

Homegrown talent leads Ducks to victory

■ Luke Jackson led Oregon with 13 points Saturday, proving that local talents are not all named Smith

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

There is a new kid from town. Luke Jackson, a freshman guard from Creswell, is slowly stepping into the role vacated by departed senior A.D. Smith as the local hero of the Oregon men's basketball team.

Jackson had his first big game Saturday night against Portland State, and his three-pointers and jumpers garnered just as much McArthur Court crowd reaction as a Freddie Jones alley-oop dunk.

"I feel like I'm fitting in more and more as I get more minutes on the court," Jackson said.

Jackson had the best night of his young Oregon career Saturday, scoring 13 points to lead the Ducks in their 84-66 win over the Vikings at McArthur Court. He added six rebounds, three assists and two steals in 16 minutes of floor time.

"He is a very skilled basketball player," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "He can shoot the outside ball as well play inside."

"He's getting into a little bit of a groove, that's why I wanted to leave him out on the floor as much as I could tonight."

Jackson's most electrifying moment came with five minutes left in the game, when the freshman drained two three-pointers from well behind the three-point stripe to give the Ducks their biggest lead at 71-38.

After the second three-pointer, the crowd was on their feet, and making close to as much noise as 7,471 people can make.

"I know a lot of people here, growing up in this small community," Jackson said. "It's good to have support."

Jackson received an ovation when he sat down for the last time, with four minutes left in the game. It may not have equaled the ovation Smith received the last time he took the court against Oregon State last season, but the hometown affection was evident.

"It felt really good to get a few points tonight," Jackson said. "I just got into a rhythm, and the shots started dropping."

Jackson wasn't the only freshman to step up Saturday night. James Davis, Jay Anderson and Luke Ridnour all set career records for points Saturday night, and all but Ridnour set career records for minutes.

"It was nice to see everyone step up tonight," Jackson said about his fellow freshmen.

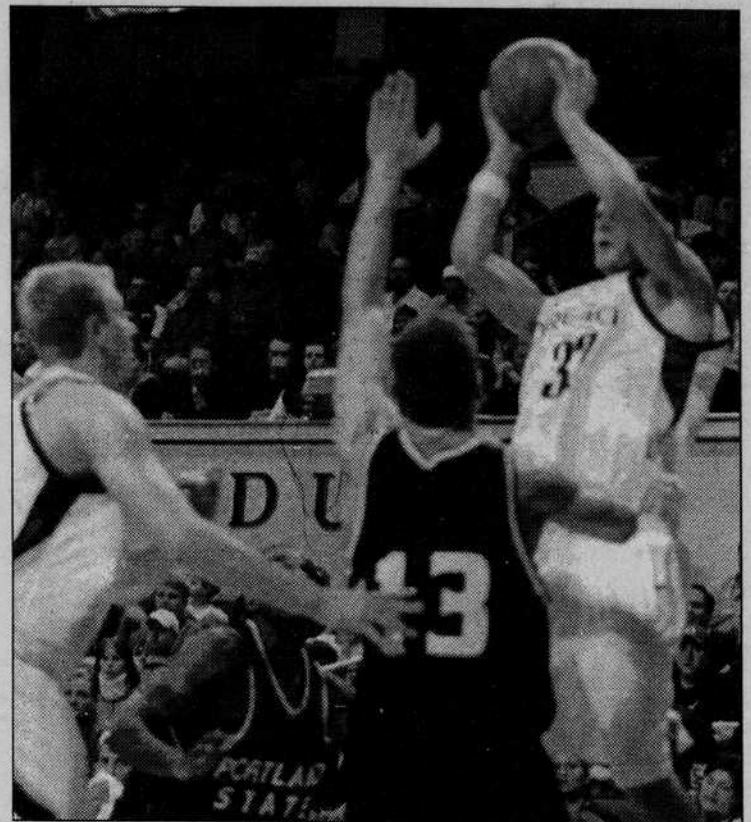
Ridnour pointed to a three-minute stretch in the second half when all four freshmen were on the floor, and accounted for 12 straight Oregon points.

"It's good to see them get their feet wet a little bit," said senior center Julius Hicks. "We're going to need them down the road."

The freshmen were effective as well as potent. The four players combined to shoot 13-for-28 from the floor, 9 of 19 from three-point land and 4-for-7 from the charity stripe. Jackson was the most effective freshman, shooting 5 of 8 from the floor and 3-for-4 from behind the three-point line.

Kent hopes the freshmen continue to develop into offensive threats. "We have so much growth potential in this team," Kent said.

Oregon will try to grow once more when they take on Portland Tuesday at Mac Court.



Luke Jackson (33) pulls up for three of his team-high 13 points in the Oregon win. Laura Smit Emerald

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 27) A keen competitor keeps you on your toes and sharpens your wit. You'll thank this person later, for helping you get your act together. Changes in how you see yourself could confuse you in December. Use your luck, as well as wisdom, to bring in more money in January. Practice skills in February. Don't overspend on romance in April. The more you work, the more you'll make in May. Find a win-win solution to an old conflict in June. Be thrifty in July so you can travel more in August. Join a team to stay in shape in October.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — This is a good day to get information out. Want to send a resume to get a better job? Type it up and get it in the mail. Got packages to send? Scoot them out, too, especially if they're related to business. Today you should have a clear shot at success.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — Make final preparations for an adventure that happens today or tomorrow. You're either traveling or getting your ideas out there. Maybe you're speaking in front of a group or teaching a class. It may be scary at first, but you should do well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — Your conscience may have been bothering you lately. If so, that's good. You're getting practical advice. The voice of a nearby older person is also handy. Listen to both, and you'll make a wise choice.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 4 — The work you're doing is complicated. Changes are underway, and that doesn't help one bit. Ask people who should know, but don't just trust them blindly. Use your good sense, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — You and your sweetheart are coming up with great ideas. You don't have much time to put them into action. Your schedules are hectic now, but you're both creative. You'll think of something.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 5 — You've just about got things whipped into shape, but not quite. Get rid of some stuff you haven't used in years, and you'll have a lot more room. That will clear your head, as well as your personal environment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Your neighborhood looks busy. Are you out decorating with everybody else? If so, you're probably having a great time. You love community projects, so get involved. You might meet some people with whom you have a lot in common.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5 — Financial wheeling and dealing takes up most of the day. Although things are well-planned, expect some surprises. You have extra coming in, but costs are high. Get help if you need it. Don't try to hold it all in your head. Take notes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — A game's going on between you and an interesting person. You're tossing ideas back and forth to see who'll make the final decision. It'll be you, by the way. Don't waste the day, though. Use a couple of the other person's suggestions, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — You get stronger as the day goes on. There may be an upsetting moment or two earlier, though. New information is coming all the time, so be patient. You may not have the information you need, yet, to make up your mind. Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Your team is racing toward your goal, and that's wonderful. Be ready to act quickly, but use your head, too. Planning ahead is helpful, but the experience of an older person gives you the edge.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 5 — Everybody wants your time and attention. Do your best to please them, but not if it costs too much. Leave some energy for yourself and make sure you eat right. Gather with friends you can trust tonight so you can talk freely. It'll help you relax.

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