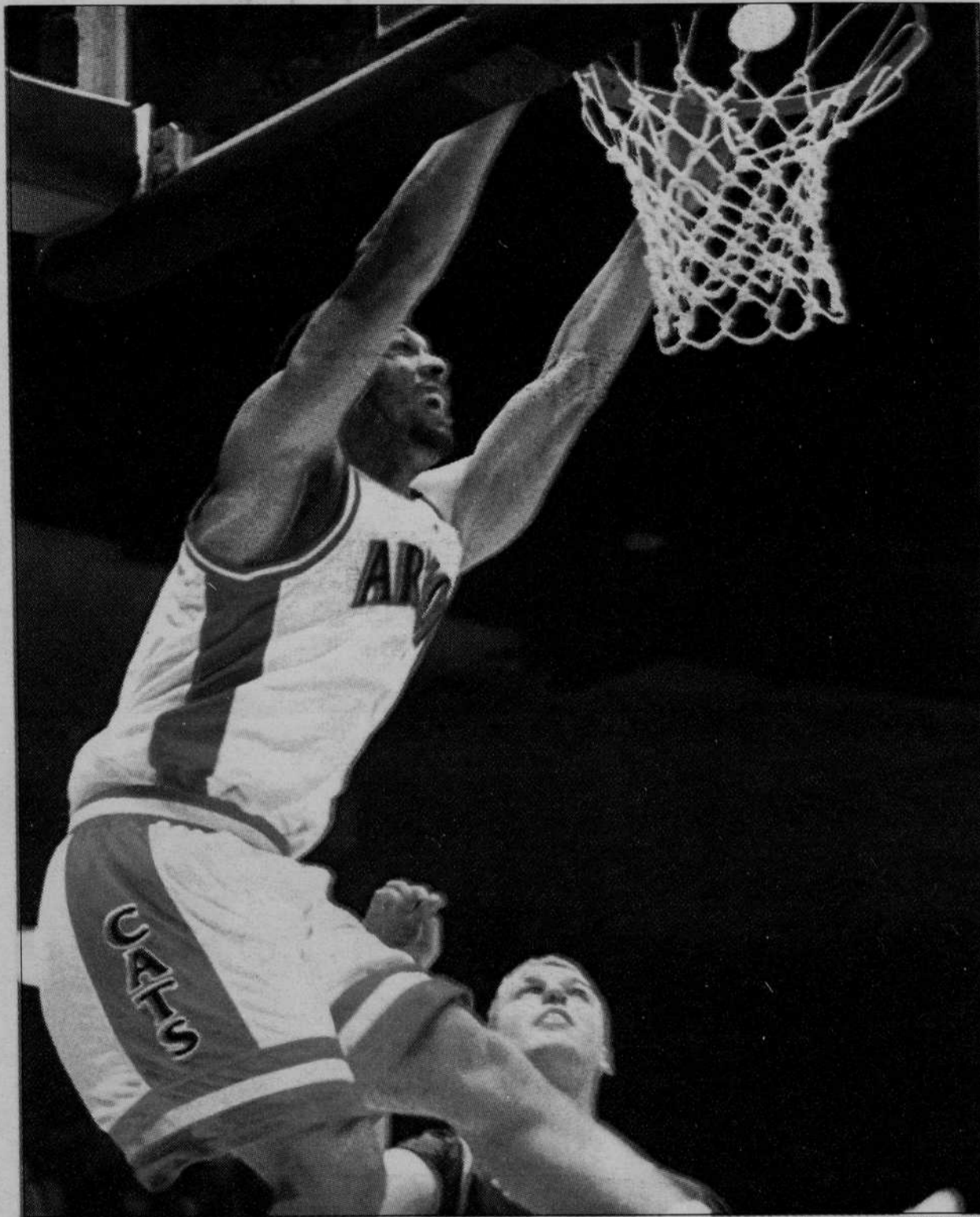




Wildcats thrust dagger into UO's postseason



Aaron Farnsworth Arizona Daily Wildcats

Arizona center Loren Woods exploded from a season-long slump to score 17 points against Oregon, including this monstrous, two-handed slam.

■ The Oregon men's basketball team flatlines at Arizona with its worst loss since '92

By Jeff Smith

Oregon Daily Emerald

TUCSON, Ariz. — The love fest at McKale Center began early, and ended late.

Just like the Arizona domination.

On senior night, 14,545 made up a sea of red that stretched from the boosters on courtside all the way up to the die-hards in the rafters. They cheered and hailed their beloved Wildcats through their every move in Arizona's final home game of the year.

There certainly was plenty to be jovial about for Tucson natives as nothing could go wrong for Arizona (21-7 overall, 13-3 Pacific-10 Conference) Saturday night in a 104-65 laugh.

And, by the way, the team they were playing was Oregon, but the men in green hardly made their presence felt as they wilted away in the desert heat.

"We didn't handle ourselves well with our composure in this environment," said Ernie Kent, Oregon head coach. "It needs to hurt. They need to be angry at themselves."

The 39-point deficit was Oregon's worst loss since a 106-54 defeat to the same Wildcats on Feb. 27, 1992, in McArthur Court. And if it weren't for Arizona's benchwarmers' occupying most of the second-half court time, Sat-

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“To know exactly when your season is over...you never want that.”

Freddie Jones
Oregon guard



Aaron Farnsworth Arizona Daily Wildcat

Oregon's Mark Michaelis (50) tries to stop Arizona's Lamont Frazier.

Ducks play like champs despite postseason destiny



PEZ SEZ

SCOTT PESZNECKER

It's been a season of hard lessons for the Oregon women's basketball team.

The Ducks learned that confidence can be fragile, along with knees and ankles. They learned that no matter how hard you try, it's hard to be a go-to player. They found out that opponents love to kick you when you're down.

But the latest lesson learned has been the most valuable: Having a conference-leading record isn't the only

characteristic of a true champion.

For the third time in three home games, the relentless Oregon women downed a Pacific-10 Conference foe that is bound for the NCAA tournament. This time, the prey was Arizona, which fell 83-78.

The Ducks won convincingly, not trailing once in the final 10 minutes of play. Junior guard Jamie Craighead swished three-pointers, building her single-season school record to 75 treys. Senior center Jenny Mowe, who dominated the paint early, sank a short jumper. And senior forward Angelina Wolvert hit all kinds of shots.

Point guard Alissa Edwards dished out nine assists and, with the score knotted at 53, sank a three-pointer to put her team ahead for good with 9:49 left.

It was Oregon basketball, almost at its best.

Sunday's game was more than a win. It was a last-second shout-out to the NCAA selection committee, as if telling it to overlook that loss to UCLA, because this Duck team is capable of so much more.

Whether Oregon's recent performances will be noticed is another story altogether.

But the point is this: Since losing to the Bruins and seemingly wiping away all remaining chances of an invite to the Big Dance, the Ducks have found a way to regroup and rebuild.

How did they do it? What was their motivation?

Earlier this season, lighting a fire under the Ducks seemed about as easy as burning a water-logged chunk of wood.

Yet there was obviously something burning at McArthur Court as Oregon withstood Arizona's attempts to regain

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Laura Smit Emerald

Forward Brianne Meharry scored 12 points against Arizona Saturday.