

Sports Editor:
Adam Jude
adamjude@dailyemerald.com
Assistant Sports Editor:
Jeff Smith
jeffsmith@dailyemerald.com

Best Bet
NBA: Portland at Philadelphia,
6 p.m., UPN



Monday, February 25, 2002

Perfection: Oregon finishes 16-0 at home

■ The Ducks take over sole possession of first and end their home season undefeated

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

For a moment, the cheers were halted.

When the game was over and perfection was complete, Ernie Kent took the microphone from public address announcer Don Essig.

The Oregon head coach quieted the crowd and spoke from the heart.

"You guys are the reason this team went 16-0," Kent said while his team stood next to him. "I think you have seen what maybe was one of the greatest teams at the University of Oregon."

Kent's passion for McArthur Court is endless, stemming from his days as a player in the "Kamikaze Kids" era of the 1970s. When he took over as coach in 1997-98, he spoke of his desire to bring back the atmosphere of the "Mac Court of old."

Mission accomplished — and then some.

Saturday night, in front of a sold out crowd of 9,087, the Oregon men's basketball team outlasted pesky Washington, 90-84, to cap off a 16-0 home record.

The last time the Ducks went undefeated at home was 1937-38, a stretch of 64 years that left Kent shaking his head in amazement during his postgame press conference.

"It hasn't even sunk in," Kent said. "That's a long time. (The community) has seen it with football and now they have an opportunity to see it up close with basketball."

"It's just incredible what this team has done."

No. 15 Oregon (20-7, 12-4) now stands alone in first place, a full game ahead of a three-way tie for second involving Arizona, California and USC. Stanford and UCLA are both two games behind. The

Turn to Men's, page 10



Oregon senior Freddie Jones skies over Washington's Errol Knight for a powerful one-handed slam in the first half of the Ducks' victory Saturday. (Below) Jones reacts to his dunk amid the roaring cheers of the crowd.



Photos by Jonathan House Emerald

Jones leads group of six seniors in farewell at McArthur Court

Oregon's maturity reigns over Washington's youth as the Ducks finish the season 16-0 at home

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

On senior night at McArthur Court, seniority defeated youth.

Maturity ruled over immaturity. Oregon's seniors toppled Washington's sophomores.

Led by the 33 points from senior Freddie Jones, the Ducks beat the Huskies 90-84 Saturday night in the final home game for six Oregon seniors. Washington, which has only two sen-

iors and no juniors on its roster, showed its youth with key turnovers and defensive lapses down the stretch.

Jones, who ignited the Ducks with several thunderous dunks, wasn't the only senior to play well Saturday night. Anthony Lever scored 11 points on three three-pointers. Chris Christoffersen had two blocks, five rebounds and four points.

In short, the Oregon seniors reminded the McArthur Court crowd

why the players will be so sorely missed next season.

"I'm going to miss this group of seniors completely," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "There's so much character in there."

The seniors were honored in a pregame ceremony, and many of their parents showed up to participate.

"I was happy that my family was here to share the moment with me," Jones said.

Even Christoffersen's parents came — from Denmark.

Another Oregon athlete honored the seniors in his own way. Former Duck quarterback Joey Harrington showed up in the middle of the Pit Crew with a beard disguise and a T-shirt that had a picture of Christoffersen and the words "The Great Dane."

The Pit Crew honored the seniors with signed yellow T-shirts for each of

Turn to Seniors, page 10

UW ends 12-game skid to Oregon

■ With an 88-80 loss to Washington, the Ducks enter the Pac-10 Tournament as the No. 7 seed and host WSU

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

A rare Washington win sets the stage for a rare chance at redemption for Oregon.

For the first time in six years, the Washington women's basketball team defeated the Ducks — in an 88-80 battle in Seattle on Saturday.

The loss ends the regular season for Oregon (15-12 overall, 10-8 Pacific-10 Conference), which holds the No. 7 seed for the inaugural Pac-10 Tournament. The Ducks host the first game of the conference tournament Friday against 0-18 Washington State, a team Oregon beat 88-47 Thursday in Pullman.

Assuming they get past the Cougars, the Ducks will again play the Huskies, the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament, at McArthur Court on

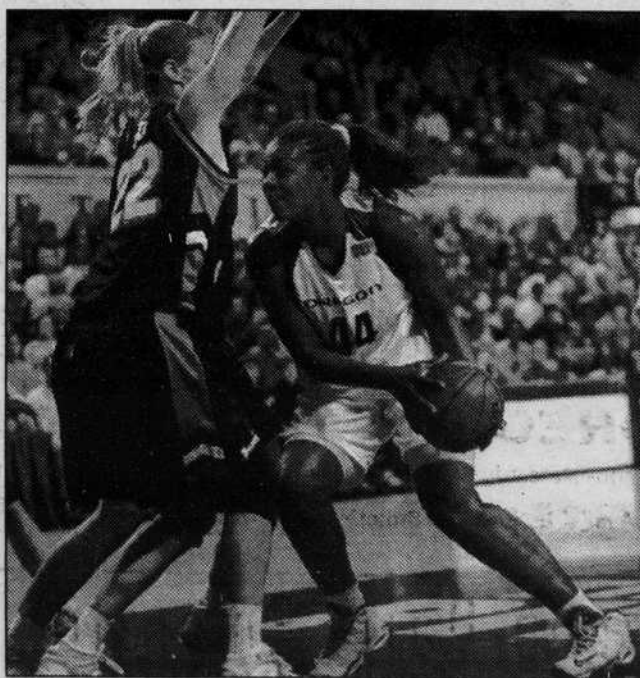
Saturday at noon.

"It's the card that's been dealt to us and we just have to take advantage of it," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said Sunday. "We're just so excited to be here in Eugene, with the opportunity to play four games on our home court."

To even get to the semifinals of the tournament, though, the Ducks will have to knock out the Huskies (17-11, 12-6), who have not won in Eugene in nine years, but showed they can beat Oregon.

"We knew in the back of our minds about the whole Oregon rivalry," Washington guard Loree Payne said of the Huskies' 12-game losing streak to the Ducks. "We wanted to get some momentum going into the tournament. The key is playing well going into the Pac-10 Tournament and carry that over into the NCAA Tournament."

Turn to Women's, page 12



Adam Amato Emerald

Freshman Andrea Bills posted 16 points and 11 rebounds against Washington, the first double-double of her career.