

Women's

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The Ducks were 10-of-15 from beyond the arc, only two short of a team record. They made seven in the first half, the fourth time they've done that this season.

But more important, it was a total team effort for Oregon against the Cougars. All 12 players scored, with Craighead finishing second to Williams' 24 points with 13 of her own.

"We had outstanding energy at the beginning of the game," Smith said. "We were very sharp, and I thought we shot the ball very well."

Shooting well would be an understatement. At 56 percent from the field, the Ducks set a season high. Williams was perfect in her shooting, and Craighead was not much worse at 5-of-6. Even the charity stripe treated Oregon well, as Duck sharpshooters were 12-of-17.

Gunderson, playing in her first collegiate game in her home state, came off the bench and set a career

high with 12 points. She also collected seven rebounds.

"Going home is always a good point in time," she said.

Senior Edniesha Curry, playing in a lesser role, finished with six points. But her nine assists led the Ducks' barrage of 26, and was only one under her career high, set when she played for Cal-State Northridge.

"When we get anything over 14, 15 assists, we're playing good team basketball," Smith said. "Twenty-six assists is just a team that is playing well together."

With two runs of nine or more points, the Ducks were able to jump out to a large lead at half-time, 49-23. Oregon was 7-of-9 from beyond the arc, and shot better than 60 percent in the half.

The second stanza was not much different as Williams took control early on. Her three-pointer and two jump shots sent the Ducks to a seven-point run in the first two minutes. From that point on, it was smooth sailing for Oregon.

With the win, the Ducks have given themselves a better chance

to earn a possible fourth seed in the conference tournament. Oregon State defeated Washington 73-71 in overtime to create a three-way tie for fourth place.

USC and Oregon State are also 10-7. If Oregon can defeat Washington on Saturday, and if USC loses to Stanford this coming weekend — as they are expected to — the Ducks could even finish tied for third.

Of course, that would be a four-way tie for the spot as the Beavers are expected to defeat Washington State on Saturday and the Trojans will probably do the same to California.

Welcome to the wild world of the Pac-10.

"When you're playing against teams like Oregon State that have a little bit of pizzazz, I think it turns into really good women's college basketball," Smith said. "It's really gearing up and is indicative of what's going to happen at McArthur Court for the Pac-10 Tournament (next week)."

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Men's

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guard Luke Ridnour, who drained a career-high 25 points. Freddie Jones added 18 points as five Ducks scored in double figures. But Oregon's shooting as a team was the most impressive statistic from Thursday night's contest. The Ducks set season highs for field goal shooting (63 percent), three-point shooting (61.5 percent) and free-throw shooting (92.9 percent).

Oregon's 115 points were its most ever in a Pac-10 game and tied for third-most in Duck history.

"We just got in a really good rhythm out there," Ridnour said. "We played together as a team and just had fun with it."

Washington State wasn't completely invisible Thursday night. The Cougars hung around Mac Court for about seven minutes before disappearing. With 13 minutes left in the first half, Freddie Jones partially blocked Washington State's Marcus Moore, and Ridnour hit a long jump shot on the break to put Oregon ahead 15-13. From there, the Ducks went on a 24-10 run, and the Cougars never got back into the contest.

Moore provided Washington State's lone highlight Thursday night. After scoring 35 points against Oregon in January, he notched 34 on Thursday.

With 3:48 left, Jones wowed the crowd with one of his trademark dunks, after Johnson grabbed a steal and passed all the way down court to a streaking Jones. The senior guard threw down a reverse two-hander that simply rocked the Pit.

Ridnour closed out the first half with a flourish of his own, scoring seven straight points to give Oregon a 54-33 halftime lead. After hitting two free throws, Ridnour blocked Thomas Kelati from behind and hit a pretty reverse lay-in on the other end. On the next possession, he hit a three pointer on a fast break.

"We happened to be really hot tonight," Jones said. "We just got out to a big lead and never really looked back."

The second half featured the three-point avalanche that buried the Cougars even more. At one point, the Ducks hit eight treys in a seven-minute stretch.

Even 6-foot-10 Mark Michaelis hit a three.

6-foot-9 Jay Anderson hit a pair of threes.

Those two players had shot a combined 4-for-13 from three-point land this season before Thursday night. They went 3-for-4 against

Washington State.

Michaelis, who played 13 minutes, and Anderson, who played eight, joined other bench players in logging quality minutes during Thursday's contest. Ben Lindquist played 13 minutes and super sub Kristian Christensen notched three minutes of playing time. All 12 Ducks who played scored at least one basket.

"I was happy for them," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said of his subs. "They got out there, played hard and played well."

With other teams in the Pac-10 beating up on each other Thursday

night, the Ducks emerged as co-leaders of the conference. USC topped Stanford, 77-58, to move into a tie with Oregon for the conference lead. California beat UCLA to remain in the hunt for the conference championship.


Those contenders will battle more on Saturday, so Oregon again faces a must-win game against Washington. The Huskies beat the Ducks in Seattle, 97-92, in January. Oregon and Washington will square off at 7 p.m. Saturday.

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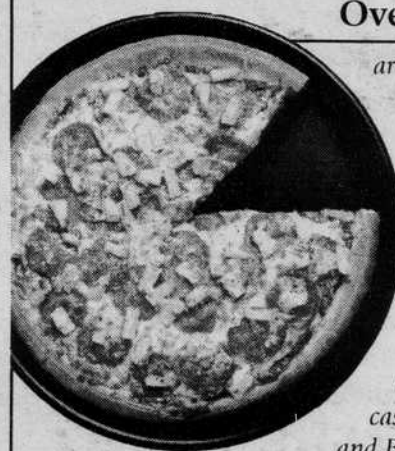
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