

Men's

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Ducks also recorded their 20th victory for just the ninth time in school history and jumped out to a 12-4 conference record for the first time since the 1938-39 NCAA championship team.

From the beginning Saturday, it was Freddie Jones' night. The senior capped off his Mac Court career in spectacular fashion, scoring 15 of the first 18 Oregon points en route to a 33-point night.

"I wanted to make sure I got myself involved early," Jones said. "Coach gave me a lot of freedom."

While the enthusiasm generated from Jones' emphatic slams — including one facial over Errol Knight — gave the feeling of a celebratory atmosphere to honor the seniors, the Huskies never rolled over and let the party ensue.

Washington (10-17, 4-13), which beat Oregon earlier this season in Seattle, continued to give the Ducks fits. Doug Wrenn paced the Huskies with 27 points and Curtis Allen chipped in 18.

At halftime, the Ducks led 51-45, but appeared to take control in the second half. With 6:51 to play, Oregon's Robert Johnson converted a hook shot in the paint to put his team on top 76-63 — the largest lead of the game.

The Huskies stormed right back in it, though, after a 13-4 run trimmed the lead to four.

But Jones, who has received criticism in the past for not closing out games, stepped up to the plate on senior night and connected.

First, at the 3:16 mark, he nailed a three-pointer to extend

the margin to 80-71 and awaken the crowd. Then, with the Huskies trailing only 82-79 and less than a minute showing on the clock, he launched a three in front of the Oregon bench that sealed the deal. In all, Jones made 5-of-7 three-pointers, grabbed seven rebounds and had five steals.

"He had some big threes and big plays to start the game and some big threes to finish out the game," Kent said. "We all know he's been through a lot of growth. I'm going to miss him immensely. It's going to be unreal with him not being there (next season)."

Washington head coach Bob Bender was more succinct.

"He just had it going," he said.

Luke Jackson helped Jones carry the load with 23 points and senior Anthony Lever made all three treys he took in an 11-point performance. Luke Ridnour only made 1-of-10 shot attempts, but did record a career-high 10 assists.

Now, the talk shifts toward this week's regular season-ending games in Los Angeles, beginning with the Trojans on Thursday.

But before looking ahead, Kent made sure to address the fans Saturday and thank them for their support, as well as give his six seniors one last round of applause at The Pit.

"I think you need to give these seniors and this team a terrific send-off as we get ready to go down to L.A. and bring back the Pac-10 championship!" Kent said.

The cheers resumed.



Jonathan House Emerald

Oregon coach Ernie Kent addresses the McArthur Court fans after the Ducks beat the Huskies to cap off a 16-0 home record.

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Seniors

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the graduating six. The students waved signs that said "I love seniors" and chanted "Fred-die, Freddie" when Jones was introduced.

"It's a great feeling," Lever said, reflecting on a super senior night and senior season. "Compared to what we went through last year, I don't think you can beat it."

The game had a number of different factors for Oregon that could have distracted a more youthful team. There was the perfect home record at stake. There was the conference lead at stake. There was senior night.

"Coming into this game, there was a lot of pressure building on us," Kent said. "But this team has been tremendous all year long. They've done a good job and have been able to handle themselves in big games."

Washington's youth showed toward the end of Saturday's game. Sophomore Doug Wrenn, who led the Huskies with 27 points, made a key turnover with 45 seconds left and Washington down by six points. On the other end, he fouled Oregon's Luke Ridnour, who made both foul shots to seal the Duck victory.

Washington head coach Bob Bender said he was proud of his team's play Saturday.

"We fought like crazy all night and put ourselves in good position," Bender said. "But it came down to a couple of defensive lapses."

Those defensive lapses led to two three-pointers for Jones late in the game. The senior nailed his treys to help lead Oregon to the win in front of a sold out crowd.

"They expect me to hit those shots, and I expect myself to hit them," Jones said.

He was just one of six seniors to leave Mac Court for good on Saturday night, but Kent was quick to point out that his and the other seniors' careers are far from over. The Ducks will play at Southern California and UCLA next weekend, then play in the Pac-10 Tournament the following weekend before heading to the NCAA Tournament.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 25) Keep your nose to the grindstone this year. That's another way of saying there'll be more work than play. The good news is that you'll make a lot of money. Hold onto it. You may want to finance some big changes soon. First, concentrate on doing the job.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today is a 7. There may be a temptation to be introspective or maybe even blue. Are you remembering things that didn't go well? Have lunch with a friend who always cheers you up. You'll be your old assertive self in no time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today is a 6. No need to hurry, especially if money is concerned. You might make an excellent deal, but it won't be on a whim. It'll be because you've already done your homework and know a bargain when you see it. When you do see it, move quickly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Today is a 7. You're a perpetual student, as you'll soon demonstrate again. You're about to become fascinated by a new area of study. This time, it's something you can't just read about. It requires practice, but you're a natural.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Today is a 6. The pace slows considerably, as you get into the building phase. Dreaming is more fun, of course, but there's less to show for the time you spend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is an 8. Conditions are now much better for taking action. Launch new projects and follow through on promises. Travel, or meet with foreign friends and business associates. Expand your experience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 6. Your first impulse may be to feel guilty for work not done, or to feel confused about what to do next. Find your notes and review your old plans. With a few minor modifications, you'll get by.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is an 8. Friends won't let you hide out any longer. They'll insist you come and play, at least for lunch or dinner. If you share your concerns with them, you'll get a needed jolt of inspiration.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 6. Do your very best on a difficult assignment. Somebody important will notice. Don't lose your temper, even if you have good reason.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is an 8. You need to get out for some exercise. A change of scenery would do you good. But be warned: There's an exam coming on Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7. Lots of new ways to spend money are coming to your attention. Choose something that will last. It's a good investment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 7. Meet with a person who knows it all. Set your competitive nature aside and accept the coaching. It will get you closer to your goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7. The pace is intense, and the pressure is increasing. Changes in your orders don't help. The faster you work, the more you make, but don't spend it all in one place.

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