

## SPORTS

Best Bet  
Winter Olympics:  
Opening Ceremony,  
7:30 p.m., NBC



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Friday, February 8, 2002

## Neuheisel criticizes Oregon's recruiting

■ The Huskies head coach says there's a recruiting 'war' between Oregon and Washington

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's a dirty business, and Rick Neuheisel apparently doesn't like the way the game is played.

Offensive lineman Albert Toeaina joined his cousin, fullback Matt Toeaina, Thursday as the newest member of the Oregon football team. Toeaina, the lineman, is the second recruit to join the Ducks after verbally committing to Neuheisel, the Washington head coach.

"There's a war going on in the Northwest," Neuheisel told The Seattle Post-Intelligencer on Wednesday. "I'm up for the fight — let's go."

Albert Toeaina, one of the top offensive line prospects in

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## UO men slip at Stanford in OT

■ Oregon loses its 16th-straight at Maples Pavilion, 90-87, in overtime

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

STANFORD, Calif. — Moments after the final buzzer sounded, despite coming to grips with a heartbreaking defeat, the Oregon men's basketball players could realize what a spectacular game they had just been a part of.

Maybe if this were a different Oregon team, such as last season's version, a 90-87 emotionally and physically draining overtime loss at Stanford would be a back-breaker.

Especially so when considering that Oregon had the three-point lead in the end of regulation before Stanford's Tony Giovacchini knocked home a clutch,

long-range three-pointer to force the extra session.

But after battling, battling and battling some more for 45 minutes of NCAA Tournament-style play in front of 7,391 at hostile Maples Pavilion, the Ducks showed the maturity of a first-place team — which they still are.



Oregon (17-6, 9-3) now shares first place with 9-3 Arizona and can do no worse than remain on top of the standings with a split on this Bay Area road trip.

"We're fine," point guard Luke Ridnour said. "Saturday's for the league title."

Still, the sting of this loss, in a game that featured 29 lead changes, will be tough to forget about.

"It hurts, but we just have to put this behind us," forward Luke Jackson said.

It probably won't ever go away for players such as senior Freddie Jones, who played the last game of his career at Stanford and tied his career-high with 36 points. Jones led an offensive output that also included 18 points from Ridnour, 17 from Jackson and 10 from Robert Johnson.

Jones wanted to experience his first victory in Stanford and help deliver his program its first win at Maples Pavilion since Jan. 13, 1986. But the winless streak rolls into next season.

"We felt like we brought a team down

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## No. 2 Stanford inks win at the Pit with freebies

■ The Cardinal hit 17 free throws in the final four minutes to give Oregon its third straight loss

By Adam Jude  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For what it's worth, the Oregon women's basketball team nearly upended the second-ranked team in the country Thursday night at McArthur Court.

Nearly, however, is never good enough — especially for a team trying to push it's way back into the NCAA Tournament picture.

Oregon City native Lindsey Yamasaki scored a game-high 24 points as No. 2 Stanford won its first game at McArthur Court in four years with a 77-72 victory over the Ducks. The Cardinal (23-1 overall) are 13-0 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

With its third straight loss, Oregon drops to 7-7 in Pac-10 play (12-11 overall), putting its hopes of a ninth consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance in doubt.

"We felt we could beat them," Oregon junior guard Shaquala Williams said. "For some reason, Stanford brings out the best in us."

Oregon's best came in the opening minutes of the second half, when the Ducks outscored the Cardinal 21-6 to take a 52-46 advantage with 12:43 remaining.

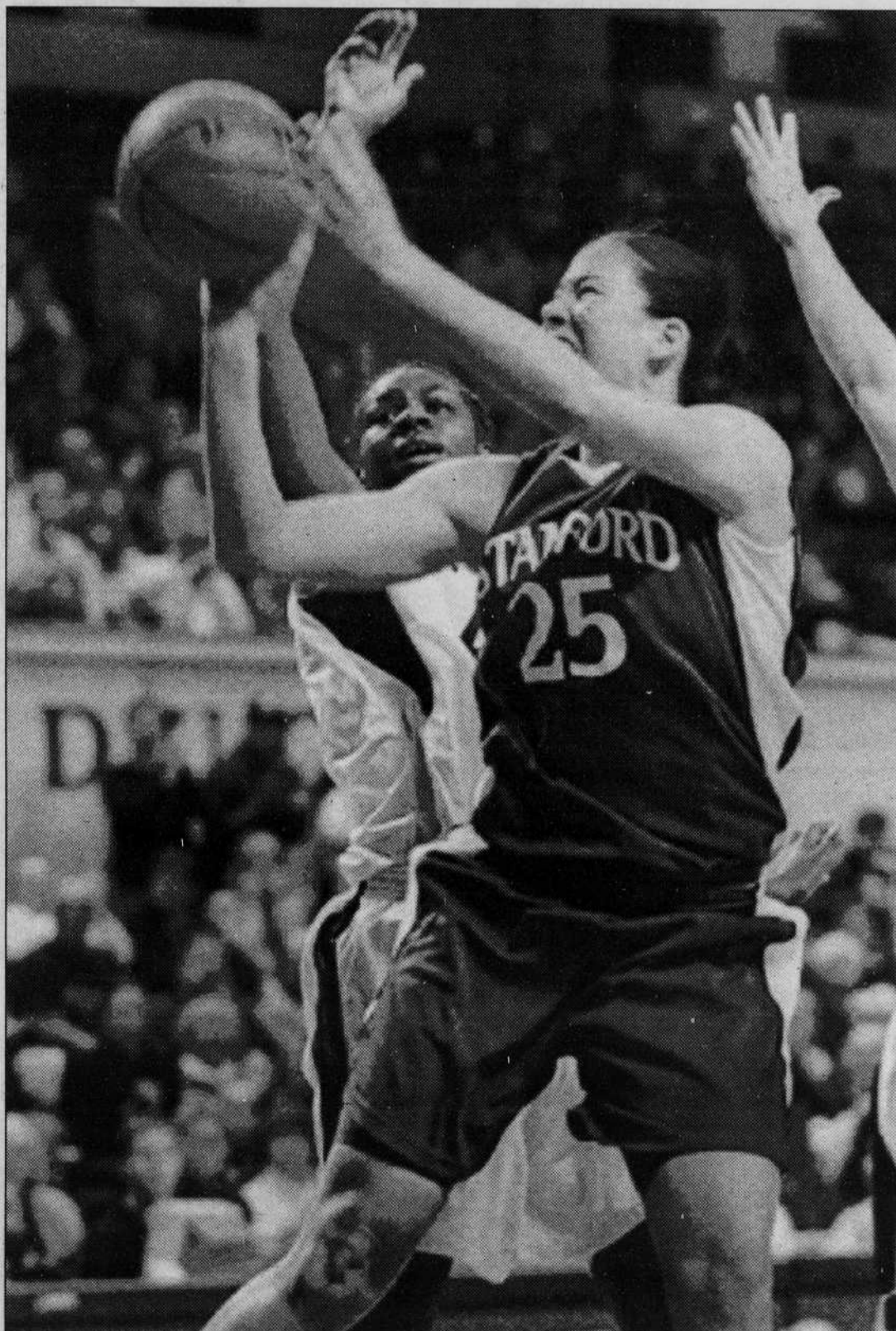
In a one-minute stretch, reserve guard Alissa Edwards ignited the Ducks with three straight buckets, her only field goal attempts of the game. Edwards sank a three-pointer at the 13:37 mark to give Oregon its first lead since midway through the first half. As Stanford point guard Nicole Powell tried to bring the ball upcourt after the trey, Edwards swiped the ball and drove past Powell for an easy, left-handed layin.

After a steal by Cathrine Kraayeveld, Edwards found herself wide open on the right side and swished an open jumper, giving Oregon the six-point lead, its largest of the game.

"We don't notice the score," Edwards said after the game. "We just try to play hard for 40 minutes."

Oregon knew Stanford's run was

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Adam Amato Emerald

Stanford senior Lindsey Yamasaki drives past Oregon's Andrea Bills in the Cardinal's 77-72 victory Thursday. Yamasaki, an Oregon City native, scored a game-high 24 points in her first victory at McArthur Court.

## Despite loss, Oregon gains confidence

■ The Ducks experience a boost in confidence after a close loss to the Cardinal at Mac Court

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The score read 77-72 in favor of Stanford, but for the Oregon women, Thursday's game may be something to file in the win column.

The Ducks (12-11 overall, 7-7 Pacific-10 Conference) desperately needed to play well against the No. 2 Cardinal. With four games left in the Pac-10 season, confidence is as important as ever.

"The way we played, I think we came out with a victory even though the scoreboard didn't show that," freshman center Andrea Bills said.

Oregon was not expected to hang tough with the Cardinal (23-1, 13-0), but matched Stanford almost point for point until the last three minutes of the game. With less than 13 minutes left in the second half, the Ducks even held a six-point lead.

The second-ranked Cardinal, however, proved to be too much in the end. But if there was silver lining in a loss, the Ducks definitely found it.

"I thought we played with maximum effort, and that's all you can ask of the team," first-year head coach Bev Smith said. "I thought the effort was there, and I'm proud of the way the team responded."

Stanford earned its first victory at McArthur Court since 1998, but had to do it in front of a harsh crowd. Despite the dismal weather conditions out of the Pit, 4,830 people showed up and made their presence known.

Stanford still has to come back to Eugene for the inaugural Pac-10 Tournament, and the Ducks know that.

"After this game, we're thinking we can go out and compete with anybody," Bills said.

However, the Ducks will need to play well in their final four conference games to move up to a higher seed for the tournament.

Currently, Oregon is ranked sixth

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