

Men's hoops wins final tune-up game

■ Despite their 23 turnovers, the Ducks defeat the Global Sports traveling team by 20

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball team served up a Happy Meal on Sunday at Global Sports — Supersized.

The Ducks got offensive production from their big men as they beat a traveling team of former college players 85-65 at McArthur Court in their second and final exhibition game.

"The biggest thing from today's game was that Chris (Christoffersen) played a lot better," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We're a lot more comfortable with our inside game."

Christoffersen scored 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and was one of five players to score in double digits and one of eight players to play double-digit minutes. Sophomore guard Luke Ridnour led all players with 16 points, on the strength of his 12-12 performance from the free-throw line.

"They challenged us with some good big guys," Christoffersen said. "It was good to get a game like this under our belt."

The game was anything but pretty, as the gritty Global Sports team forced Oregon into turnovers and fouled often. The Ducks, who had talked about cutting down on unforced turnovers after they committed 23 in the exhibition opener,

again committed 23 against Global Sports. "We just didn't take care of the ball," Oregon guard Freddie Jones said.

Many of those turnovers came in the first half, when mistakes on both sides of the court kept the score close. The score was 34-28 Oregon at the half. Global Sports was also kept in the game by the sharp shooting of former Iowa State guard Michael Nurse. The guard went 3-for-4 from behind the three-point arc in the first half, and ended 5-for-7 on the night. Many of Nurse's threes came from NBA-range or longer.

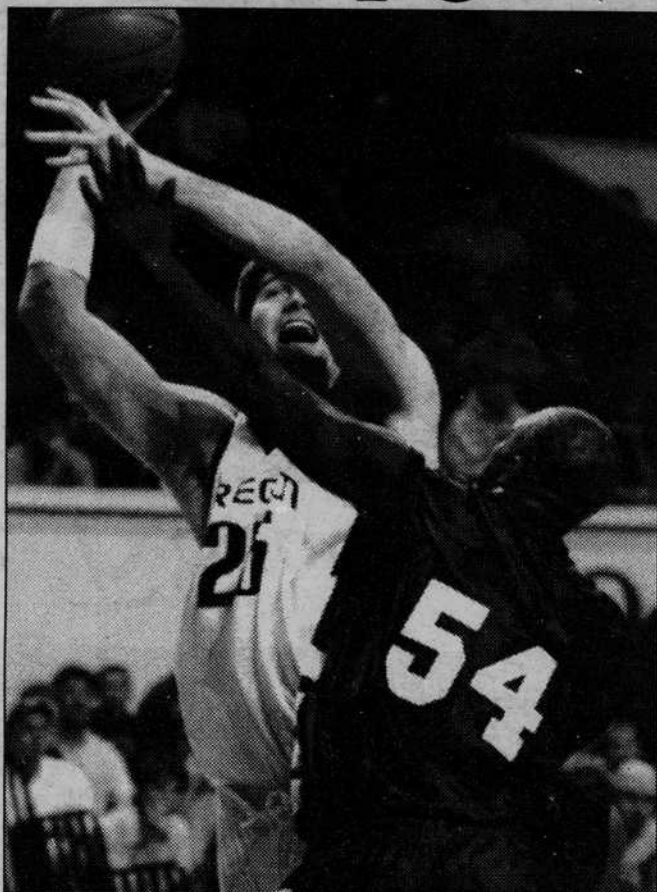
But Nurse ended up hurting his team in the second half. He received a technical foul in the first frame for yelling at an official during a time-out, then got ejected for strong words to the student section after drilling a long-range three-pointer in the second.

The Ducks' fans were treated to a usual array of Oregon fast-break trickery and dunking, and the small crowd at Mac Court got especially loud for a Jones dunk on an alley-oop from Ridnour in the 17th minute of the first half. The jam gave Oregon its first 10-point lead of the game.

"I was just trying to keep us going," Jones said.

The Ducks would widen their lead to as many as 22 before winning by 20 points.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon center Chris Christoffersen is fouled by Courtney James (54) of Global Sports. Christoffersen scored 14 points in the Ducks' victory Sunday.

Sports brief

NCAA snubs Oregon soccer team

The Oregon soccer team will not play again this season.

The NCAA Tournament bracket, released Monday by the NCAA, did not include Oregon, which was one of five Pacific-10 Conference teams to miss the postseason.

UCLA, a No. 3 seed, was the highest-ranked Pac-10 team, followed by No. 5-seeded Stanford, along with California, Washington and Southern California. UCLA and USC will both play in Los Angeles in the first rounds, Stanford and Cal will both play in Palo Alto, Calif., and Washington will head to Portland.

Despite not receiving their first tournament berth, the Ducks did finish this season with eight wins, the most since the program was created in 1996.

Oregon finished its season in Washington last weekend with a tie against the 13th-ranked Huskies, and a 4-0 victory against the Cougars.

Oregon State, Washington State, Arizona and Arizona State also missed a berth to the NCAA Tournament.

— Peter Hockaday

Hockey

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in the series, while the Ducks scored 16.

This weekend the Ducks head to Washington to take on the Huskies for the I-5 Cup. The cup, sponsored by Seattle-based Athletic Awards, goes to the winner of the Huskies-Ducks regular season matchups. Last year the Huskies won the cup by taking all four regular season games. Play for the cup starts Friday and Saturday in Seattle.

Mindi Rice is a freelance reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald.

Tennis

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winning three each to lead Oregon. Mendiburu, Nagle and Nyland won two matches each.

"One of our goals is to be competitive in every match we play," Nyland said. "With everybody winning, I think we accomplished that this weekend."

After withdrawing from an earlier tournament in Los Angeles, Oregon only played in two tournaments during the fall. But Griffin said he's not worried about a lack of experience.

"I think we can get enough experience during our practices to make up for the lost tournament," Griffin said. "We view these two tournaments as measuring sticks."

The team will alter its practice schedule until after the upcoming winter break. The coaches will meet with the players individually or in smaller groups to work on individual problems.

"We will meet with the coaches like an hour a day, two days a week," Nyland said. "The other three days, we'll meet as a team and work on conditioning."

The Ducks were able to gain some of the respect that they're looking for this season by the way they dominated in singles.

"Right now we can only worry about ourselves and how we play," Nyland said. "I still think we're going to surprise a lot of people during the regular season."

Peter Martini is a freelance reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald.

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