

SPORTS

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Best Bet
Monday Night Football:
Tampa Bay at St. Louis,
6 p.m., ABC



Monday, November 26, 2001

Ducks 'Jam' home two wins at Rose Garden

■ The Oregon men's team blows out Rick Pitino's Cardinals with big defense and a patient offense Saturday in Portland to improve their record to 4-0

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

PORTLAND — Louisville is quickly turning into Loserville for legendary coach Rick Pitino.

The Cardinals' new leader suffered the first loss of his Louisville tenure as the Oregon Ducks (4-0 overall) toppled the Cardinals (1-1) 90-63 in the second game of the Papé Jam in Portland on Saturday.

Louisville's players missed 40 shots as the Ducks picked up their fourth win of the season with tenacious defense and patience on offense.

"The most impressive thing for us was that our stat sheet looked identical to our first five games," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said, referring to Oregon's two preseason wins and three regular-season blowouts. "It's encouraging to play that kind of basketball this early on."

Though the teams were billed as fast, up-and-down offensive squads, the game was won with defense and big men. Oregon established its post game early, as 7-foot-2 center Chris Christoffersen scored the first four points of the game.

Louisville tied the game with an Erik Brown three-pointer at the 17:28 mark. Oregon answered with a trey from Luke Ridnour and a Robert Johnson lay-in. At the 13:43 mark of the first frame, Ellis Myles converted a free throw for a three-point play, and the Cardinals tied the game at nine. It would be the last time Louisville would come close to Oregon.

Shortly after Myles' points, Oregon senior Freddie Jones converted a three-point play of his own after sinking a jump shot with three defenders hanging on him. The Ducks took

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Big men make big difference in victory

■ Oregon's post players score a combined 35 points in their 27-point win over Louisville at the Rose Garden

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

PORTLAND — A simple rebound and a stare was all it took for the Chris Christoffersen Project to finally take shape.

Against Louisville on Dec. 30, 2000, Christoffersen gained a much-needed confidence boost when he snared the ball away from a Cardinals player and gave him a look as if to say, "Don't even try to challenge me."

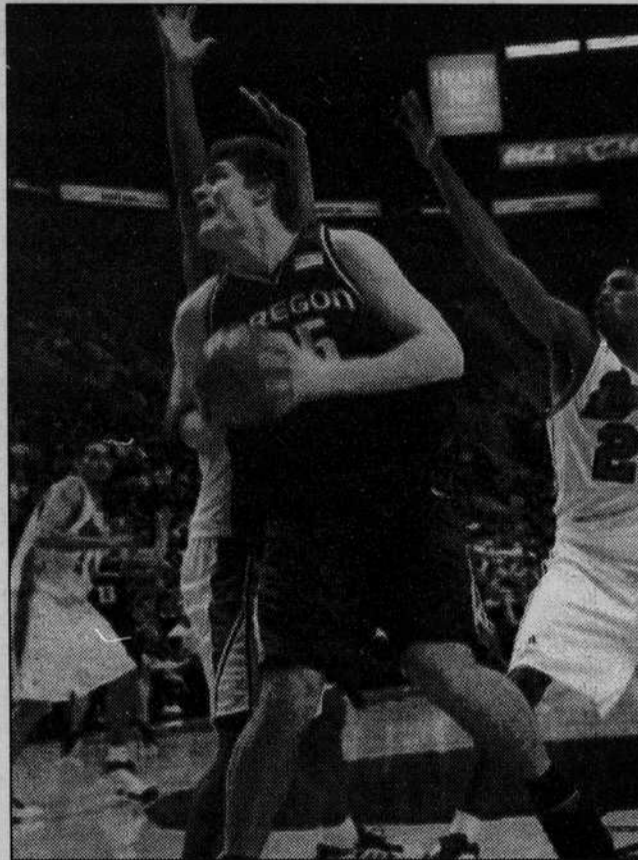
At that moment, a 7-foot-2 center was truly born. "That was the turning point," Christoffersen said last season. "I said, 'You know what, I can actually play with these guys.'"

Christoffersen became a spark off the bench throughout the Pacific-10 Conference season and is now a senior starter for this year's Ducks.

Against Louisville on Saturday night at Portland's Rose Garden, Christoffersen showed the Cardinals glimpses of what he's become, as his 13 points helped lead Oregon to a 90-63 victory.

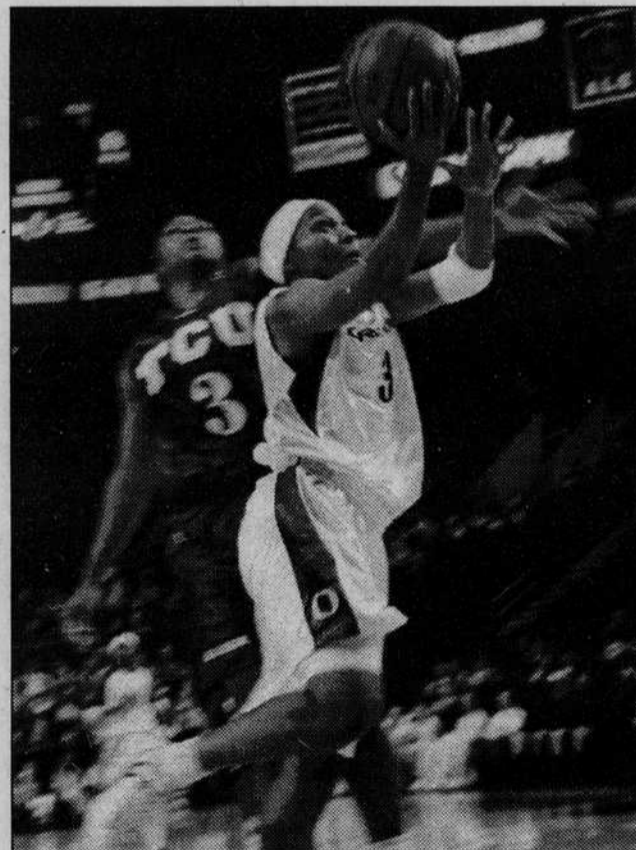
"I feel a lot more comfortable," Christoffersen said. "We had more size than they did and they were probably

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Thomas Patterson Emerald

Oregon senior center Chris Christoffersen scored 13 points and grabbed six rebounds in the Ducks' 90-63 win against Louisville.



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Junior guard Shaquala Williams scored a game-high 22 points in Oregon's 75-63 win over Texas Christian at the Papé Jam.

■ A 75-63 win over Texas Christian at the annual Papé Jam gives the Duck women added confidence heading into a matchup with No. 8 Texas Tech tonight

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

PORTLAND — There's nothing a little WD-40, super glue and duct tape can't fix. Bev Smith must have had them all handy last week, and she's hoping the stick doesn't wear off tonight against No. 8 Texas Tech.

Four days after a 77-73 loss to Portland — the Pilots' second win over the Ducks in 18 years — the Oregon women's basketball team surprised Texas Christian with a 75-63 victory Saturday at the Papé Jam.

The Ducks, 2-2 overall this season, are undefeated in four tries in the annual Jam at Portland's Rose Garden.

"We have a very unique and dynamic team and we're just starting to understand that," said Smith, Oregon's first-year coach. "TCU was a highly touted team, but we didn't pay attention to that. We kept our focus on our game plan."

Senior guard Edniesha Curry scored eight points, including back-to-back three-pointers, in the first three minutes of the game as Oregon jumped out to a 13-4 lead — and the Ducks never looked back.

Oregon held the Horned Frogs (2-1 overall) to 25 percent shooting in the first half, taking a 34-21 lead into the locker room. In its first two games against Sam Houston State and Air Force, Texas Christian averaged 94 points and more than doubled its opponent's scoring.

"We were very aware that this was no Sam Houston," TCU head coach Jeff Mittie said. "We dug a hole early and Oregon didn't let us out of it."

Particularly, Mittie said he was surprised by the play of

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Three-point success aids in Oregon win

■ Three-point shooting comes alive for Oregon women's basketball in a win over Texas Christian

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

PORTLAND — With just a little more than two minutes left in an Oregon win over Texas Christian on Saturday at the Rose Garden, junior Alissa Edwards nailed a three from above the arc, putting the Ducks ahead 68-52.

Edwards' basket, although helpful, didn't put Oregon ahead for good and didn't take any momentum away from the Horned Frogs. Instead, it was just a microcosm of the success the Ducks enjoyed from the three-point line, something that ultimately led them to their second win of the young season.

"I don't think it was the key," junior Shaquala Williams said. "But the three-pointers helped."

After shooting only 23.8 percent from beyond the three-point line in their first three games, the Ducks (2-2 overall) established the long distance portion of their offense early. Within the first three minutes of the first half, senior Edniesha Curry sank one from beyond the NBA three-point line, and followed that 20 seconds later with another.

Not to be outdone, Williams knocked one in from downtown a minute after Curry's second, putting Oregon

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It's a stretch, but No. 4 Oregon could still play for national title

■ The Ducks are ranked the highest they've ever been, but need some help in reaching their ultimate goal

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Baby steps.

With Nebraska and Oklahoma both losing over the weekend, the idle Oregon football team moved

up to No. 4 in the Associated Press poll released Sunday, the highest the Ducks have ever been ranked.

But, with the ultimate prize going to the top two teams in the final Bowl Championship Series rankings Dec. 9, Oregon still has a couple more steps to take to reach its ultimate goal.

And it doesn't look like it will get any better today when the weekly BCS poll is released. According to the Web site collegebcs.com, Ore-

gon will remain No. 5 in the BCS, with Miami, Florida, Texas and Nebraska rounding out the top four.

The Ducks (9-1 overall, 6-1 Pacific-10 Conference) are already guaranteed at least a share of the Pac-10 crown and a trip to Tempe, Ariz., for the Fiesta Bowl, but need a win over Oregon State on Saturday in the Civil War, and some luck, to get to the Jan. 3 Rose Bowl, the site of this year's national championship.

Assuming they end up in Tempe, the Ducks' opponent will be the winner of the Big 12 championship game between Texas and Colorado, if neither team receives a bid to the Rose Bowl. The Big 12 championship will be broadcast on ABC before the Civil War game Saturday.

With a 65-7 win over Washington, Miami (10-0 overall) will most likely move into the top spot in the BCS with a matchup against Virginia Tech in the regular season fi-

nale on Saturday. Florida (9-1 overall) earns a trip to Pasadena with a win this week over Tennessee, ranked fifth by the Associated Press, and a victory in the SEC Championship game Dec. 8.

Oregon has not played since the 21-20 win over UCLA in the Rose Bowl on Nov. 10.

Adam Jude is the sports editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at adamjude@dailymerald.com.