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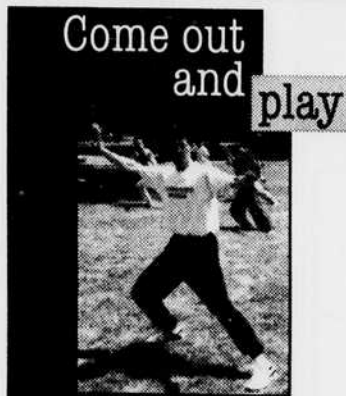
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PLEASE RECYCLE

Cardinal men drop Ducks

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

Monday night's action for both Oregon basketball teams spoke volumes about the progressions taken by the Stanford men's and women's teams over the past few seasons.

One group of Cardinal has risen from Pacific-10 Conference retread to be the West Coast's most dominant power. The other has fallen from a two-time national champion to being unranked and below .500.

Unfortunately for the Oregon men, the Cardinal women no longer dominate the NCAA, and it is the No. 4 Stanford men who are wreaking havoc across the nation.

Just minutes after the Duck women defeated perennial national power Stanford 63-59 at McArthur Court, the Oregon men fell to the Cardinal 77-59 in front of 7,391 fans at Maples Pavilion in Palo Alto, Calif.

The Ducks never led after Alex Scales' two free throws put them ahead 2-0 just moments into the game. Stanford (12-2 overall, 2-0 Pac-10) responded with a 12-0 run and eventually pushed the lead to 22-6 later in the first half. Finally down 30-12, Oregon scored eight of the last 12 points of the half and went into the break

down by 14.

"We said at halftime, 'Hey, we got punched in the jaw and knocked down, let's go out and respond,'" Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said on KUGN radio.

The Ducks' response closed the gap to 10 at 40-30, as Cardinal center Tim



Young scored 12 of his game-high 23 points in the second half.

Young, who hit

eight of his 11 shots from the field, also pulled down 12 rebounds. Mark Madsen added 17 point on six-of-nine shooting as the five Stanford starters accounted for all the Cardinal's points. Arthur Lee had 15 points and Peter Sauer and Kris Weems each scored 11 as the starters averaged 34.6 minutes apiece.

Alex Scales paced the Ducks with 16 points, despite shooting just four of 14, including two of seven from three-point range. Darius Wright and Freddie Jones each added 12 points for Oregon (9-2, 1-1).

Oregon shot just 38 percent for the game, including 25 percent in the first half. Stanford hit 51 percent of its

shots, but just 18.2 from three-point range.

The Ducks will have to wait for their final game of the season, on March 6, to seek redemption against the Cardinal in Eugene.

Kent said Oregon fans may be pleasantly surprised with the Ducks' showing in the rematch. While Stanford's starting five has been together for three years, just two of Oregon's starters on Monday were on the team last season.

That leaves more room for improvement for Oregon in the next two months, Kent said.

"I don't know how much better Stanford's going to get," said Kent, who was a Cardinal assistant coach from 1990-91. "We're going to get better."

That improvement process, according to Kent, began on Monday.

Freshman center Chris Christoffersen was given valuable playing time against Young, one of the nation's most dominant centers, and Jones continued to see more playing time in his first season.

"We learned a lot of things from this game, and we can take a lot of things back to the Pit and defend our home turf," Kent said.

Women

Continued from Page 7

half with the attitude 'We're not going to let them win.'"

The Ducks trailed 33-30 at the half, but they began the second half by cutting the Cardinal lead to two points after the first minute and then just one point with 18:54 to play. Oregon took just its second lead of the game when Natasha O'Brien connected on one of two free throws to put the Ducks up 42-41 with 13:39 remaining.

Oregon widened its lead to three points on the next possession when forward Angelina Wolvert stripped the ball from Stanford guard Regan Freuen and passed ahead to a streaking Brianne Meharry. Leading all Oregon bench scorers with

eight points, Meharry paces the Ducks in scoring at 12.8 points per game.

"The thing I'm most pleased with was that it wasn't any one person, everyone stepped up their game," Runge said. "Confidence-wise, this is a real shot in the arm for all our young players."

The Cardinal outbounded Oregon 38-33, but the Ducks still widened their lead to 61-56 with just more than three minutes remaining. As freshman guard Shaquala Williams brought the ball up court on the Ducks' ensuing possession, she was stripped of the ball at mid court by Stanford guard Milan Flores who dove at Williams' feet. As the two players fought

for the ball on the court, Williams was called for a foul and Oregon's players and coaches jumped to their feet.

As his clipboard slid to the floor, Litzberger was called for a technical foul with the Ducks holding a slim five-point lead. Flores hit three of four free throws to close the Cardinal to within two points of the lead, but Dion sank two free throws with four seconds remaining to seal the victory.

"I'd say the nerves lasted about the entire first half," Williams said. "[Stanford] is not the dominant team it was a couple of years ago, but they're still a really good team. This is a huge accomplishment for this team."

Strange

Continued from Page 7

na Wolvert knocked the ball away from Stanford's Regan Freuen and quickly dished it to Strange, who found Brianne Meharry under the basket to give the Ducks the lead by three — their largest to that point.

"Nicole has worked hard in our program for a long time," head coach Jody Runge said. "She has been waiting for this for a long time and I'm proud of her for stepping up. She made some big shots for us."

Stanford would eventually narrow Oregon's lead to one point with just over four minutes remaining in the game. Strange powered a layup in on a pass from Shaquala Williams to again give Oregon a three-point lead.

The rest of the game would come down to which team got the ball off the boards.

That was what Runge said Oregon needed to do to win.

Again Strange complied. With just 38 seconds remaining, Strange grabbed a clutch rebound and Stanford never scored again.

"Those are really big shoes that Nicole had to fill," Oregon forward Lindsey Dion said. "But when she starts hitting her jump shots she doesn't miss. She's money."

Strange wasn't concerned with filling shoes; she just wanted to do her part.

"It's not just one person," Strange said. "Our whole team rose to the next level,

both emotionally and physically."

There is no doubt that this monumental win was a team effort, but there was definitely concern over the loss of Bowyer. Strange said she wasn't nervous about taking over, that she was ready to finally get this win.

"It's a different game when Lisa's not in," Strange said. "It's an added bonus to have her on the floor and we're all anxious for her to come back."

Strange may feel like she is dreaming, but reality rang out loud and clear in McArthur Court, as she and the rest of the Ducks stormed the floor after the game. That reality for Strange was that she took care of the task at hand.