

Scoreboard

**Lakers 90,
Trail Blazers 87**

PORTLAND (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers earned more than just a victory. They gained momentum, respect and undisputed possession of the league's best record.

Shaquille O'Neal had 23 points and Kobe Bryant added 22 Tuesday night as the Lakers defeated the Blazers 90-87 in a thrilling battle between the NBA's two finest teams.

The Lakers won their 12th straight game and snapped the Blazers' 11-game streak. Portland also had won 16 straight at home.

Scottie Pippen had 19 points to lead the Blazers, who couldn't get anything going after Pippen's 3-pointer put Portland ahead 85-84 with 3:07 to go.

It was the first time in NBA history that two teams with at least an 11-game winning streak had faced each other, and the game lived up to its billing right to the end.

The Lakers led by as many as 11 early in the fourth quarter, but a 3-pointer by Greg Anthony tied it at 80-all with 4:46 to play, and Pippen's 3-pointer from 27 feet away gave the Blazers the lead.

Both teams sputtered for the next few minutes, but the Lakers inched ahead on two free throws by Kobe Bryant and another by Ron Harper to make it 87-85 with 34.3 seconds left.

After Damon Stoudamire missed an 18-foot jumper, O'Neal was quickly fouled and made one of two for an 88-85 lead. Pippen rushed another long 3-pointer, and Steve Smith's shot off a long offensive rebound was nowhere close.

Portland got a meaningless layup from Arvydas Sabonis to end the game.

Mariners report first profit in long time

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Mariners did better at the gate than on the field after moving to Safeco Field last season, finishing in the black for the first time under the current ownership.

Mariners president Chuck Armstrong said Monday that the AL club had a profit of nearly \$2.6 million in 1999, despite missing the playoffs with a 79-83 season record.

Without gains in ticket sales, advertising and concessions following the move to Safeco Field in July, the Mariners would have lost \$6 million, Armstrong said.



Best Bet

NCAA Men's Hoops
Duke vs. Clemson
4 p.m., ESPN

Sports

Ducks lose, UCLA gains, UA splits

**Pac-10
Leading
Scorers**

1. Eddie House 23.1
2. Brian Scalabrine 18.8
3. Jason Kapon 16.4
4. Sean Lampley 16.2
5. Chris Crosby 15.9
6. Alex Scales 15.7
7. Jeff Trepagnier 15.6
8. Loren Woods 15.6
9. A.D. Smith 15.3
10. Deon Luton 15.3

■ The Pac-10 conference loses two if its stars but regains two more as the regular season closes

MEN'S NOTES

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Two in, two out. In the course of three days, two of the Pacific-10 Conference's impact basketball players — Arizona's Loren Woods and Oregon's A.D. Smith — have been ruled out for the remainder of the regular season.

And two other impact players — Arizona's Richard Jefferson and UCLA's JaRon Rush — have become eligible to play for the rest of the year.

The revolving door of players comes at a critical juncture of the season. With all three teams still in contention for an NCAA Tournament berth, the additions and subtractions should have a major influence on each team's fate.

Oregon

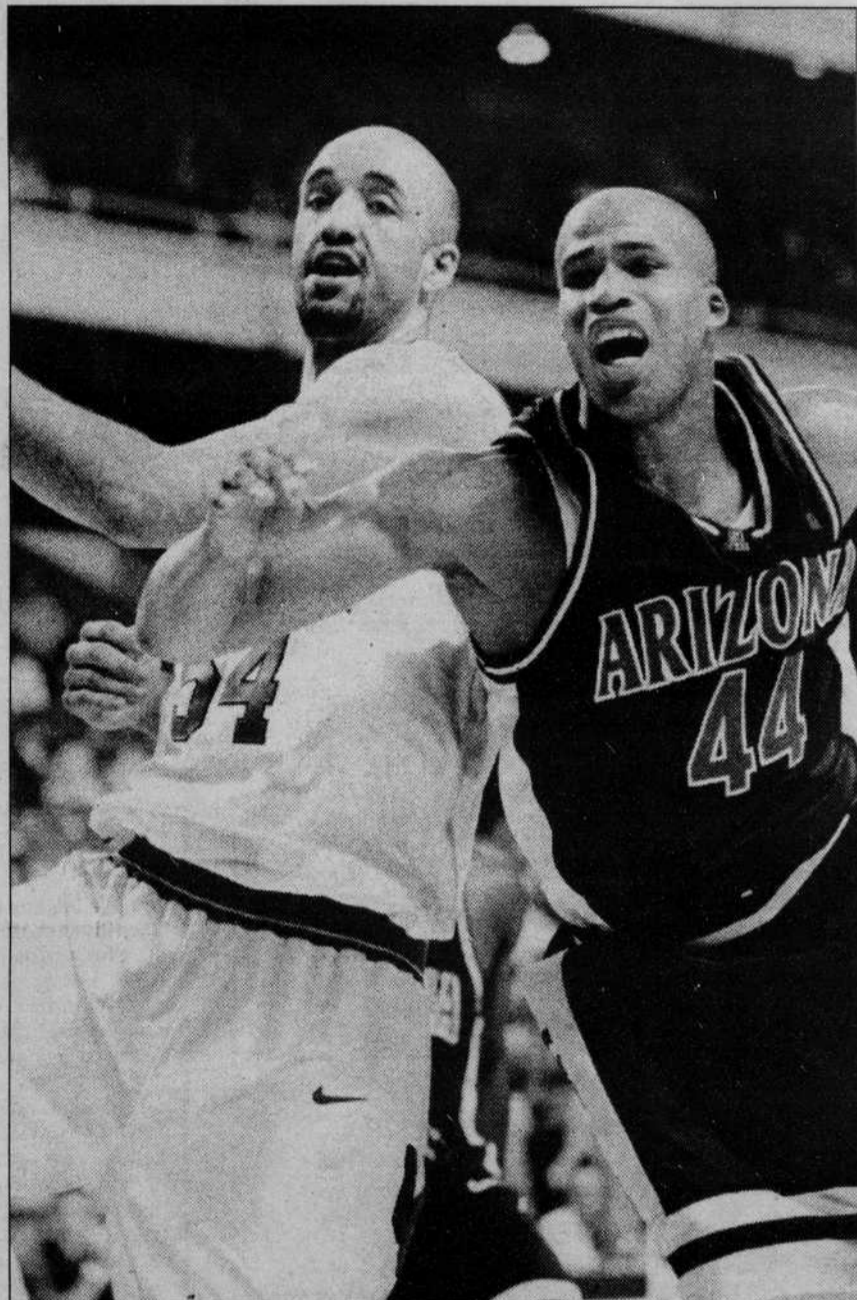
For Oregon, losing Smith with a broken cheekbone will force the Ducks to play without their leading rebounder (5.9 per game) and second leading scorer (15.3) for their final three games — if not more.

Head coach Ernie Kent will move junior forward Bryan Bracey into the starting lineup, and he will be counting on big men Flo Hartenstein, Julius Hicks and Chris Christofferson to pick up their games.

Arizona freshman Jason Gardner doesn't see the loss of Smith as that big a factor.

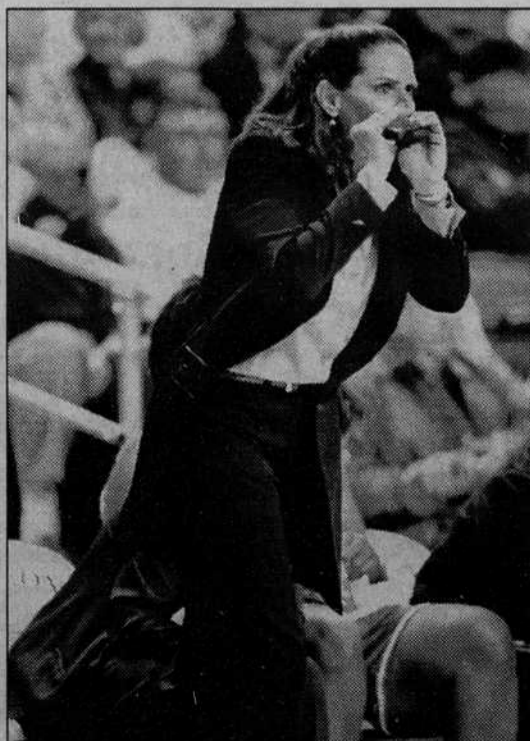
"That is not going to do any-

Turn to **Basketball**, page 8



Arizona regains the much-needed inside force of sophomore forward Richard Jefferson (44), who has been sidelined since January 8 with a broken bone in his foot. Emerald

Beavers, Trojans muddle race for Pac-10 title



Catharine Kendall Emerald
UCLA coach Kathy Olivier's team may miss the NCAA's.

■ The Ducks must win on the road to stay ahead of Oregon State in the standings

WOMEN'S NOTES

By Scott Peszkecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

A week ago at this time, the Pacific-10 Conference title seemed just within reach of the then-first-place Ducks.

Last weekend's heartbreaking split at McArthur Court changed all that.

Oregon's second loss to Southern California bumped the Ducks into second place, half a game behind Stanford. Oregon lost control of its own destiny, and the possibility of settling for a split in the desert this weekend.

Because if the Ducks lose to either Arizona State on Thursday or Arizona on Saturday, they could find themselves being taken from behind by Ore-

gon State, which has won five of its last six games.

For Oregon to even share the title, Stanford has to lose. The only supposedly tough competition left on the Cardinal's schedule is UCLA — and the key word there is "supposedly."

Flat out, the Bruins have been playing bad lately. Point guard Erica Gomez publicly blasted her team before the conference season, questioning their desire to win and their ability to play hard.

Time has proven her questions valid, as another UCLA loss could leave the Bruins without an invitation to the Big Dance.

A fifth-place team in the tournament?

If the Bruins finish the season where they are right now — fifth in the Pac-10 — and still got to the NCAA Tournament, most people would conclude that the fourth-place team should also

Turn to **Women**, page 9

**Pac-10
Ranks**

1. Stanford 11-3
2. Oregon 11-4
3. Arizona 10-4
4. Oregon State 10-5
5. UCLA 9-5
6. Southern California 7-7
7. Arizona State 6-8
8. California 4-10
9. Washington 3-12
10. Washington State 1-14