

# Ducks disappointed with lackluster fourth win

■ Oregon grabbed an important win Tuesday night but thinks it could have put together a better effort

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball team picked up its fourth win in a row Tuesday night with a 66-60 victory against Portland at McArthur Court.

The 4-0 start to the Ducks' 2000-01 campaign is the best in head coach Ernie Kent's four seasons at Oregon.

But Kent is the only one excited about it.

"We didn't come to play tonight," freshman point guard Luke Ridnour said. "We've got UMass on Saturday, and if we play like we played tonight, we're going to get beat."

Ridnour's thoughts were representative of the players' feelings toward their mediocre win against the Pilots. The game was Oregon's last before its big test against Massachusetts in the Papé Jam Saturday night in Portland.

"We need to get some rest and concentrate on UMass," senior forward Bryan Bracey said.

The Ducks were impressive at times Tuesday night, taking a 15-point lead two minutes into the second half and an eight-point lead with 7:48 left, after Portland had closed the gap to one point two minutes earlier.

"We didn't play like a 4-0 team tonight," Bracey said. "I felt we were ready to play. They took some things away from us, and we didn't adjust."

One thing the Pilots took away was the Ducks' three-point shot, which was so effective in wins against Portland State and Mississippi Valley State. The Ducks shot 16 treys Tuesday night, but only six found their target. The 31.3 percent effectiveness was the Ducks' lowest mark of the season.

"We did a good job of taking away the three-point line," Portland coach Rob Chavez said.

Another area Chavez pointed to was the normally potent Oregon transition offense - the "run and gun" that was almost non-existent

Tuesday night.

But the Ducks couldn't decide why they were disappointed after Tuesday's game. Most players pointed to a lack of intensity.

"We didn't play well tonight at all," senior forward Freddie Jones said. "We know what we're capable of on the floor, and we didn't show that tonight."

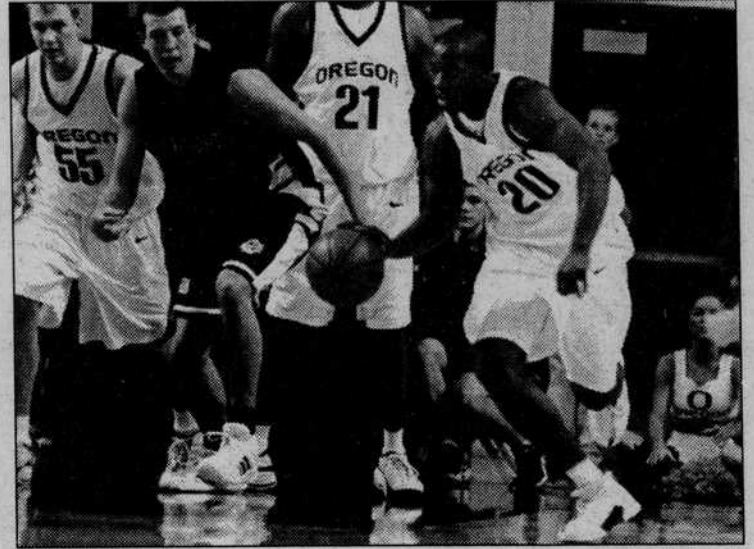
The players did take some positives from the six-point victory.

"We found a way to win," Ridnour said. "Our defense kept us going because we weren't scoring."

The Ducks played tough defense in the final 3:49, when they held Portland to only four points. Oregon scored eight points in that stretch and opened a two-point lead into a six-point margin of victory.

The win was the first close regular-season game for Oregon, which had won its first three games by 15, nine and 18 points, respectively.

Kent was pleased with the play of his freshmen - especially the clutch play of Ridnour, who hit four key free throws down the



Adam Amatto Emerald

Oregon's Freddie Jones (20) scored a game-high 16 points Tuesday night.

stretch - and his team's ability to bounce back even when facing adversity.

"We don't win this game last year at this time with the way we were playing," Kent said. "We're 4-

0, and that's a good sign to me."

Jones put the team's mentality simply and perfectly, despite its disappointment.

"We're always happy with a victory," Jones said.

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## Horoscope by Linda C. Black

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Nov. 29). You should  
do well this year through work, not luck. Clean  
up your lifestyle in December, and you'll be  
much happier, too. You're rolling in dough in  
January. Use some to pay back an old debt.  
Fantasy and reality don't match in February un-  
less you're creative. Friends teach you a new  
trick in April. Keep plodding away in May, and  
your rewards will follow. Heed your mate's ad-  
vice in June and save a lot of trouble. An educa-  
tional adventure would be perfect for September.

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 6 —  
Your initial effort might not go as well as  
planned. You can achieve your goal through an  
older person's help. This could lead to a promo-  
tion or a raise in pay. Don't shut down. Share  
your idea with a person who can do something  
about it.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7  
— Don't be stopped by the first problem that  
gets in your way. If you persist, you can suc-  
ceed. Travel will also work out well, eventually.  
Don't be alarmed if you run into a snag. Try an-  
other tactic, and you'll get around it.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 5 —  
You need to follow through on something  
you've promised. This may involve paying a  
debt. Scrape together as much as you can, and  
you'll feel better.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 —  
Your partner has everything figured out, hope-  
fully the way you want it. The other person is  
about to make some big choices, so stay in-  
volved. You don't want your needs to be over-  
looked. Holler, if necessary, to get your point  
across.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 5 —  
More work comes in, but the money's not  
showing up yet. Keep doing what's required  
and don't complain. Do a little more than what's  
required, and you're payback will be more gen-  
erous. It won't all be in money, though.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8  
— You can get through better than just about  
anybody today. This gives you an advantage.  
Traveling with your sweetheart to a favorite  
place should work well. Have dinner while  
you're out there.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 5 —  
You may be bothered by domestic matters. You  
want to change or fix something, but you only  
want the best. You can't afford it, now. Talk to  
a person with more experience. It might be best  
to keep saving for a while.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7  
— You're using new skills, and they're working  
well. You're in over your head, but if you have  
on a flotation device, you should be OK. In other  
words, proceed with caution.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today  
is a 6 — You could get more work soon — and  
even more money. It's not easy yet, but at least  
it's finally lucrative. Just keep doing what  
you're doing and have faith. This is going to pay  
off, eventually.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is  
an 8 — You're in the cabbird seat. That's partial-  
ly because you're so darned good-looking. Peo-  
ple just can't turn you down. Even though some  
of them are a little standoffish at first, you can  
bring them around. Just keep at it.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7  
— Something you've been thinking about do-  
ing for a long time can finally happen. It's not  
due to luck; it's from your hard work. This in-  
volves your home and family, and the next few  
days are perfect. Go for it!

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7  
— You love to be helpful, and you've got the  
opportunity to help out a lot. Your experience is  
something the others are relying upon to  
achieve their goals. Don't be shy about letting  
them know what they should do next.

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