

SPORTS

Monday
March 8, 1999

NIT Tickets
Tickets for the Men's NIT game against Georgia Tech on Wednesday at Mac Court at 9 p.m. go on sale Monday morning at 9 a.m. at the Casanova Center. Student tickets will cost \$4

Oregon women grab share of Pac-10 title

Seniors Lisa Bowyer and Natasha O'Brien lead the way as Oregon claims its first Pac-10 crown

By Joel Hood
Oregon Daily Emerald

This time Oregon left no doubt.

Given a second chance to win the Pacific-10 Conference championship on Saturday, the Oregon women's basketball team proved to itself, its coaches, its fans — and most of all California — which team is tops in the Pac-10.

And now the Ducks will get the rings to show for it.

Lisa Bowyer scored 16 points, and fellow senior Natasha O'Brien added 14, to lift Oregon to an emphatic 80-57 victory over the Bears at Kaiser Arena and into a share of the Pacific-10 Conference championship with UCLA.

The No. 15 Ducks (24-5 overall, 15-3 in the

Pac-10) learned on Sunday that their NCAA Tournament first-round opponent will be Cincinnati in Ames, Iowa on Friday, March 12. Oregon received a No. 5 seed in the Midwest Region and could matchup with host Iowa State in the second round.



"We're really excited about the way this season has gone. We could have lost any game in the second half once we got into the driver's seat," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said of the Ducks' first Pac-10 title and its sixth straight NCAA Tournament

appearance.

Oregon had a chance to grab the outright Pac-10 title on Thursday but suffered a bruising, 82-73 loss to Stanford at Maples Pavilion. However, the Ducks showed little effects of it on Saturday, jumping out to a 14-3 run on the Bears and holding

them to less than 30 percent shooting from the field in the first half.

Oregon extended its lead to 27 points in the second half following back-to-back-to-back jumpers by forward Nicole Strange with just more than seven minutes to play. California scored the next six points to trim the Ducks' lead to 65-44, but Oregon countered with a 8-2 run to end any kind of a threat by the Bears.

In the final few moments, Runge emptied the bench and the players celebrated their first Pac-10 title. After the game, Oregon was allowed to cut down California's nets, a honor historically given to NCAA Tournament and conference champions.

Point guard Shaquala Williams, who earlier in the week was awarded with Pac-10 Freshman of the Year and first-team all-conference honors, had eight points and seven assists, while the Ducks had



BOWYER

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Ducks smash Cal, break into postseason play

The NIT is waiting after the Oregon men's basketball team defeated California, 93-82

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

If Saturday afternoon's matchup was truly the foretelling tilt between postseason contenders that it was billed as, then the Oregon men's basketball team showed it belongs in the National Invitation Tournament — convincingly.

In dismantling California, 93-82, the Ducks (16-11 overall, 8-10 Pacific-10 Conference) treated the 8,956 fans in attendance at McArthur Court to an all-around performance that included all 10 Oregon players scoring and five Ducks topping double figures.

"We are not in the NCAAs, but I think we'd be a good NCAA team," head coach Ernie Kent said. "I feel that's our destiny down the road."

Oregon blistered the Golden Bears (17-11, 8-10), who had won three straight to reach the brink of an NCAA Tournament bid, by shooting .522 from the field, including 11 for 21 from three-point range.

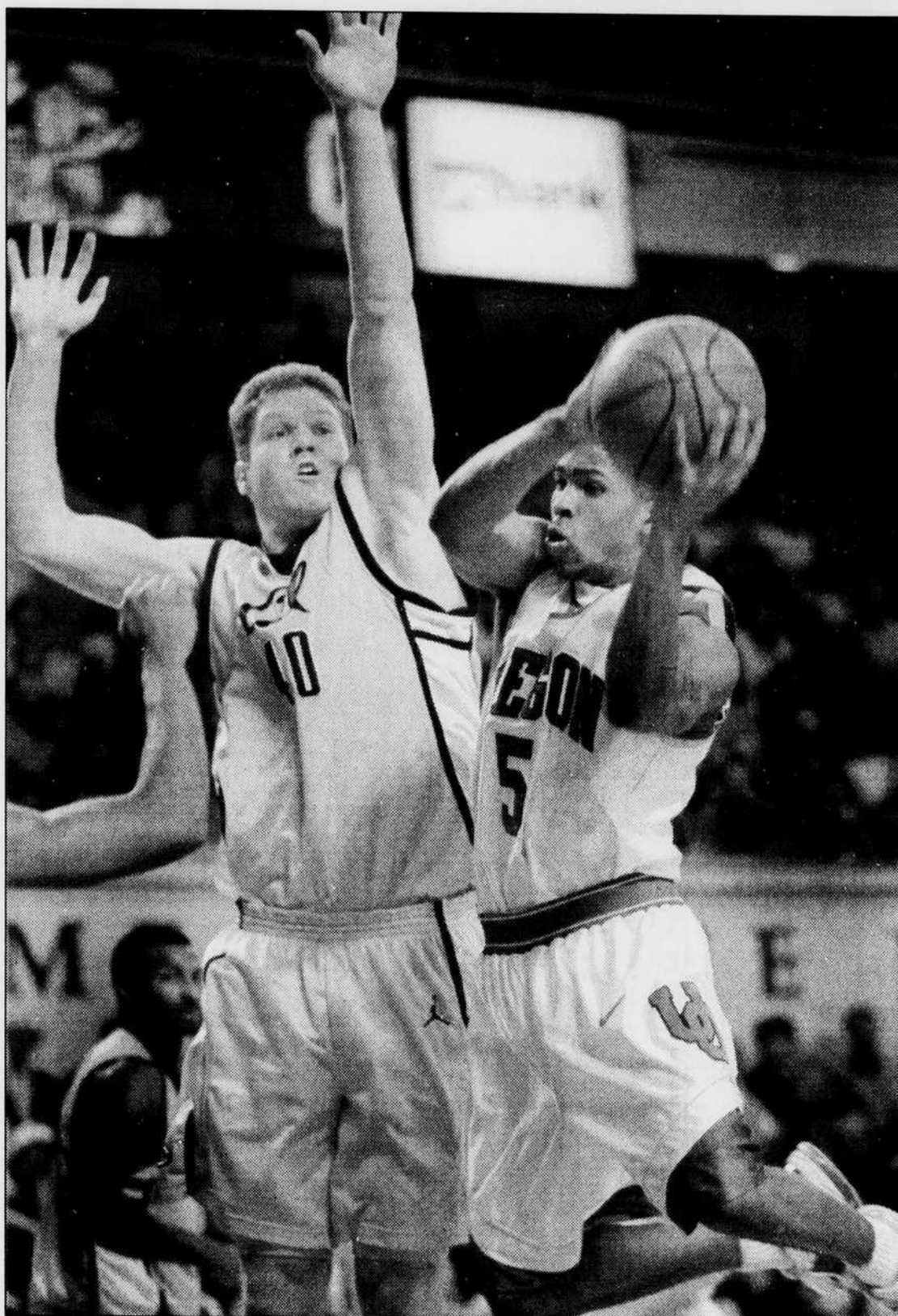
Junior forward Alex Scales topped off his superb play in the second half of the Pac-10 season with a team-high 21 points on eight-of-15 shooting, six rebounds and three assists.

"Even though we had the loss to Stanford [73-61 last Thursday]," Scales said, "we wanted to come out and prove a point to Cal and use them as a stepping stone to the NIT."

Seniors Terik Brown and Mike Carson, playing in their last regular-season games for Oregon, hooked up for the Ducks' final points with 43 seconds remaining, when Brown dribbled through a crowd and found Carson cutting to the basket for an emphatic, two-handed dunk that brought the crowd to its feet.

"It felt good," Carson said. "It's a great way to go out on a play like that. The fans have just been great to me this season, and it's just been a great ride for me."

Brown bounced back from his lackluster performance in Thursday night's loss to Stanford with 16 points, six rebounds and four assists. And Brown treated Oregon fans to a team-high four three-pointers in six attempts, which constituted a fitting end to a career that has been defined by



Oregon guard Yasir Rosemond deceptively dishes around California's Shahar Gordon during the Ducks' 93-82 victory Saturday afternoon at McArthur Court.

Nick Medley/Emerald

Leaders

Leading scorers

UO: Scales, 21

Cal: Lampley, 21

Leading rebounders

UO: Smith, 8

Cal: Lampley, 11

Leading assists:

UO: Jones, 6

Cal: Carlisle, 5

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