

Men

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6-0 run to give Oregon (20-7 overall, 11-5 Pacific-10 Conference) the 76-74 win over Arizona State (16-11, 8-7), the 9,045 McArthur Court crazies flew as well — out of their seats and onto the backs of their heroes.

One boisterous student likened it to "the shock of getting 100 percent on a final exam. Shocking, but true!" What makes the victory even

What makes the victory even more exciting is that it gave the Ducks its first 20-win regular season since 1945. Oregon's 11 Pac-10 wins equal its most ever, set by the 1984 and 1995 teams. And best of all, it clinches at least third-place in the Pac-10 and virtually ensures the green team of only its second NCAA Tournament appearance since 1961. But this game was not about

But this game was not about the Tournament. It wasn't about the 20 wins. This was all about the shot — or rather shots.

The first big one came by way of junior forward Bryan Bracey, who rebounded his own back-toback misses and converted to cut the deficit to 70-68 with nine seconds left.

But Sun Devils guard Eddie House, who was held to only 15 points on 6-of-24 shooting, apparently clinched the win with six ticks on the clock when he drained two free-throws to up the lead to four.

The Ducks had no timeouts left. The crowd was stunned. Some actually left. The players were rattled. But surprisingly, Arizona State coach Rob Evans decided to use his team's last timeout.

The break in action gave Kent time to diagram a full-court inbounds play, and because guard

Point guard Darius Wright directs traffic before his game-winning shot. Said Arizona State coach Rob Evans of Wright's buzzer-beater: 'I've never seen anything like it.'

Freddie Jones fouled out 20 seconds earlier, the inbounding duties belonged to little-used sophomore guard Ben Lindquist.

Lindquist, whose only action came in those final six seconds, showed tremendous poise with his passes. The first one traveled the length of the court, took one bounce and somehow landed in Scales' hands. The senior forward promptly banged home three of his career high 31 points to slice the score to 74-73 with a mere five seconds left.

Arizona State's Kyle Dodd's ensuing inbounds pass bounced off House's fingertips, and possession was turned back to the Ducks. And then, it happened.

Lindquist positioned himself in the same spot as before. He heaved the length-of-the-court pass where he "thought someone was supposed to be."

The ball sailed right into the hands of House and then slipped right out. Wright instinctively shoveled it up, turned around and launched the rainbow that left his team a shiny pot of gold.

"I guess fate has its way of working things out," a smiling Lindquist said amidst the shine of the media spotlight.

Next up for the Ducks: No. Arizona at 3:05 p.m. Saturday.

Oh yes, March madness has begun.

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