

Basketball

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dicative of how close the contest really was. The score did show, however, that Stanford simply has too much depth for most teams to handle for a full 40 minutes.

"They are a typical Stanford team," said Oregon head coach Ernie Kent, who fell to 0-5 in games against Stanford head coach Mike Montgomery, for whom he once served as an assistant. "When the test was there, they rose up and responded. We just ran into a superior team that gave a superior effort."

The Cardinal were simply too much from the inside and the outside. Redshirt-freshman forward Jarron Collins frustrated the Ducks with his arsenal of low-post moves and medium-range jumpers that accounted for his 19-point, 13-rebound performance.

Polished freshman Casey Jacobsen hit all four of his three-pointers for 12 points, and David Moseley added four threes himself en route to a team-high 20 points.

Oregon was led by senior forward Alex Scales with 21 points, although he made only nine-of-25 field goal attempts and was just three-of-12 from beyond the arc.

Beforehand, Kent drew up three keys to the game: The Ducks had to limit Stanford's three-point shooting, control the rebounds and keep the Cardinal away from the charity stripe.

Instead, all three plans failed as Stanford converted on 9-of-15 threes, out-rebounded the Ducks 42-30 and connected on 26-31 free throws — including an amazing run of 21 straight to close the game.

What compounded Kent's frustration was that Oregon — which lives and dies by the three-pointer — shot just 20.8 percent from beyond the arc, hitting only five of 24 attempts, and making only six of 12 free throws.

And yet, although none of the Ducks had a hot hand, Oregon managed to keep themselves in the ball game.

But whenever the Ducks and their fans seemed to shift momentum in their favor, Stanford was there with another big shot.

With 17:41 to go, Oregon was down 44-36 and went on an 8-2 run capped by a reverse layup by forward Bryan Bracey to cut the lead to two.

Stanford guard Michael McDonald was fouled shooting a three, and he converted all three free throws. After a Scales' jump shot, Jacobsen drilled a three from the

corner for the six-point advantage.

Stanford extended its lead to 68-56 with 4:19 left after a Moseley three that he described as "the silencer."

But The Pit would rock once more as Bracey converted a fast-break dunk off a steal and Scales drained a three from the corner to cap seven unanswered Duck points and give the Mac Court crazies a flicker of hope.

Alas, it was short-lived. Bracey was called for traveling. Moseley connected on two free throws. And McDonald hit a clutch three to push the lead back to double digits with 1:49 left. Twelve Stanford free throws later and the win belonged to the Cardinal.

Despite the loss, Kent was very encouraged with his team's effort and repeatedly praised the crowd.

"That was the Mac Court of old," he said. "What a wonderful, wonderful environment to play a game. Tonight, there is no doubt in my mind that we have the best home court advantage in the league, and maybe even the West Coast."

"That crowd took us to another level and if we can bring all of them back and continue to build off them, as well as grow as a team, we're going to have one awesome season."

Men

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Madsen was pleased that his teammates picked up the slack when he wasn't able to produce at the offensive end.

"It's frustrating not being able to play as well as I'd like to, but I'm just going to keep battling and eventually I'll get back on track," said Madsen, who returned from a right hamstring injury just five games ago. "Jarron really stepped up tonight and made some great plays."

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said there can be a "catch-22" when playing against Stanford's four-man post rotation.

"I felt like where they really got us was with the offensive rebounding, because they're so big," said Kent, who watched his team get out-rebounded by Stanford 42-30. "If you're fronting them, they've got in-

side position when you shoot the ball. If you're behind them, then they can shoot over you. So you kind of have to pick your poison when you play against them."

Oregon forward A.D. Smith agreed that Stanford's rebounding edge was a major factor.



"They did a good job of keeping us off the boards," said Smith, who finished with 13 points and six rebounds.

"They're tough and physical, and they know when to box out."

The Ducks' chances of upsetting the Cardinal were hurt when Oregon center Julius Hicks went down with a back injury in the Ducks' victory Thursday against California.

Women

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portedly discussed before the game — that had something to do with the massive shift. Stanford, after all, did go 87-3 against Pac-10 opponents during the 1990s.

Maybe the pressure of being up by 26 at Maples stymied the Ducks, seemingly on the way to winning in the mighty Cardinal's house for the first time since 1987.

Or perhaps it was Stanford's not-quite-suffocating full court press, which managed to take Oregon completely out of its game.

Surely the absence of Lindsey Dion, Oregon's starting shooting guard who is out with a concussion suffered against California on Thursday, played a role in the outcome.

Whatever, the Ducks choked Saturday.

In the last 24 minutes, 15 seconds of the game, Stanford outscored Oregon 68-26 — after only scoring two points on two-of-20 shooting through the first nine minutes.

"We had a great first half," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said on the KUGN post game show. "One of those halves where nothing can go wrong. Then Stanford makes a great adjustment and goes with the press."

"[The Ducks] know what they're supposed to be doing, but they're just tense. The press is on, we've broken it, now what do we do? Well, they know, it's just heightened anxiety level that people are pressing you."

Typical of Oregon's distraught second-half play, point guard Shaquala Williams uncharacteristically squandered an open court layup opportunity, instead passing the ball back behind her and into the Ducks' bench.

The press has rattled Oregon before. Last season at McArthur Court, the Ducks held a 25-point second-half lead against Washington State. Eleven minutes later, the Cougars were within four, having scored 21 unanswered points.

The Ducks won that game — but Washington State is not Stanford.

And the Cardinal doesn't allow for such lapses.


Runge remained publicly positive about the game, downplaying any residual effects it could have on the rest of the season.

"I think our kids feel very good about the way we played in the first half," she said. "And like I told them, it's just a game."

Lauren St. Claire led Stanford with 25 points, including her six three-pointers.

Angelina Wolvert led the Ducks with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Oregon women's basketball



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