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Best Bet
Winter X Games,
12 p.m., ESPN



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Senior duo leads Ducks to big victory

■ Jones and Christoffersen give Oregon a one-two punch-out over UCLA Thursday night

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Thursday night could have been Senior Night at McArthur Court, with the way Oregon seniors Freddie Jones and Chris Christoffersen lit up the nets and boards.

Jones and Christoffersen combined for 40 points and 20 rebounds in the Ducks' 91-62 blowout win over UCLA at Mac Court. Jones dominated on the floor and Christoffersen dominated on the glass, giving the Ducks a one-two punch that the

Bruins never answered.

Jones's high-flying antics have become commonplace during Oregon home games, but he can still amaze those who have played with him all these years.

"I'm still amazed by him," Christoffersen said. "Even though I've played with him for four years, I'm amazed how he can get off the floor."

Jones had 26 points on 8-for-14 shooting from the floor, and a pair of dunks that nearly caused Mac Court to crumble from the noise they created. The first came late in the first half, as Jones finished a scrambling play by driving on unsuspecting UCLA guard Andre Patterson and slamming home a one-handed tomahawk.

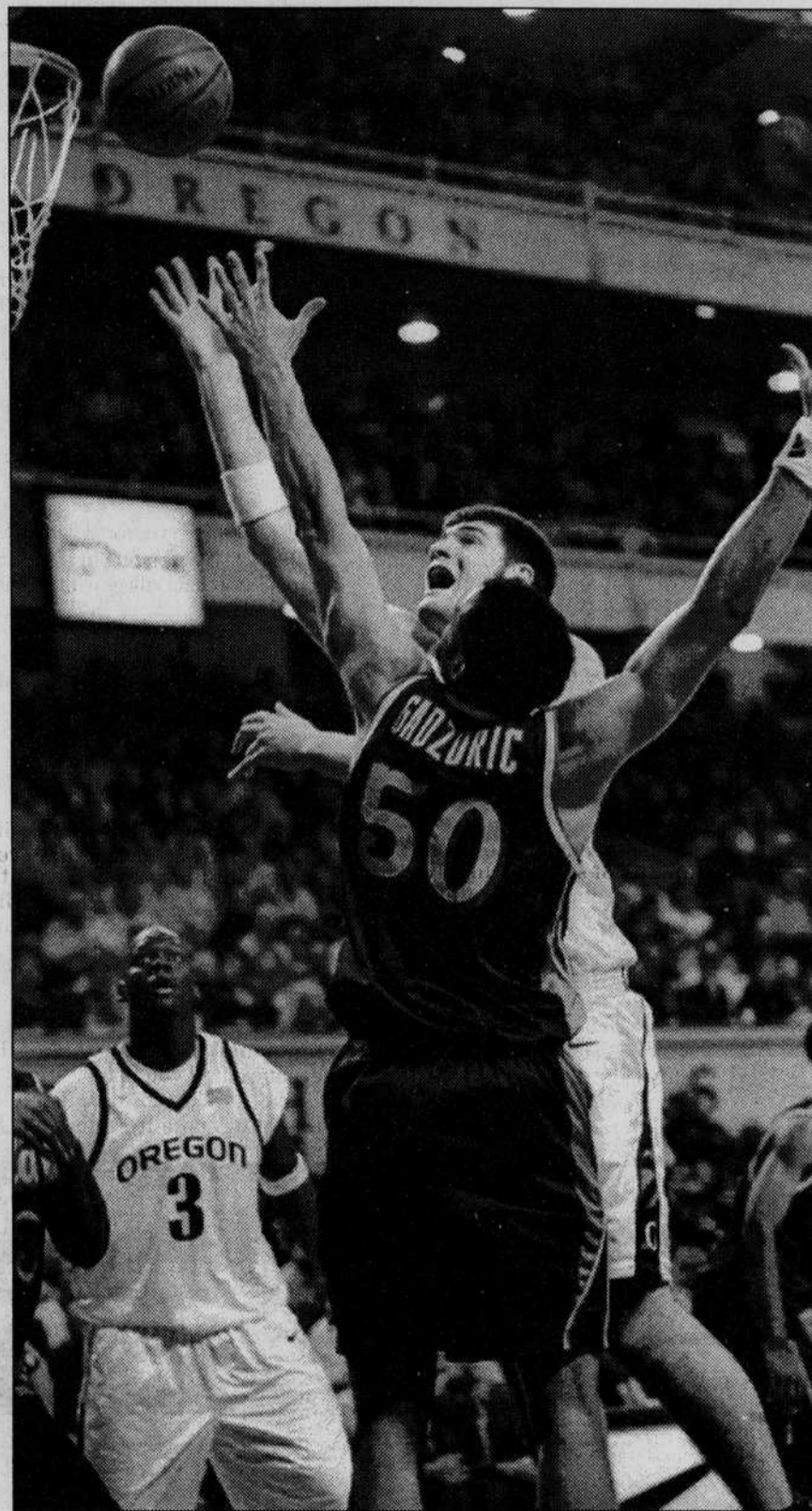
"When (Jones) scores like that, we're really tough to beat," Oregon point guard Luke Ridnour said.

Jones's second big dunk came late in the second half, when Ridnour picked the pocket of a UCLA's Cedric Bozeman, went on a fast break with Jones and fed the senior an alley-oop pass, which Jones obligingly slammed home.

"He's explosive in transition," Oregon's Luke Jackson said. "I don't

Turn to Duo, page 10

The Pit plays its part in UO rout



Adam Amato Emerald

Senior center Chris Christoffersen shoots over UCLA's Dan Gadzuric in Oregon's 91-62 win Thursday at Mac Court. Christoffersen had 14 points and a career-high 15 rebounds.

OREGON: 91

No. 13 UCLA: 62

NEXT: Oregon vs. USC, 3 p.m. Saturday at Mac Court, Fox Sports Network

■ Five Ducks score in double figures as Oregon remains in first place by trouncing UCLA

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

There have been some incredible atmospheres at McArthur Court since Ernie Kent took over as head coach in 1997.

But Thursday night, with a sold out crowd of 9,087 sounding like a few thousand more, the Oregon Ducks thumped No. 13 UCLA, 91-62, in a game that Kent believes jumps right to the top of the list.

"The crowd was the best crowd it's been all year long, and maybe the best one in the last five years," Kent said. "I felt the intensity in that building from the moment we walked out there. It was just an unbelievable environment."

Kent treated those students standing in line early to 200 pizzas as his way of thanking them for their support.

"We want to do that again Saturday," Kent said.

He wouldn't mind seeing his team play the same way Saturday, either.

Oregon (16-5, 8-2) could do no wrong against UCLA and proved itself worthy of its first-place status. Some began doubting the Ducks because of their loss at Washington, which pushed them out of the polls this week.

But Oregon will surely jump right back in after Thursday's resounding victory, which kept the Ducks tied for the league lead with the Trojans, who come to town Saturday.

The 29-point win was Oregon's largest ever over the Bruins and the most since Oregon beat UCLA, 56-30, in 1936. It also delivered the Bruins (14-6, 6-4) their most lopsided defeat of the season while the Ducks improved to 12-0 at home.

"I thought it'd be a closer game than that," point guard Luke Ridnour said.

Once again, one of the keys for the Ducks was balance, as all five starters scored in double figures. Senior guard Freddie Jones put on a highlight worthy performance in front of a national television audience, scoring a game-high 26 points. Sure enough, a few of his spectacular dunks were featured on ESPN's "SportsCenter" Thursday night, including his one-handed facial over Bruin freshman Andre Patterson with 4:14 left in the first half that put Oregon up 41-20.

Senior Chris Christoffersen recorded a career-high 15 rebounds, along with 14 points, for his second double-double of the season, and Ridnour scored 14 as well. Luke Jackson and Robert Johnson each contributed 11.

"Tonight, they were successful and we weren't able to even be competitive," UCLA head coach Steve Lavin said.

Perhaps even more impressive, though, was the play of the Oregon defense. On the road at the two Washington schools, the Ducks gave up a combined 183 points and let one guy score over 30 points each game.

Turn to Men's, page 12

Women fall to fifth after loss to Sun Devils

■ Arizona State's Melody Johnson continues her assault on the Ducks in the Devils' 69-58 win in Tempe

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

There's something about Melody Johnson that Oregon just can't contain.

Johnson, Arizona State's 6-foot-2 senior post, has a knack for knocking the Ducks, and did so again Thursday, scoring a game-high 18 points in Arizona State's 69-58 Pacific-10 Conference women's basketball victory. Against Oregon, Johnson averages 19 points a game.

"She was a thorn in our side," Oregon head coach Bev Smith told KSCR radio. "I thought we did a better job

on her in the second half, but that's what's so good about this ASU team — you stop one hole and another one opens up."

With the win, the Sun Devils (17-6 overall, 8-4 Pac-10) moved out of a four-way tie for second place in the conference. Oregon (12-9, 7-5) dropped out of the mix and into fifth place.

Arizona State jumped out to a 44-33 lead with about 15 minutes remaining in the second half, but the Ducks kept it close.

Sophomore forward Cathrine Kraayeveld led an Oregon charge early in the second half, hitting the

team's first-three pointer of the game with 16:10 to play to bring the Ducks within seven at 40-33. Two possessions later, Kraayeveld grabbed an offensive rebound and scored on a pass from Jamie Craighead to cap off a 7-0 Oregon run, to cut Arizona State's 11-point lead to 44-40.

One possession later, Kraayeveld picked up another offensive board, scored the put back and was fouled on the play. She converted the free throw to cap a 12-2 run that brought the Ducks within one at 46-45.

But not even Kraayeveld could stop the Devils' sharp shooting.

Boardman, a Beaverton, Ore., native, quickly responded with a trey and after an Oregon miss, freshman

Turn to Women's, page 12

Wrestlers have long haul vs. Pac-10 foes

■ The Ducks travel to Boise State and Arizona State this weekend for key conference matches

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon wrestling team will face an important test this weekend when they travel to Boise State and then to Arizona State.

Coming off three weeks of intensive training and two wins last weekend over Pacific and Central Washington, the Ducks begin a stretch run when they will face six Pacific-10 Conference opponents and host one nonconference foe (Fresno State) in the next 20 days.

The Ducks are currently 2-1 in Pac-10 meets. They began the season with commanding wins over Stanford and UC-

Turn to Wrestling, page 10

