

## Men's

continued from page 9

control of the rest of the half and hit the locker room with a 48-30 lead.

Jones ended the game with 20 points and his second-straight Papé Jam Most Valuable Player trophy. The senior from Gresham earned co-MVP honors for his 23-point performance against Massachusetts in the Papé Jam last season.

"It's special coming home," Jones said. "But I feel like I have support all throughout the state."

The Louisville defense stymied Oregon's guards in the first half, but after the Ducks' big men opened things up down low, Jones and the other guards had free reign in the second frame. Jones had his first dunk — a reverse jam on a break after he stole the ball — four minutes into the second half. The senior showed his acrobatic skills later when he

took an off-target pass from Ridnour and converted it into a reverse lay-in on a fast break.

"We knew that if we just kept going, that later in the game we'd get some easy buckets," Jones said.

Pitino had few positive things to say about his team, but gushed over the play of the Ducks.

"They'll be the best offensive team we will face all year," said Pitino, whose Cardinals play in Conference USA. "They're fun to watch on film, not fun to play against."

The coach said he was most impressed with the play of Oregon's point guard and floor general.

"I love Ridnour," Pitino said. "He's got great savvy. He stayed within himself tonight and made everybody else better."

The Cardinals' breakdown came when they failed to implement Pitino's trademark full-court

press. Louisville's players were not fast enough to keep up with Oregon's guards, and they were too small to defend Oregon's big men. The result was a far cry from Louisville's season-opener, when the Cardinals beat South Alabama 92-38 in Kentucky.

"I didn't pay attention to that game," Pitino said. "I pay attention to practices, and we had an awful practice (Friday). Somewhere in the middle of all the situations is the truth."

The Ducks, meanwhile, will head out on their first road trip of the season this week as they travel to U-Mass for a rematch with the Minutemen on Tuesday. Oregon will face Portland in the Rose City on Sunday, and head to Minnesota to play the Golden Gophers on Dec. 10.

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## Men's side

continued from page 9

hoping they'd be quicker than us."

Combined with 6-foot-9 center Brian Helquist and 6-foot-8 forward Robert Johnson, Christoffersen helped patrol the paint and force Louisville to make just 37.5 percent of its shots.

Johnson grabbed 10 rebounds and scored eight points, while Helquist scored 10 points in his 22 minutes of action that all came with Christoffersen on the bench as the two rotated in-and-out together.

"Every time we can get Chris, Brian and Robert to come out and have a good night, then we feel we're going to be really hard to stop that night," said Freddie Jones.

Six-foot-10 forward Mark Michaelis didn't play Saturday because of back spasms, but he's also involved in the revolving big men, including Jay Anderson, the head coach Ernie Kent is excit-

ed about using in different situations.

"We have five big guys that allow us a lot of freedom and a lot of miles there if needed," Kent said. "They're effective right now as a group."

And a big reason why is Christoffersen, who admits that he's a long way from where he wants to be. He missed five of the six free throws he shot. He wants to move his feet quicker on defense. And he wants to stay out of foul trouble.

New Louisville head coach Rick Pitino came away impressed with Christoffersen, but saw another area that the Oregon center can improve on.

"I think when the big guy learns to pass the ball better out of the post and pass to the weak side rather than just to the top, it's going to make him really difficult to play against," Pitino said. "He's 7-2."

Yes, that's tall. But height without confidence isn't useful.

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## Women's

continued from page 9

Oregon's guards, Curry and Shaquala Williams, who combined for 43 points on 13-of-25 shooting.

"We're still finding our chemistry with each other," Curry said of Williams. "I think today was the first game that we both clicked on all cylinders."

Texas Christian center Sandora Irvin, niece of former NFL star Michael Irvin and a high school All-American last year, scored 20 points for the Frogs. But she was held in check for most of the game by Oregon's posts, senior Alyssa Fredrick and freshman Andrea Bills.

"We knew they were a very

athletic team and when you have teams like that, their goal is to get out in transition," Williams said. "Our goal was to improve on our defensive transition, slow them down and make them beat us in a five-on-five situation. And we did all those things."

Offensively, the Ducks were able to establish presence in the paint, which opened the outside game for the guards. Oregon shot better than 45 percent from the floor and 44 percent from three-point range.

"We realize that this season wasn't going to be easy, that there would be a few bumps, and that we might not come out of the pre-season in great form," Williams said. "We just wanted to improve every game and I think we've done that."

## Texas Tech

Improvement will be key tonight as the Ducks host Texas Tech at 7 p.m.

Last year, in Lubbock, Texas, the then-14th-ranked Ducks fell to the 11th-ranked Lady Raiders, 79-75, in overtime. This year, Texas Tech (1-1 overall) — a 64-60 winner over Oregon State on Saturday — comes to Eugene as the favorite.

Like Oregon, the Raiders are anchored by their backcourt. Sophomores Natalie Ritchie and Jia Perkins lead the Raiders with a combined 35.5 points per game.

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## Women's side

continued from page 9

ahead for good at 13-4.

"At one point, we were trading twos for threes," TCU head coach Jeff Mittie said. "And you can't do that."

At the end of the first half, the Ducks shot 44.4 percent from downtown, setting the pace for what would later open up the Ducks' inside game. Freshman Andrea Bills, after scoring only two points in the first half, penalized the TCU defense for eight points late in the second half.

The Horned Frogs (2-1 overall) out-rebounded the Ducks by two, 38-36, but it was Oregon's ability to play an up-tempo offense off a quick transition that led to the wide-open looks.

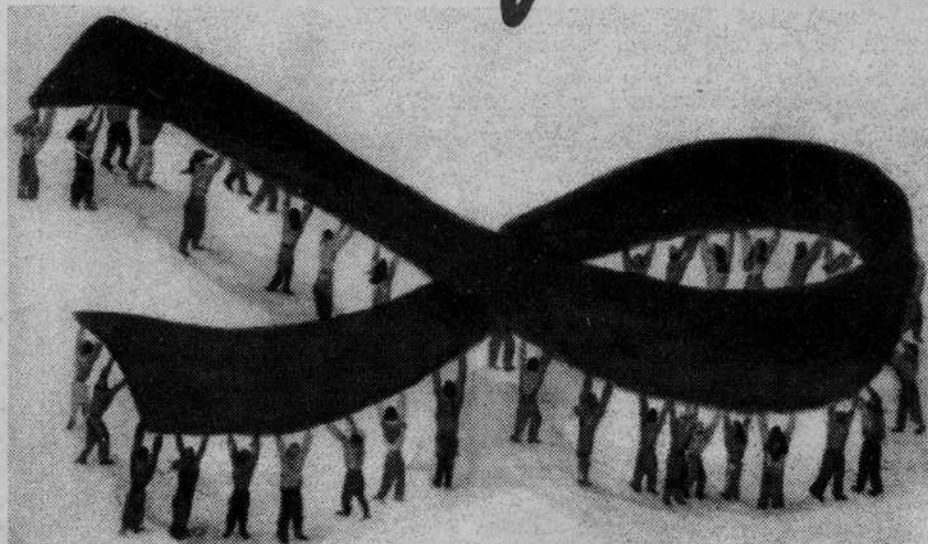
"Our execution both offensively and defensively enabled us to shoot well, be comfortable and not be so tight," Curry said.

Curry led the Ducks with four three-pointers, and Williams and Edwards pitched in with two of their own. Overall, the Ducks were 8-of-18 from beyond the arc and established a part of their game that was sorely lacking before the Papé Jam. Without a dominant inside force that it has had in the past, Oregon's three-point shooting becomes more important this season.

"We didn't force the threes and really got some good penetration," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "(We) move the ball so we spread them and now we can use some of our quickness to penetrate. When we kick it, we have people sliding and getting some rhythm, and when you're a shooter, that's very important."

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