a scramble with California's Courtney Johnson.

Motivation key against the Cardinal

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

Motivation alone doesn't always win games, but when Oregon faced California on Saturday it certainly helped.

Oregon sophomore Lindsey Dion had an unusual motivating factor as she faced Cal forward Paige Bowie, a former teammate of hers from Clovis West High School in Fresno, Calif. Dion came off the bench to score a career-high 16 points and proved to be just the kind of inspiration the Ducks needed as they struggled to find a rhythm early in the first and second halves.

"I was playing an old high school teammate, and that may have caused me to be more focused," Dion said. "It's kind of a personal rivalry."

Oregon has a personal rivalry of its own tonight.

With Oregon's leading defensive player Lisa Bowyer out for three to four weeks with a broken finger, and last year's Pacific-10 Conference champion Stanford coming to McArthur Court tonight, the Cal game on Saturday was a chance for the Ducks to evaluate exactly what they need to do in order to beat the Cardinal for the first time since 1987.

"Cal is a good team, and we were ready for that," Oregon forward Brianne Meharry said. "But Stanford is a big personal thing for me and for the rest of the team. We haven't beat them in a long time."

Meharry and the rest of the Ducks have extra motivation heading into the Stanford game, but that alone won't be enough to knock off the Cardinal.

Cal out-rebounded the Ducks 37-30 and shot .500 from three-point range, while Oregon managed just .182. The Ducks, usually consistent from the free-throw line, made



Turn to **RIVALRY**, Page 10

Men's basketball fights odds against formidable Cardinal

The Ducks are coming off of seven straight wins, but No. 5 Stanford presents a huge challenge in tonight's game

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

Off to a sparkling 9-1 start after its Pacific-10 Conference opening win at California on Saturday, the Oregon men's basketball team today faces its biggest challenge yet this season.

The Ducks will be aiming for their eighth straight victory when they meet No. 5 Stanford (10-2 overall, 1-0 Pac-10) at Maples Pavilion in Palo Alto, Calif., at 7:35 p.m.

National and Atlantic Coast Conference powerhouses North Carolina and Maryland are the only two teams to hand the Cardinal defeats so far this season.

Stanford, which has won six straight since losing to the Terrapins 62-60 in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 6, advanced to the NCAA Tournament's Final Four last season and was ranked No. 1 nationally in the pre-season by many publications, including Sports Illustrated.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent is hopeful

that his team will have more success than it did in last season's appearance at Maples Pavilion, where the Ducks suffered a 95-67 setback.

"Stanford is a tough, physical basketball team," Kent said, "and I expect a challenging game in a hostile environment."

The Cardinal is well-balanced offensively, with three players averaging in double figures and three others scoring more than seven points per game.

Guards Arthur Lee and Kris Weems combine to form one of the nation's best backcourts, while center Tim Young and forwards Mark "Mad Dog" Madsen and Peter Sauer start in the frontcourt.

The Ducks have lost 12 straight at Stanford, dating back to an 83-69 Oregon victory in 1986.

But in securing their best start since a 10-0 mark in 1996-97, the Ducks have meshed five newcomers with their seven veterans.

Kent said he could not be happier with the results.

"I am obviously extremely pleased with the way we've played to this point," Kent

said. "We've only really played one bad half of basketball to this point, that being the second half at Minnesota."

The now-No. 16 Golden Gophers gave Oregon its lone loss when they recovered from a 14-point halftime deficit to beat the Ducks 72-61 on Nov. 30.

After rebounding with a 93-62 home win over Brigham Young on Dec. 5, Oregon enjoyed a perfect winter break. Despite the loss of point guard Mike McShane to an injured right ankle for four to six weeks on Dec. 8, the Ducks went 6-0, including the win over Cal, while Oregon students had a respite from classes.

Portland State was the Ducks' first victim, losing 73-62 at McArthur Court on Dec. 12. Senior guard Terik Brown paved the way with a game-high 23 points, which also marks Oregon's highest individual scoring output for the season. The win atoned for the Ducks' 56-54 home loss to the Vikings last season.

Oregon then won its first-ever game at Santa Clara in an 80-65 decision on Dec. 14. Forward A.D. Smith recorded his second double-double of the season with 17 points and 12 rebounds.

The Ducks then returned home to battle

Alcorn State on Dec. 19. Forward Alex Scales' all-around talents led Oregon to a 78-68 victory. Scales filled the boxscore with 18 points, five rebounds and four assists.

At the Portland Jam at the Rose Garden on Dec. 22, freshman guard Freddie Jones scored a team-high 18 points and added five rebounds as the Ducks rolled past Vanderbilt 90-70. The game was Jones' first in the Portland area since graduating from Gresham's Barlow High School last year.

Jones again paced Oregon in scoring in an 87-67 victory over Saint Martin's at McArthur Court on Dec. 28. The Oregonian's two-time state player of the year in high school scored 16 points, grabbed five rebounds and dished three assists. Junior college transfer forward Skouson Harker contributed 15 points and five rebounds.

Heading into today's game, Smith leads the Ducks in scoring and rebounding, averaging 15 points and eight rebounds per game. Brown is scoring 14 points per game, and Scales has produced more than 13 points and six rebounds per game. Jones is shooting a team-high 61.2 percent from the floor and averaging more than nine points per game.