

SPORTS

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Best Bet
Men's Basketball:
Texas at Texas Tech,
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**"This is the biggest win I think this program's had in a long time."
— Luke Ridnour, Oregon guard**

Kent-coached Ducks finally outlast Stanford

■ Five Ducks score in double figures as Oregon gives its coach his first victory against Stanford

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

An emphatic fist pump and a hard clap was Ernie Kent's immediate reaction when the final buzzer sounded.

He then quickly composed himself, walked over to Stanford head coach Mike Montgomery, and shook his former boss's hand.

Oregon's message-sending 87-79 victory over No. 14 Stanford on Saturday at McArthur Court not only meant a lot to the Ducks after ending a 10-game losing skid to the Cardinal — it also represented a personal hurdle that Kent finally cleared.

Kent was an assistant coach under Montgomery at Stanford for the 1990 and '91 seasons. But since taking over Oregon in '97, his team hadn't been able to conquer Stanford under his guidance.

So after the roar of the sold-out crowd of 9,087 helped push the Ducks to the win, there was indeed obvious happiness for Kent. But more so, he said in his postgame press conference, the satisfaction came in finally seeing his team reach that next level.

"For me and for my staff, it's great that we finally beat Stanford because they've been such an elite program and we've been playing catch-up for so long," Kent said. "But more importantly for me, the joy is for our guys.

"They have worked so hard and they're seeing the results."

Right now, the results can be seen in the Pacific-10 Conference standings.

Southern California tops the league at 5-0, but Oregon is second with a 5-1 league record.

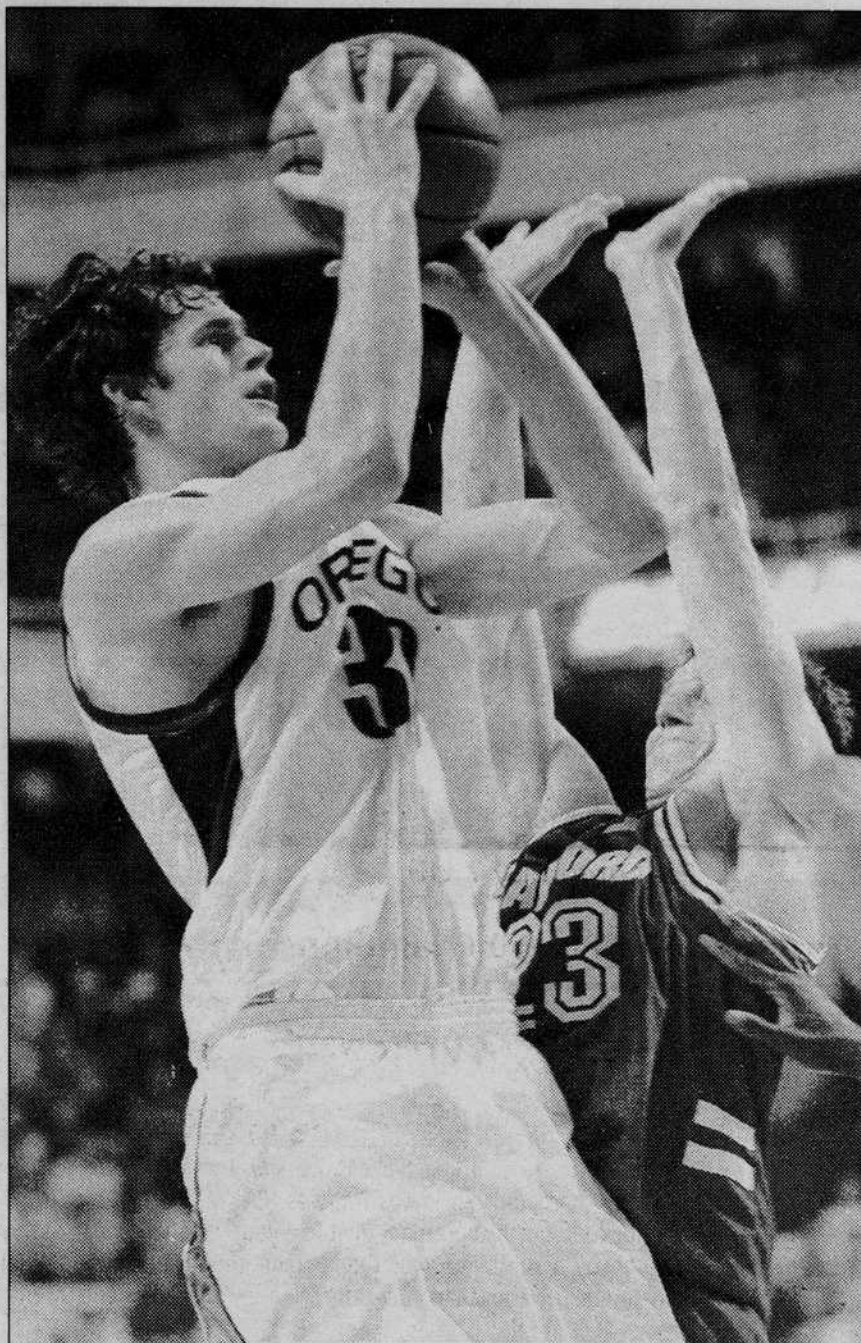
It's still early, but the Ducks (12-4 overall) know that the league is up for grabs. Winning at the Pit will be key and protecting their home court against the Cardinal is the kind of game that can give them the momentum to run off a string of victories.

"This is the biggest win I think this program's had in a long time," point guard Luke Ridnour said. "We're starting to prove ourselves. This is huge."

The difference in Saturday's game was balance of scoring with five Ducks scoring in double figures versus just two for the Cardinal.

While Stanford's Casey Jacobsen and Curtis Borchardt each tallied career-highs with 32 and 29 points, respectively, the other nine Cardinal players combined for just 18 points.

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Oregon forward Luke Jackson shoots over Stanford's Casey Jacobsen on Saturday. Jacobsen led all scorers with 32, but Jackson's 27 led the Ducks to the victory at a sold-out Mac Court.

Tale ends in defeat for Casey

There is no joy at Stanford. Mighty Casey has struck out.

Mighty Casey Jacobsen, Stanford's junior All-American, is considered to be the best player in the Pacific-10 Conference, is a candidate for his second-straight All-American honor and is the star of a Cardinal team that has won back-to-back-to-back Pac-10 titles.

Mighty Casey had never lost at McArthur Court, nor to Oregon at all for that matter. He had always shone in this venue because, he said, of the crowd that despises him so.



Peter

Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

"This crowd hates me more than any — them and Cal — Oregon fans really, really get after me," Jacobsen said. "It only makes me play harder and tougher. I appreciate the fans for motivating me tonight.

"They're a great crowd. I would love to have them on my side, I'll tell you that. No hard feelings towards them at all."

Mighty Casey had the best offensive game of his career against Oregon on Saturday night. He scored 32 points, a career-high, and hit all four

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UO wrestlers fall to Michigan

■ Still suffering from lingering injuries, Oregon loses to No. 4 Michigan, 30-9

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

The meet began well for the Ducks as junior Brian Watson won his 141 weight class battle, but the No. 4 Michigan squad was too talented for the limping Oregon wrestlers.

In front of 878 fans at McArthur Court on Friday night, Oregon dropped its record to 3-4, while Michigan improved to 5-0 in the 30-9 nonconference dual meet.

Watson won the first match over No. 12 Clark Forward in a hard-fought double-overtime decision. After three periods, Forward and Watson each had exchanged takedowns and surrendered two escapes to each other. During the first one minute overtime, neither wrestler could gain an advantage. In the second overtime, Watson chose to start on the bottom, and 18 seconds later had escaped from Forward's grasp to earn one point and the win.

"I thought I could win that match," Watson said. "I knew if I wrestled smart I could. "It wasn't a peak performance — I know I can wrestle better. Hopefully there are big-

ger upsets to come."

Michigan followed with wins in the next two weight classes — No. 8 Mike Kulczyk's decision over Casey Hunt (149 pounds) and No. 5 Ryan Bertin's technical fall over Michael Badicke, 26-10, at 157 pounds.

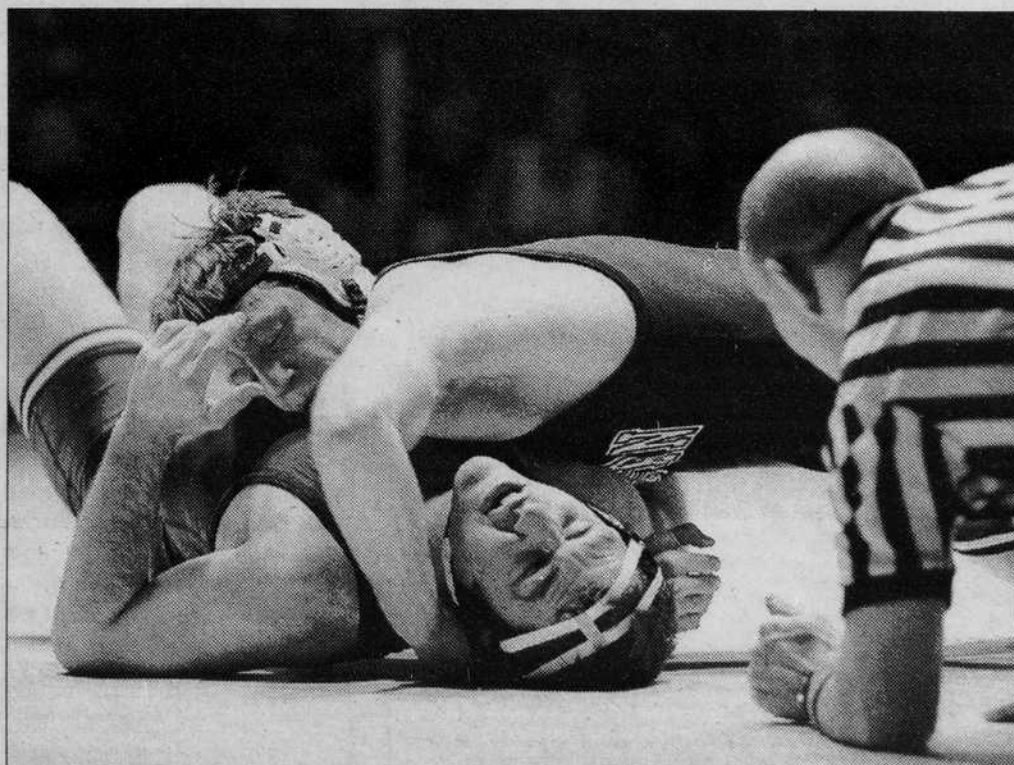
Oregon senior Eugene Harris, ranked No. 6 in the country, followed with a win at the 165-pound class over No. 13 Charles Martelli. After regulation time, the score was tied 1-1, but Harris was able to score a takedown with 18 seconds left in the first overtime period.

Throughout the match, Martelli kept skirting away from Harris's attempts at takedowns. A few times during the match, Harris had Martelli's legs wrapped and was close to earning takedown points when the wrestlers were whistled out-of-bounds.

"I just had to stay with my game plan, keep motion up and it eventually started to go my way," Harris said.

After Harris's win, the score of the meet

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Michigan's Otto Olson, the No. 2 wrestler in the country, pinned Oregon's Dustin Fisher in Michigan's 30-9 win.