Smith

continued from page 5

shared a tie for first place since Jan. 17. While the calendar on Saturday said it was only Feb. 2, both teams knew that the winner of this game would have the edge in the race to stand alone atop the league standings in March.

So the pregame motivation was there, and the game didn't disappoint. Unlike Oregon's 29-point rout over UCLA on Thursday, this game wasn't filled with highlight-worthy alley-oop dunks and breakaway onehand jams. In fact, for the first time in recent memory, Freddie Jones scored all of his points without a dunk.

Instead, the fans were treated to a physical, bruising slugfest, where the lead changed 13 times, taking the momentum with it each time.

And it was the emotion-filled sequences during the game that should be remembered for some time, not the incident of one Oregon fan charging a USC assistant after the game or

Bibby's angry words toward the students for their personal attacks.

This game was filled with classic, much more worthwhile moments.

With 12:47 to play in the first half, there was Jones being pick-pocketed by USC's Errick Craven, who was on his way to an apparent fast-break bucket. But out of nowhere, Jones hustled back, leapt up, extended his right arm toward Craven's left and just took the ball right from him.

"I've never seen plays like that," Kent said. "That was just awesome."

With 10 seconds left in the first half, Luke Ridnour had the ball and was dribbling, dribbling and dribbling, all the while being potentially fouled by his defender. With the crowd yelling at the refs, Ridnour found an opening, turned around

and flung it through the basket at the buzzer to give the Ducks the 43-40 halftime lead.

With 5:54 to play in the game, USC's future NBA player, Sam Clancy, buried two free throws to give the Trojans the 63-57 lead and hushed the nervous crowd. But then Jones promptly banged home a three that prompted Kent to turn toward the fans, raise his arms, and yell, "Come on!"

On the next play down the court, Ridnour dashed through the lane and got clobbered by Brandon Granville, who got charged with an intentional foul that sent the Pit into a frenzy.

And then, with less than a minute remaining, Clancy knocked home the final two of his gamehigh 25 points to give the Trojans the 69-68 advantage. Luke Jackson, who had just missed a key free throw, drove through the lane and scored, while getting fouled.

Jackson pumped his fist, bumped chests with Ridnour, and, after two timeouts, knocked home the free throw for the three-point play to put Oregon on top for good. "The fans are behind us the whole game," said Jackson, who was the last Duck to escape the postgame barrage of students on the floor. "I just love it. I love being a part of it."

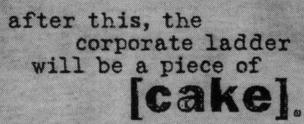
There was one person who wasn't a part of it Saturday. With the Ducks starting to make a splash on the national radar, Sports Illustrated sent a reporter to cover the game, but ...

"Sports Illustrated missed their flight, had to get turned around in air and didn't make it here," Kent said. "They came to do a story and had to watch it on TV and missed an awesome environment."

It was an awesome environment that helped cap a magical weekend where the Ducks took sole possession of first place and put themselves in a position to gain more national attention as the season winds down.

One can only hope now that as time goes on, the memories taken from Saturday will be those from the game itself and not the tension afterwards.

E-mail assistant sports editor Jeff Smith at jeffsmith@dailyemerald.com.





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Women's

continued from page 5

in the half. The Ducks grabbed 25 offensive boards in the game, compared to Arizona's 19.

"Their post play was more aggressive," Kraayeveld said. "They attacked the boards, but we just weren't there defensively. We just weren't able to stop them."

Down by nine at the half, Oregon came out flat again in the second and saw Arizona's lead balloon to as much as 22.

But three-pointers by Williams and junior Alyssa Edwards pulled the Ducks closer. Kraayeveld, on her to way to earning her fourth doubledouble of her career, also played strong underneath during Oregon's comeback.

With 3:28 left in the second stanza, the Ducks were down by nine, a minuscule amount considering their position early on.

But that was more of a confidence builder for the Ducks, as Arizona went on to sink 17 free throws from that point on. The Wildcats finished the night 33-of-43 from the line.

"We went to the free throw line so many times, and that was a key to our winning the game," Arizona senior LaKeisha Taylor said.

E-mail sports reporter Hank Hager at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

Men's Health Project A Work In Progress

What

Open meeting for students in men's health issues and developing a Men's Center on campus.

When

Monday, Feb. 4 at 3:00-4:00 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11 at 3:30-4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18 at 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Where

EMU Rogue Room

For more information

George Hanawahine at 346-3227 or menshealth@yahoogroups.com

UNIVERSITY

HEALTH CENTER

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- Men die seven years sooner in the US than women.
- College men are more likely than women to take risks with sex, drugs and driving.
- Suicide rates for 15-24 year old males is four to eight times higher than for females.
- Men represent 80% of the referrals to the conduct office at UO.
- U0 men are less likely than women to utilize Health and Counseling Center services.

