

Men's hoops

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game of the season, but the key thing was that we played smart. Stanford's going to be a real tough, physical team. But we're excited about facing them."

Oregon controlled the tempo throughout the contest and with the win, improved to 2-0 in league play for the first time in four years. It marks its best start since an 11-2 opening to the 1994-95 season, which coincidentally, was the last time Oregon reached the NCAA Tournament.

"I thought it was a really good win for us considering that it wasn't as smooth as a game as we would have liked," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We had some chances to increase our lead to double digits, but they would

always seem to come back and we had to weather their storm."

More specifically, the storm of Cal's one-headed monster is junior forward Sean Lamplly, who had a game-high 29 points on 11-of-19 shooting in 36 minutes.

"Lamplly really came to play tonight," Smith said. "He's a really tough player and sometimes it's more difficult to play against a team with just one star player because they keep going back to him time after time."

Oregon controlled the game with a balanced attack, as five players reached double digits. Leading the way with 20 points was sophomore guard Freddie Jones, who electrified the crowd in the second half with a thunderous one-handed jam as well as some silky smooth driving lay-ins.

"Freddie put two halves togeth-

er and that was my challenge to him at halftime," Kent said. "With that said, he still hasn't come close to putting together his best basketball game."

Seniors Alex Scales and Darius Wright each contributed 15 and 14 points, respectively, and forward Bryan Bracey's 12 points off the bench played a huge part in the win.

The tempo of the game was dictated in the first seven minutes as the Ducks rattled home four three-pointers during that span, taking the early 22-16 lead.

"Our ball movement was just fabulous in the first eight-to-ten minutes," Kent said. "We were able to get some transition baskets and really played smart. That's the sign of a team that is really coming together."

Oregon pushed the lead up to 40-27, before a Lamplly-led Cal team went on a 8-2 run to head into halftime only down by seven.

But three minutes into the second half, Jones ignited a 10-2 run with the aforementioned dunk and followed up a Scales three-pointer with a trey of his own.

The run was capped by a Bracey dunk that gave the Ducks a 56-42 lead with 15:44.

But Cal wouldn't let up. It closed within 10 points with 3:30, the seventh time in the half that it reached that point.

But after a Bracey jumper and five free-throws by Wright, and the Ducks had the win wrapped up.

"Oregon played with poise and knocked down the key shots when they had to," said California head coach Ben Braun, who remains one win shy of 400 for his career.

Oregon

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lineup.

Lamplly's scoring display was overshadowed by the lack of offensive punch from his young counterparts. While Lamplly scored 29 points against the Ducks, the Golden Bears' other starters managed only 26 points combined.

"Sean is in a difficult situation because they are real young and inexperienced, and they weren't used to the big crowd," said Oregon forward A.D. Smith, whose 12-point performance left him just two points shy of 1,000 for his career. "He's a very talented player on a very young team."

Lamplly said after the game that if anything, the crowd had more of a positive effect on his game than a negative one.

"I like the rowdy crowds. They don't affect me," said Lamplly, who has six double-doubles on the year but was held to just five rebounds against the Ducks. "I feel like the only one who can take me out of my game is me."

If Lamplly wasn't rattled at the Pit, his young teammates certainly were. Lamplly said his team needs to look at the big picture after three consecutive Pacific-10 Conference losses.

"I told them we can't harp on one game," Lamplly said. "0-3 is a bad way to start off the conference games, but we can get out of this hole."

Especially disappointing for the Bears was the play of point guard Shantay Legans. Legans — who averaged 4.3 assists per game coming into Thursday night's contest — couldn't get his teammates involved and ended up with no assists, despite the fact that Lamplly was on fire for most of the game.

"It's a rare day that Shantay gets zero assists, but these things happen," said California coach Ben Braun. "This game was frustrating because we were in a position to make plays, but we didn't finish."

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said he discussed with his players the importance of not letting one of California's younger players get hot from the perimeter.

"We knew someone was going to have a big game. We were just hoping it wasn't one of their young guys," Kent said. "If Lamplly has a big game, he is good enough to do that. But we felt good about how we did against everyone else."

And does the Ducks' coach anticipate a different California team when they meet Feb. 12 at Haas Pavilion in Berkeley?

"They are a younger team, but they are going to get so much better as they go through this first part of the Pac-10," Kent said. "They're going to be so tough during the second half, because they're logging a lot of minutes right now, and they have one of the premier players in the conference in Lamplly."

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