



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon's Bryan Bracey (42) drives past Arizona's Luke Walton for two of his game-high 23 points Thursday night. He also added eight rebounds.

Ducks give UA The Pits in win

■ The Ducks feed off the energy from their fans to post a surprising win against the Wildcats

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

With the aid of its faithful roaring crowd, the Oregon men's basketball team revitalized its season in a convincing upset victory against a top-10 team.

The magic of McArthur Court played a key role in sending No. 7 Arizona out of town a loser for the second straight year. This time, though, it wasn't an improbable comeback victory for the Ducks, as last season's was.

Instead, Oregon played solid defense, demonstrated good ball movement and shut down Arizona's transition game in a 79-67 victory in front of a sellout crowd of 9,087.

"This becomes another one of those special games at Mac Court," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "I really want to compliment the fans. They certainly gave us a nice comfort zone and helped us maintain the lead throughout the game."

The Ducks (12-6 overall, 3-5 Pacific-10 Conference) needed one of these types of games to help get them out of the funk that had sent them to five defeats in their previous six games.

Oregon forward Bryan Bracey, who scored a game-high 23 points and grabbed a team-high eight rebounds, said that the win was the first key step toward turning this ship around.

"We said today that we were starting our season over," Bracey said. "We were 0-0. And it starts with a win tonight. We're looking forward to beating everyone else, and that's our goal. We know we're a good team."

The Ducks did everything they had to do to pull off the upset, and that included playing a full 40 minutes of basketball. Arizona took an early 8-5 lead, but then Oregon went on a 12-2 run to take a lead it would never relinquish.

"The key to this game was that we

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“This becomes another one of those special games at Mac Court.”

Ernie Kent
Oregon
head
coach

Upset Wildcats feel Mac Court curse

Arizona is toppled once more by the Ducks, but this year's game may have meant more to Oregon's season than 2000's effort

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

After the Oregon men's basketball team beat No. 3 Arizona at McArthur Court late last season, Duck fans thought a bigger upset was impossible.

Think again, Duck fans.

With its 79-67 victory over the No. 7 Wildcats (14-6 overall, 6-2 Pacific-10 Conference) Thursday night, Oregon (12-6, 3-5) secured what was easily its most important win of the season, and possibly its most important in a few seasons.

"This was a breakthrough win for us," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said.

Thinking in terms of the Ducks' status before the game — 2-5 in the Pac-10 and losers of two straight — Kent said Thursday night's victory meant more to his team than anything else this season.

Arizona thought it was simply overmatched by the Ducks.

"They had us scouted to perfection," Wildcat center Loren Woods said. "They executed per-

fectly."

Arizona coach Lute Olson said his team had only one excuse — it didn't play as well as the Ducks did.

"Oregon played about as well as they're ever going to play," Olson said. "There's no way we should have won that game."

The loss stopped Arizona's six-game winning streak, and was the first for the Wildcats since Olson returned to the team from grieving for his deceased wife. It was the team's second loss with Olson at the helm this season.

The upset moved Arizona to 6-2 in Pac-10 play, and two games behind Stanford for the conference lead. With UCLA's 92-63 loss to California, the Wildcats now share second place with the Bruins and the Golden Bears.

"We take a minor step back," Woods said. "We're not about to go down the hill. Oregon came, they were a good team, and they beat us. Oh well. We've just got to move on."

While Arizona suffered a minor setback in its

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'D' is for disappointment as UO women lose in Tucson

The Oregon women fall out of first place in the Pac-10 by losing to the Wildcats

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon's offense was present from its first possession, when center Jenny Mowe scored on an easy in-bound basket on the pass from forward Brienne Meharry.

But when the Duck women's basketball team ran down the floor to stop Arizona's offense, something bad happened — the defense didn't follow.

And as Oregon's "D" was nowhere to be seen, the Wildcats

(15-5 overall, 5-3 Pacific-10 Conference) used 54.2 percent shooting to bury the defenseless Ducks, 88-76, in front of 2,550 people at the McKale Center in Tucson, Ariz.

"I think we did not have a good defensive effort tonight," Oregon head coach Jody Runge told Ray Martin on KSCR radio. "When they made their run in the second half, we scored plenty of points to win a basketball game, but we just kept putting them on the free-throw line time after time after time, or let them have dribble penetration right down the gut."

The Ducks (12-6, 5-3) lost their share of first place in the Pac-10. Meanwhile, red-hot Arizona State

beat Oregon State, 58-51, winning its fifth straight game and taking sole possession of first place in the conference race.

Oregon must recover from the loss by 6 p.m. Saturday, when it looks to derail the Sun Devils' winning streak.

"They're a very good basketball team; they're playing very well at home," Runge said. "It will be a tremendous challenge for us to go over there and regroup from a loss on the road."

After Mowe put the game's first points on the scoreboard, Arizona point guard Reshea Bristol responded with a three-pointer, sparking a 17-2 Wildcat run

through the next eight minutes.

The Ducks' defense made a cameo appearance near the end of the first half, and Oregon actually took a 43-40 lead early in the second period.

But Arizona used a balance attack to reclaim the lead. With eight minutes remaining and the score 63-57 in favor of the Wildcats, Bristol was fouled on a layup and sank the free throw, then hit another trey to give her team a 10-point lead.

Oregon never got close after that. "We just did not defend the basketball tonight, and that's something we're supposed to be known for and do pretty good," Runge

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Jody Runge
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