



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Oregon's Freddie Jones, Alex Scales and Bryan Bracey have mixed reactions upon learning their tournament seeding.

Tournament

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ty of Eugene on a day when both the men and women were selected to go to the tournament — the first time both teams were chosen in the same year since 1995.

At about 2:15 p.m., on the three 14-foot big-screen televisions on center court, it was announced amid loud cheers that the Oregon women were given the opportunity to host first round-games on March 16-19 at Mac Court.

The Ducks are the No. 6 seed in the West region and face a first-round pairing with No. 11 seed UAB (Alabama-Birmingham, 19-12, 8-8) on Friday at 9 p.m..

Almost an 1 1/2 hours later, it was the men's turn to enjoy the madness of March. With the crowd, band, cheerleaders and players eagerly watching, "Oregon" flashed on the big screen TVs. And they saw that the Ducks were selected as the No. 7 seed in the East Region and face No. 10-seed Seton Hall (19-8) on Friday in Buffalo, NY.

For the women, hosting the first round of games is huge considering that if the Ducks win two games they will advance to the West Regional (a.k.a. Sweet Sixteen) in Portland.

"We're thrilled to be able to host," head coach Jody Runge said in a released statement. "We've had the kind of year that's deserving to play at home. Now [we] can focus on the tournament and not worry about the stress of traveling."

Not so for the men. A year ago, the Ducks traveled to New York to participate in the NIT Final Four. They're again East Coast-bound and feel somewhat slighted by the draw.

At 3:32 p.m., CBS' telecast of the selection show disclosed that both Stanford and Arizona were given No. 1 seeds. As players watched, anticipation grew as the possibility of a 4 or 5 seed seemed likely. With television cameras focused on the team's faces, the announcement of the No. 7 seed drew mixed reviews.

Players immediately saw that if they beat Seton Hall, No. 2 seed Temple (23-5) will likely follow.

More frustration occurred 15 minutes later when the TVs

showed that UCLA — which had three fewer conference wins than the Ducks — was given a No. 6 seed.

"We're excited but disappointed it worked out to be seven seed," senior forward A.D. Smith said. "We're playing a team that is in New Jersey, an advantage for them. There's a few cards stacked against us, but hey, we're going to have to play well one way or the other."

Many players mentioned that they didn't know much about the city of Buffalo. Freddie Jones said that the only thing he knows about Buffalo is the Bills.

Head coach Ernie Kent put a more positive spin on the situation. He recognized the fact that his team deserved better, but he knows how special it is to be selected for the event.

"No disappointment," Kent said. "This is a very positive thing for our program. Regardless of where you're sent, you're going to have to play. And if we're going to get to the Final Four, I guarantee you're going to have to go through Temple somewhere along the way."

One of the highlights of the selection party at the Pit came at 3:29 p.m. when the crowd roared at the announcement that senior forward Alex Scales had earned First-Team All-Pac 10 honors.

The afternoon also included a highlight video of Oregon's banner season. The eight-minute video included many spectacular dunks, three-pointers and blocks that had helped the Ducks capture the most wins in a single season since 1945. The video concluded with the sequence against Arizona State simply known as, "Miracle at Mac."

The free event was hosted by radio announcer Jerry Allen and public address announcer Don Essig.

Once the selection show concluded, "The Ernie Kent Show" was taped live in front of the crowd.

At 4:22, Smith joined Kent and host Todd McKim on the air. When asked about the pairings, Smith summed it up best.

"We're disappointed that we're a seven seed, but I think Seton Hall is going to be disappointed that we're a seven seed too," said Smith, much to the delight of the crowd.

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the Ducks in
the NCAA
Tournament!**

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