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Levens leads ASU in upset

■ The Sun Devil guard nets 17 second-half points to lead another ASU comeback win



LEVENS

By Peter Hockaday
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Amanda Levens didn't need external motivation Monday night.

She figured it out all on her own, to the tune of 17 second-half points against a Stanford juggernaut that was upset by Levens' Arizona State team, 70-63 in the inaugural Pacific-10 Conference championship game.

A day after leading the Sun Devils to a come-from-behind win over Oregon with 16 second-half points, Levens led the comeback charge again in the title game.

Her spurt in Sunday's semifinal came after Arizona State coach Charli Turner Thorne berated the senior guard in a huddle. But on Monday, the conference title provided enough motivation.

"She didn't say anything today," Levens said as she laughed alongside her coach after the game Monday. "We just talked about starting strong in the second half, and we came out and did that."

With the Sun Devils down by nine points early in the second frame, Levens took the ball and took over the game. With 17:59 left, Levens drove on Stanford's Lauren St. Clair and drew a foul. She made both free throws to cut the Cardinal lead to eight. Minutes later, Levens drove and hit a jumper to pull Arizona State within three points.

"The way they were playing up on our post players, it was allowing us to get to the basket pretty easily," Levens said.

Levens' biggest points came with 12:24 left in the game. The senior was fouled on another drive to the basket, made the first free throw but missed the second. An Arizona State player grabbed the rebound on the missed free throw and dished it back to Levens, who hit a long three pointer to put the Sun Devils up 46-42. Stanford never led after that four-point play.

"Levens really stepped up big for them," Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer said after the game.

Levens was honored along with teammate Melody Johnson as a member of the All-Tournament Team. Levens finished with 22 points and averaged 17 points per game during the tournament. The point guard had only seven turnovers on the weekend and only one in the championship game.

Arizona State's monumental upset Monday night cannot be quantified. Stanford lost only one game all season, to then-No. 2 Tennessee. Turner Thorne said her team's victory came from guts and emotion.

"This is the toughest group of kids I've ever been around," Turner Thorne said. "It's a credit to Amanda and the other kids that they were able to make those pressure shots down the stretch."

For Levens, it was all about zoning out the pressure and focusing on pure basketball.

"Personally, I didn't even pay attention to the score," Levens said. "We were more poised than we've ever been."

The next step for Levens and the Sun Devils is the NCAA Tournament. Arizona State locked up an automatic bid by winning the conference tourney.

E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

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Oregon sweeps three on road trip

■ Oregon's men's tennis struggles in doubles but beats three ranked teams behind strong singles play

By Peter Martini
 for the Emerald

On its first weekend road trip, the No. 73 Oregon men's tennis team used strong singles play to sweep three ranked teams and improve its record to 9-2 overall this season.

The Ducks defeated No. 63 New Mexico, 4-3, on Sunday in Las Cruces, N.M. But Oregon was dominated in doubles, losing 8-2, 8-3, 8-1.

The Ducks won four out of six singles matches behind strong play by junior Oded Teig at No. 2. Teig beat New Mexico's Michael Polasek 6-3, 6-1.

Sophomore Chris King, freshman Sven Swinnen and sophomore Greg Dubourdiou gave

Oregon strength at the bottom of the lineup, winning all three matches. Junior Jason Menke and freshman Manuel Kost lost at No. 3 and No. 1, respectively, for the Ducks.

On Saturday, Oregon beat No. 75 Texas-Arlington, 5-2, again showing its strength in singles. The Ducks played better in doubles with Teig and Swinnen winning their match 8-2. Kost and freshman Johan Paalberg lost 8-5, and Menke and sophomore Martin Pawlowski lost 9-8.

Oregon defeated No. 74 New Mexico State, 4-3, on Friday to open the weekend. The Ducks won four out of five singles but lost the doubles point, which set the tone for the weekend. The bottom three in the order went 9-0 for Oregon in the three matches.

"We just wrapped up one of the best road trips in the history of Oregon tennis," head coach Chris Russell said.

Women's tennis drops two in Bay Area

The No. 60 Oregon women's tennis team struggled during the weekend in two 7-0 losses at the Bay Area schools.

On Saturday, the Ducks lost to California, winning only one set in singles. Sophomore Courtney Nagle won the first set in her 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 loss to Nicole Havlicek of the Golden Bears.

In doubles, Oregon lost 8-5, 9-7, 8-5. "We just didn't play well down there," head coach Jack Griffin said. "I'm not sure what happened."

The Ducks lost to No. 3 Stanford on Friday. Against the Cardinal, Oregon only won one set in singles and two games in doubles.

"We played against two really good teams, but we could've put up a better showing," Griffin said.

Peter Martini is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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Sports briefs

Women's track dominates in first outdoor meet

The Oregon women's track and field squad faced a daunting task this weekend but came through with strong marks in the final indoor competition of the season.

Senior Niki Reed won the pole vault competition with a mark of 13-5 feet and 1/4 inches at the Nebraska Last Chance Qualifier in Lincoln. Reed, a two-time All-American, won by almost six inches over Oklahoma's Leslie Dunlap.

Sophomore Kirsten Riley placed seventh in the meet at a mark of 11-8, the only other Duck to participate in Nebraska.

In another competition, the Ducks got their first taste of the outdoor season at the Linfield Ice-Breaker in McMinnville. Sophomore Sarah Malone earned her second-best javelin throw ever at 170-9 and won the competition by more than 11 feet ahead of fellow Duck, Elisa Crumley. Crumley, a freshman from Hillsboro, placed second at 159-4, outdistancing the NCAA provisional mark of 150-11. Junior Charyl Weingarten placed third at 146-4.

In the 100 meters, junior Janette Davis took first at 12.17 seconds, while freshman Michelle Donovan placed first in the 400 at 60.18.

Junior Alicia Snyder-Carlson, as an unattached entrant, took the 800 at 2:19.50, with freshman Laura Harmon taking the 1,500 with a time of 4:48.90.

The list doesn't end there, as junior Lucretia Larkin won first in the 100 hurdles (15.27), and transfer Mary Murphy claimed the high jump (5-6). Freshman Clarice Hayward-Lee won the triple jump, and junior Mary Etter earned a Pacific-10 Conference invite with a 44-7 mark in the shot put and 160-0 in discus.

Finishing up, junior Jordan Sauvage was first in the hammer at 166-2.

— Hank Hager

Men's track ends indoor season on high note

The Oregon men's track and field squad ended its indoor regular season with its strongest effort of 2002, with a host of NCAA qualifying efforts in the Washington Qualifier in the Dempsey Indoor Center.

Junior sprinter Samie Parker lowered his season best and his ranking in the 60-meter dash on the NCAA

provisional list by .04 seconds with his win in the final (6.66 seconds) — a mark which might earn him an entry in next weekend's NCAA Indoor Championships in Fayetteville, Ark.

A trio of distance runners also scored their first provisional marks of the season. Freshman Noel Paulson scored a one-second personal best in the mile (fifth, 4:04.31). In the 5,000, junior Jason Hartmann claimed third (14:07.12), just ahead of redshirt sophomore John Lucas, who posted a 30-second personal best and his first NCAA provisional mark of his career (fifth, 14:16.40). Both eclipsed the 14:18.15 minimum qualifying standard, but their marks, like Paulson's, are outside of the top 20 nationally with usually 16-18 athletes invited per event to the NCAA Championships.

Also among the distance ranks, redshirt senior Ross Kremply made his season debut (800, fifth, 1:53.35) as did redshirt freshman Daniel Seddiqui, (seventh, 1:58.85).

Among other strong marks, junior Micah Harris finished first in the 60-meter hurdles, just missing his season best by 0.03 seconds (8.06).

— from staff and wire reports