

Pilots land on Ducks' parade

■ Too little too late: Despite final-minute surge, Oregon falls to Portland for just the second time in 18 meetings

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

This is not the kind of start anyone had envisioned.

After a 77-73 loss to Portland on Tuesday, head coach Bev Smith and the Oregon women's basketball team have now lost two of their first three games of the season.

In 17 previous meetings between the regional foes, the Pilots (2-0 overall) had won just one game against the Ducks prior to Tuesday's triumph at the Chiles Center in Portland.

"We struggled tonight," first-year coach Smith said. "We have to have five people ready to play. There comes a time in the season where you have to make changes and find a starting five."

Oregon trailed 66-56 with 3:30 to play, but a three-pointer by senior point guard Edniesha Curry with 20 seconds left brought the Ducks within one at 74-73.

But Hanna Seltzer hit two free throws on the Pilots' next possession, and a steal by junior guard Ashlee Giles with 13 seconds left sealed the victory for Portland.

Curry, who had a game-high 20 points, scored seven points in the final minute and the Ducks were 4-for-6 on three-pointers in the final four minutes. For the game, though, Oregon was a dismal 3-of-22 on threes and shot just 37 percent from the floor.

"We're just not gelling yet," said Curry, who also had six rebounds and five assists. "We didn't have that cohesiveness for the whole for minutes. We have to come out ready to play."

Junior guard Shaquala Williams, Oregon's leading scorer in the first two games, had 14 points, while sophomore Cathrine Kraayeveld added 10 rebounds.

Portland had five players score in double figures, led by

Giles, who scored 18 points. Oregon won the battle of the boards, 42-41.

Jammin' with TCU

In the fourth annual Papé Jam this Saturday at the Rose Garden in Portland, the Ducks will battle the Texas Christian Lady Frogs, who enter the game 2-0 overall.

Oregon is 3-0 in the Jam, including a 62-54 victory over Santa Clara last year.

Saturday will be the first time the Ducks and Lady Frogs meet.

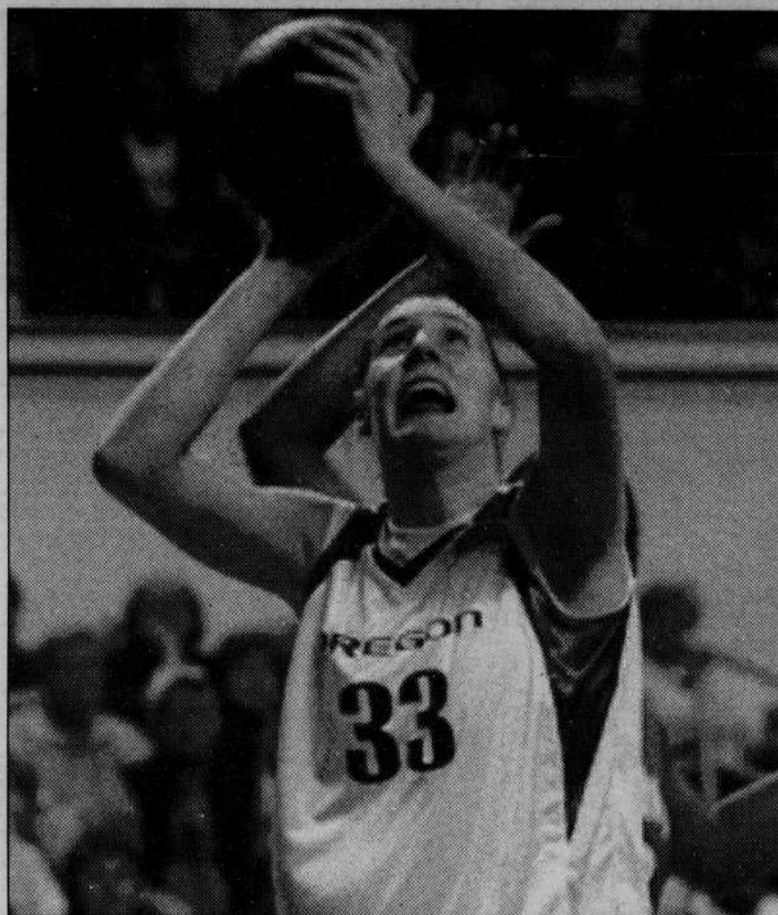
Texas Christian cruised past Air Force, 71-48, last weekend to continue its perfect start.

In its Nov. 16 season-opener against Sam Houston State, 6-foot-4 high school All-American Sandora Irvin led Texas Christian with 22 points and 18 rebounds in a 117-50 win.

Six players scored in double figures for Lady Frogs, including junior forward Grace Gantt, who had a game-high 25 points.

Tipoff is at 5 p.m.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Cathrine Kraayeveld had 10 rebounds Tuesday in Oregon's 77-73 loss to Portland.

Volleyball

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Ringel led the squad with five kills and an .833 hitting percentage.

In the game, Oregon hit a .417 percentage, but were only able to record 12 kills in 24 chances. Their two attack errors were virtually nil, compared to their nine each in games three and four.

"It still comes down to scoring more points than your opponent and minimizing unforced errors," Ferreira said. "When we disrupt their offense, we score more points."

However, the Ducks were not able to keep UCLA off the scoreboard enough, as they recorded 20 kills and a .586 percentage.

Game three would be much of the same, with UCLA giving the Ducks no breathing room. Tied at 11, UCLA won the next nine out of 10 points to put them in a commanding position, and held the

Ducks to only five points the rest of the way. A 30-16 win would be the result.

In the game, the Ducks looked tired and overmatched. They hit for a minus-.029 percentage compared to UCLA's .361.

Oregon's strongest match of the Pac-10 season ultimately proved to be the one that got away, but not before they put up a fight. Martin's 11 kills were second to Tobbagi's 16, and redshirt sophomore Heather Gilmore, seeing increased playing time, chipped in with nine.

"Heather had one of her better Pac-10 matches this year," Ferreira said. "Her contribution tonight is a huge contributing factor to a much more balanced offense."

The Ducks end their season tonight against USC. First serve is slated for 7 p.m. at McArthur Court.

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Hockaday

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some snacks that his mother sent down with him. We love Adidas.

2:30 p.m.: We're notified that the ticket office won't close until everyone in line gets their stubs. We laugh. We cry. We cheer.

We're getting tickets. At this point, there is no turning around. We know that tickets will be available Tuesday, but we're now on a mission. Someone in front of us leaves the line. He must be a Beaver fan.

4 p.m.: The rain starts.

4:30 p.m.: The rain gets harder.

5 p.m.: Torrential downpour.

5:15 p.m.: We enter "the pit," a mass of people near the ticket booth windows. We've heard it could take an hour or more from this point. This is also where it

starts to get cozy. The six of us — my party of three, Adidas and two other newfound friends — enter as a group and promptly split up, headed for different windows.

5:30 p.m.: It's getting dark, but we now get our first glimpse of the ticket windows. They shimmer with white light, and we can see that inside it is warm. And they have tickets. Warmth and tickets are the only two things we care about at this point.

6 p.m.: We're inching toward heaven.

6:12 p.m.: Bingo. I get to the ticket counter and slap down my ID with a huge, goofy, loopy grin on my face. The ticket-counter lady doesn't even notice. It takes four minutes to process my request. She hands back my ID and the beautiful ticket. I stand there and

stare at it with the same goofy grin until the guy behind me tells me to move or get killed.

6:16 p.m.: It's official. We've waited in line for more than six hours to see a game that could be three hours long. But at least we did it: We battled the elements and the clock.

The irony of the whole thing is that at 10:50 a.m. Tuesday morning, the wait for tickets at the EMU was 16 minutes.

But hey, I think that I'll enjoy the game more than someone who waited in that line. After all, I already have six hours of time invested in the Civil War. What do I have to show for it?

A piece of paper.

Peter Hockaday is a sports reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at peterhockaday@dailymerald.com.

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