

Oregon Daily Emerald

SPORTS

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UO sloppy in win over Willamette

■ Oregon is outthrustled by Willamette, but the Ducks still win by a hefty margin

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

McArthur Court turned 75 years old Tuesday night.

At times, the Ducks looked like the "Tall Firs" from 75 years ago — and it wasn't just their pulled-up socks.

The Oregon men's basketball team went back in time by playing the Division III Willamette Bearcats in a rematch of the first game played at Mac Court, 75 years ago, when the Tall Firs won 38-10. The Ducks won Tuesday's contest by 23 points, 71-48, but were often outplayed by the underdog Bearcats.

"They brought energy and hustle, and that's what they were supposed to do," said Oregon guard Freddie Jones, who led all scorers with 19 points Tuesday night.

There were enough festivities and special events to take the spotlight off the poor game play, but the game continued nonetheless.

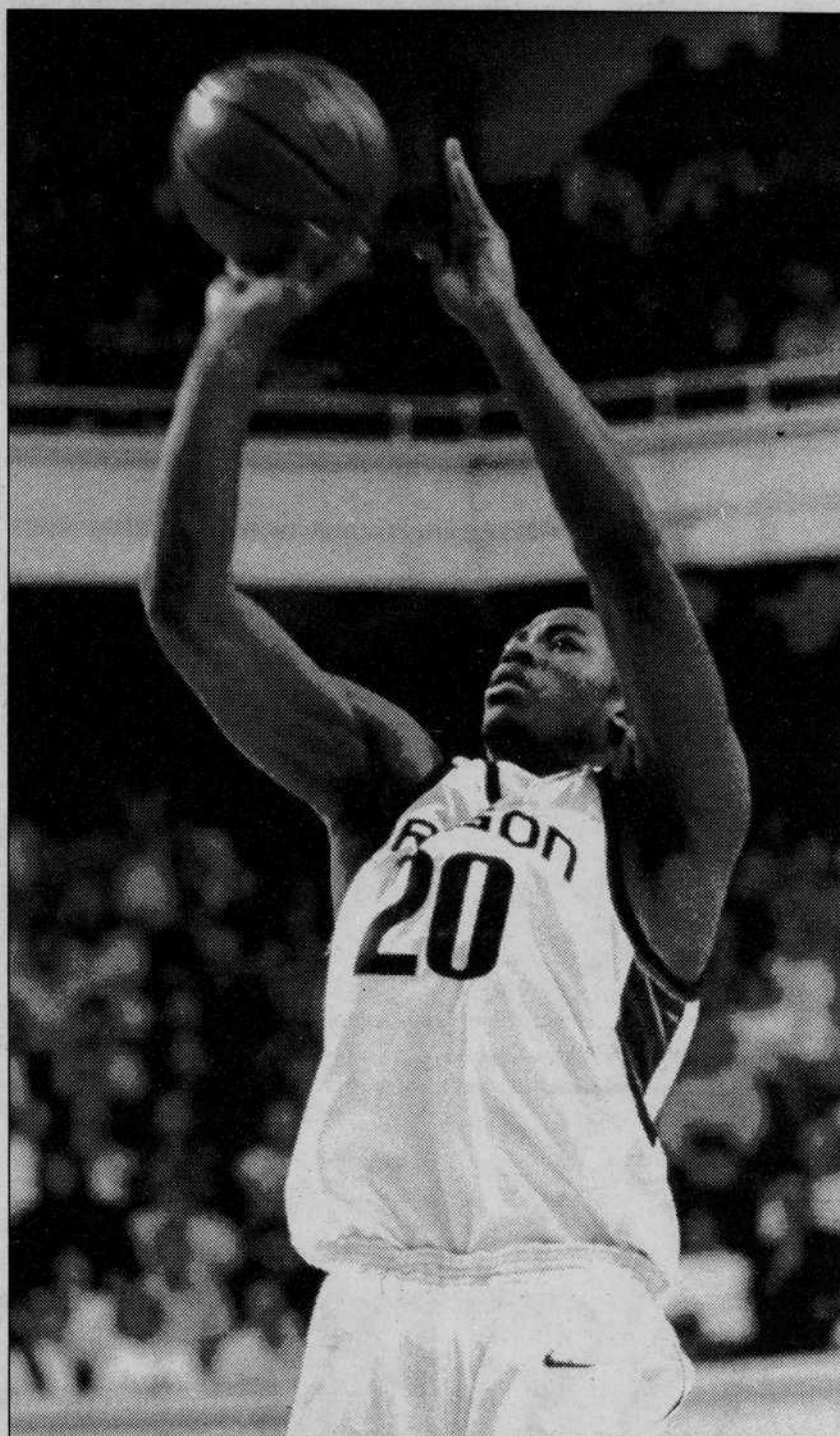
The two teams combined for only 10 total points in the game's first six-and-a-half minutes. Willamette went on various scoring droughts that lasted 2:14, 2:38, 3:03 and 10:40. The Bearcats shot only 17.2 percent from the floor in the first half, and the Ducks were also below average, shooting 35.5 percent.

"It was a tough game for us to get up for after Stanford and Cal," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said, referring to the Ducks' last two wins against Pacific-10 Conference foes.

For three glorious minutes Tuesday



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Adam Amato Emerald

Senior guard Freddie Jones scored a game-high 19 points in Oregon's 71-48 win over Willamette.

The Pit celebrates its former players

■ Nearly 50 former Ducks reunite at Mac Court to honor the building's 75th birthday

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Unable to find a pen, Greg Bell began asking around. Finally, after securing a black marker, he walked over to Ret. Navy Adm. John Dick to see if Dick could sign his shirt for him.

But Bell had to wait in line. Dick, 83, a member of Oregon's storied 1939 championship team, was surrounded by fans young and old, all wanting to be in the presence of the former "Tall Fir."

And that was just fine with Bell, who, while he waited, signed a few autographs of his own; after all, he was a former Duck, too, having played at Oregon from 1981-85.

It was that kind of night at McArthur Court on Tuesday, where the Ducks' 71-48 win over Willamette received second billing.

This night belonged to the venerable Mac Court, which was celebrating its 75th anniversary in style by inviting back nearly 50 former players and coaches.

"Once a Duck always a Duck," said Bell, who was voted the most inspirational player on his team two years in a row in his time at Oregon. "This may sound cheesy, but more than any one game or play, it's really the fans that I've always remembered."

While the 8,561 fans in attendance Tuesday were given an opportunity to recognize the faces of the past, the celebration also gave the current Ducks a profound history lesson.

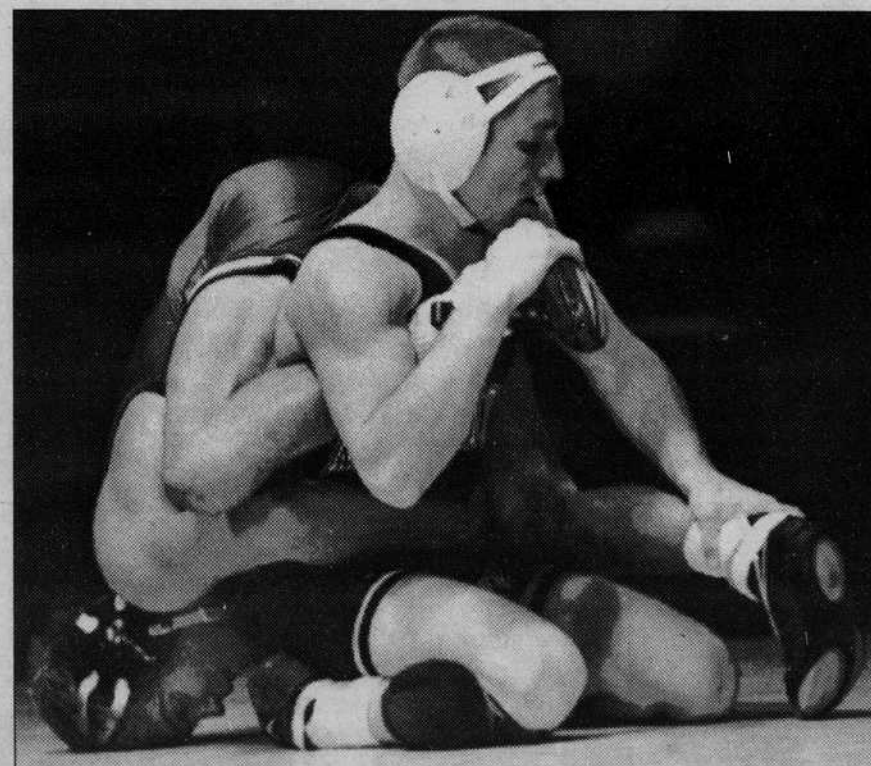
"I've been here four years, and I really have never understood the whole history of this building until tonight," said Freddie Jones, who led the Ducks with 19 points. "Those were the people that paved the way for us."

All around the Pit, there were moments to mark the occasion. On the scoreboard, in place of Ducks, was Webfoots. During a first half timeout, instead of a fan, former Oregon player Dave Kafoury (1964-66) participated in the "Outback Steakhouse 3-point Thriller," making a respectable four threes in 30 seconds.

And on the court, Oregon coach Ernie Kent was wearing an eye-catching lime green jacket that he called his "throwback outfit," and most of the Oregon players were sporting knee-high white socks.

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Oregon wrestlers break from action, prepare for championships



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon's Shaun Williams (left) lost to Michigan's A.J. Grant (right) Friday at McArthur Court and injured his ankle in the process. Williams and the Ducks have two weeks before their next match.

■ The Oregon team focuses on getting healthy before its next match, two weeks from now

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

After the Jan. 11 loss to No. 4 Michigan, which followed dual meets against then-No. 11 Northern Iowa and then-No. 16 Nebraska, the Oregon wrestling squad finally has some time off from competition.

Don't expect the Ducks to sit back for a minute, though.

"It's the start of our Pac-10 and national championship training program," head coach Chuck Kearney said.

The next three weeks, during which the Ducks will face Pacific and Central Washington at McArthur Court on Jan. 25, Kearney said that his plan is to "extremely fatigue" his team in his two-a-day practices in order to prepare them for the remainder of the season.

A few of the Oregon wrestlers are coming back from injuries, and the ideal goal for the team — to be healthy and in excellent shape for the Pacific-10 Conference dual meets and championship portion of the season — seems to be a probability.

Jason Harless, who is 7-0 on the season at the 133-pound weight class but has not competed since Dec. 1, is back on the practice mat wrestling at full strength. Tony Overstake, who last wrestled

Dec. 20, still has lingering knee pain but is now drilling in "modified" live wrestling, Kearney said.

Shane Webster also has returned for the Ducks, and Kearney said that he is wrestling "as well as any of the guys coming back."

On the other side of the injury scale, Eric Webb and Shaun Williams have been sidelined for the Ducks since Friday night's loss to Michigan.

Heavyweight wrestler Webb, who aggravated his toe injury on Friday, now will have his foot in an immobilization boot for the next 10 days. Williams is suffering from an ankle sprain and has missed the Ducks' last two practices.

Conference foes

In the latest Pac-10 polls, released Jan. 7, Oregon is ranked No. 3 behind Oregon State and No. 1 Arizona State. The Sun Devils are the defending Pac-10 champions and feature wrestlers ranked in the top-four in the conference in eight of the 10 weight classes, including the No. 1 wrestler in the nation at 141 pounds, junior Eric Larkin.

This weekend the Sun Devils, ranked 10th in the nation, travel to Ohio State to compete in the 2002 Cliff Keen/NWCA National Duals. Their first-round opponent will be No. 6 Iowa State. The Cyclones of Iowa State feature the best 165-pound wrestler in the country, Joe Heskett. Iowa State's lineup also includes No. 1 Cael Sanderson at 197-pounds, who is 20-0 this season and 138-0 in his collegiate career.

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