



Ducks keep NCAA hopes alive by beating ASU



Senior forward Jenny Mowe, defended by Arizona State's Aubrey McFayden (11) and Melody Johnson (35), scored nine points in 23 minutes in Oregon's 63-56 victory Thursday.

■ Angelina Wolvert hits a rare three-pointer to seal a huge win against Arizona State

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Did everybody see that?

There was the Oregon women's basketball team, leading Pacific-10 Conference leader Arizona State by four points with 47 seconds left.

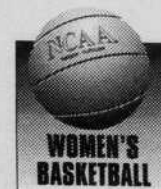
The Ducks came out of their own timeout, no doubt with some brilliant game-sealing play drawn up.

After the inbounds pass, the ball was passed from Duck to Duck. The Sun Devils' defense was tenacious. Oregon's play, whatever it was, wasn't going to work.

With the final seconds ticking off the shot clock, the ball found its way into the hands of Angelina Wolvert, who stood outside the three-point line, right in front of the Oregon bench. As the senior forward spotted up for the desperation shot, a Sun Devil jumped up with her hand extended skyward.

At that moment, if you were one of the few Arizona State fans present among the 4,774 in attendance, you'd have to be feeling pretty good. Wolvert had only hit one three-pointer all season, and the Devils only trailed by four. There was plenty of time left.

But when Wolvert rose up and let it fly — when she thrust her right arm forward, launching the ball forth from the palm of her hand — somehow, teammate Alissa Edwards just knew it was



“It's kind of frustrating knowing that we've beat both the teams that are supposed to be number one.”

Alissa Edwards
Oregon point guard

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UO relishes 'giant killer' role in victory over Devils

The Ducks defeat the Pac-10's top team for the second time at home and hang on to a slim chance of making the NCAA Tournament

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's a role that the Ducks aren't used to, but it's a role that they're relishing.

For the second time in as many home games, the women's basketball team played the spoiler role in defeating the Pacific-10 Conference's top team.

Less than two weeks ago, it was No. 23 Washington that entered McArthur Court with a grasp on the conference lead, but left with the consolation prize.

Thursday night it was No. 22 Arizona State that was knocked off the podium, as the Ducks — hanging by the thinnest of threads for a shot at the NCAA Tournament — defeated the Sun Devils 63-56 in front of 4,774 fans at The Pit.

“We're kind of laughing about how we're the giant killers now,” said senior forward Angelina Wolvert, who, with 36 seconds left, sank a desperation three-pointer as the shot clock sounded

to provide the margin of victory. “It's just weird being in that position because we haven't been before.”

Ranked 67th in the latest RPI report, Oregon (15-11 overall, 8-8 Pac-10) had to beat Arizona State (19-8, 11-4) and has to win its final two games — both at home against Arizona and Oregon State — to be considered for the Big Dance.

Arizona State head coach Charli Thurner-Thorne, days away from giving birth to her second son, said after the game that her team is in unfamiliar territory atop the conference standings.

“Oregon played awesome,” Thurner-Thorne said. “They have a good group of seniors that are used to being the [NCAA] Tournament, and we don't have that. It's kind of ironic because we've never been close to being the giant.”

Ironic because Oregon, in the past few years, has been the giant. Ironic be-

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Adam Amato Emerald
Angelina Wolvert led the Ducks with 15 points in their victory over the Sun Devils.

Oregon watches NIT hopes fade in tough ASU loss

Oregon's postseason hopes take a huge hit as the men get burned at Arizona State

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

TEMPE, Ariz. — At least Luke Ridnour had an excuse.

The Oregon freshman point guard has been battling the flu all week, so his zero points in 13 minutes were understandable.

But for the rest of the Oregon men's basketball team, Thursday night's lethargic and embarrassing 86-74 defeat to Arizona State left them dumbfounded.

“I can't tell you [why]. We just made mistakes,” said junior guard Freddie Jones, who was Oregon's lone bright spot with a career-high 36 points.

“Horrible ... it's tough,” junior guard Anthony Norwood said. Asked about

Oregon's postseason hopes, which took a devastating blow with this loss, all Norwood could quietly muster was, “I don't know.”

It was that type of night at the half-filled, relatively dormant Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe, Ariz.

Consider this: Both teams combined for 51 personal fouls and 45 turnovers.

And you know it's bad when your coach compares you to a slow-footed animal.

“We were like floundering sheep out there,” Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. “I called a timeout and could see their body language and their eyes. We just didn't get it done.”

The defeat means that any realistic

shot of Oregon (13-13 overall, 4-12 Pacific-10 Conference) qualifying for the NIT rides on its ability to win its last two games: Saturday against No. 9 Arizona and March 10 at Oregon State.

“It was just a bad atmosphere tonight,” Norwood said. “We know we're better than that. We didn't take care of business.”

Oregon had talked of seeking revenge on the Sun Devils after losing to them by 27 points at home. Led by Jones, the Ducks went on an 11-0 run that helped propel them into halftime with a 37-31 advantage.

But then things turned U-G-L-Y for the Ducks.

The Sun Devils came out from the break red-hot. Alton Mason converted a

layup. Donnell Knight dropped in a jumper. Chad Prewitt showed off his shooting touch.

And then Tommy Smith drained a field goal and threw down two emphatic one-handed slams.

The result was a 17-3 Arizona State run, which was soon extended to a 23-5 spurt that put the Ducks behind 54-42 at the 12:35 mark.

From there on out, Oregon unsuccessfully tried to play catch-up.

“We come out in the second half and give them an opportunity to shoot 70 percent from the field, and you don't beat a lot of teams that you give the opportunity to shoot 70 percent,” Kent

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