

## SPORTS

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**Best Bet**  
Basketball: Illinois at Maryland,  
4 p.m., ESPN



Tuesday, November 27, 2001

## Late surge not enough for UO

■ Despite 72-65 loss, the Ducks are able to gauge where they stand against No. 8 Texas Tech

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It seemed destined for another miracle at Mac Court. Trailing 63-52 with less than four minutes to play, the Oregon women's basketball team came scorching back to within three points in the final minute against No. 8 Texas Tech on Monday at McArthur Court.

Guards Shaquala Williams and Ednisha Curry had back-to-back steals to cut the Lady Raiders' lead to 66-63 with 54 seconds left, and after two missed free throws by Texas Tech's Casey Jackson, Curry took a pass from Williams and found herself open beyond the three-point arc.

"We had a wide-open three at the end, and that's as good as it gets," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "If that goes, it's a whole different ballgame."

Curry's three sailed long, and her next two shots couldn't find the bottom of the net either, as the Ducks ended a five-game, nine-day stretch with a 72-65 loss to Texas Tech in front of 4,206 fans.

For the second straight game, the Lady Raiders nearly

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Texas Tech's Plenette Pierson grabs one of her 12 rebounds over Oregon's Shaquala Williams in the Lady Raiders' 72-65 win Monday at McArthur Court. Texas Tech won the battle of the boards, 48-36.

Adam Amato Emerald

## Texas Tech's rebounding advantage sparks win over Ducks

■ The Lady Raiders dominated the paint against Oregon, which helped lead them to a seven-point victory

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Texas Tech isn't No. 8 in the country for nothing.

In what ultimately came down to the battle of the boards, the Lady Raiders outrebounded Bev Smith's Oregon squad, propelling Texas Tech to its second win of the season and sending the Ducks their third loss.

With a backcourt that could

match any in the country, Oregon knew it had to neutralize Texas Tech's inside game, especially when it came to getting offensive rebounds. The Ducks couldn't do that, though, and allowed the Lady Raiders' offense to get second and third chances. Texas Tech scored 10 second chance points in the first half, as opposed to Oregon's three.

"We knew the guards could be a standoff, so we needed to take advantage in the paint," Texas Tech head coach Marsha Sharp said. "Any time you're on the road, you have to play great defense and get the rebounds."

The Ducks were unable to keep

the Lady Raiders away from the ball offensively in the first half, surrendering 14 offensive rebounds while collecting only three of their own. Texas Tech junior Plenette Pierson victimized the Ducks for seven total rebounds in the half, including four off of Lady Raiders' missed shots.

"In the first half, they got some key rebounds that hurt us," Oregon freshman Andrea Bills said.

The Lady Raiders' rebounding advantage in the first half allowed them to take 36 shots but they only connected on 11, allowing the Ducks to stay in the game.

"We knew we had to crash the

boards because their guards were going to run," Texas Tech sophomore Casey Jackson said. "When you shoot like that, you have to rebound."

The Ducks seemed to sense the urgency to pick up their play in the second half and grabbed 21 rebounds while allowing the Lady Raiders to collect 22. Oregon picked up nine offensive rebounds and held Texas Tech to only six. But Sharp's squad utilized their shots in the half, connecting on 12 of 25.

Pierson played a huge role in controlling the paint, scoring 22 points and grabbing 12 rebounds, both game-highs.

"She's a go-to player," Smith said

about the Lady Raiders' leading scorer. "In a game such as this, you want to give her the ball. She hit some shots and they are eighth in the nation because of her contributions."

Overall, Texas Tech held the Ducks to 36 rebounds while grabbing 48 of its own. What really made the difference, though, was the Lady Raiders' 20 offensive rebounds.

"Our post players certainly have to come down a little bit more aggressively with that ball," Smith said. "That's a learning process and we'll work to improve it."

Emerald sports reporter Hank Hager can be reached at hankhager@dailymerald.com.

## Civil War week begins for antsy UO

■ The Ducks hit the practice field Monday with renewed energy after not playing a game since Nov. 10

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Sitting, waiting, practicing, resting, watching and eating.

Finally, after two weeks of nothingness, it's game week. But not just any game week. It's Civil War week.

"It's here. I can't wait. We're ready," defensive lineman Chris Tetterton said.

A lot has happened since the Ducks (9-1 overall, 6-1 Pacific-10 Conference) last played Nov. 10, when they beat UCLA. Good teams have since lost, and Oregon has been guaranteed at least a trip to the Fiesta Bowl, regardless of what happens against Oregon State.

But while the Ducks have remained in contention for the national championship, they didn't

receive much help Monday from the new Bowl Championship Series rankings, which has Oregon at No. 5. Miami moved into the top spot, followed by Florida, Texas and Nebraska.

"I thought we'd move up a couple, but oh well, what are you gonna do?" tight end Justin Peelle said.

"I think the problem is not playing," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "Had we played and secured a victory I think it would have changed things. I certainly would like to be higher, but I think we have to win this last game."

The game against the Beavers begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Autzen Stadium. Oregon has treated the contest as its first bowl game and has tried to use its time off wisely. But even Bellotti admitted that the long break between regular season games is a little ridiculous.

"We're used to one-week byes and sitting back, and that was OK, but the second week

in a row of sitting around and watching other people play got very old for me," Bellotti said. "Watching other people determine our fate, I'm tired of that."

There was plenty for Oregon to watch these last couple of weeks. On Nov. 17, Washington's victory in the Apple Cup secured the Ducks' Fiesta Bowl berth and took some of the pressure of having to win the Civil War off their backs.

And this past weekend, the losses of Nebraska and Oklahoma certainly grabbed Oregon's attention.

"I watched a lot of football. A lot of crazy stuff happened," linebacker David Moretti said. "Nebraska, by the way they got beat, and Oklahoma — both were pretty big shockers. It shows you that in a rival game, you throw everything out."

With a win against Oregon State, the Ducks could have a chance to finish first or

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## Men hit road for first trip, look to 'a-Mass' 5th victory

■ The Oregon hoopsters will look to thwart UMass' revenge bid in Springfield, Mass. tonight

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball locomotive keeps on chugging through the pre-season.

The latest victim? Louisville. Tonight's candidate for steamrolling is Massachusetts.

The Ducks already ran over the Minutemen once, last season at the Papé Jam, 91-76, the same tournament where Oregon (4-0 overall) toppled Louisville on Saturday, 90-63.

The most important part of the Ducks' trip to Massachusetts may be the trip itself.

"It's good to get out by ourselves," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "Typically, my teams have really grown together when they can just be the guys out there."

The Ducks flew out to the East Coast on Sunday after their game Saturday night, and have spent their time touring the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., among other things.

"It's a good chance for them to go back there and get a little sense of history," Kent said. "Hopefully they'll learn a new respect for the game and how it all started."

On the court, the game should be hard-fought. The Ducks embarrassed the Minutemen last year in Portland, and UMass will be looking to avenge that loss.

Even without the revenge factor, tonight's game could be gritty. The Minutemen play tough defense, and have given up just 59.5 points per game this season. Oregon has also found defensive intensity this season, as the Ducks allow 57.5 points per game. That number is drastically reduced from last season's four-game average of 71.5.

"We feel like we've come a long way

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