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Best Bet
NHL: Colorado at St. Louis
5 p.m., ESPN2



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Selection Sunday is a Mac Court celebration

The Oregon team and a number of fans celebrate the Ducks' No. 2 seed at McArthur Court Sunday

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Sunday afternoon started off being about the fans. It ended up being about the players.

But the whole event was a celebration of Oregon basketball.

Thousands of Duck fans turned out to watch the NCAA Tournament selection show at McArthur Court Sunday afternoon, and the building buzzed first with reflection of the Ducks' successful

season, then with anticipation after the announcement that Oregon would be a No. 2 seed in the tournament. The Ducks will play Montana at 2 p.m. Thursday in Sacramento, Calif.

The afternoon started with a speech from Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos, who noted that the crowd was indicative of Eugene's support for the basketball team.

"There are places in the Pac-10 that won't get this crowd for a ball game,"

Moos told the fans. "Unless they're playing the Ducks, of course."

Moos said he was confident in the team's chance in the NCAA Tournament, even before the Ducks received their favorable seed.

"I told the staff that we need room for another banner in here," Moos said about the Ducks' Pac-10 championship banner. "But hold up, because we might need room for two more."

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NCAA Ticket Information

At 9 a.m. today, 50 student tickets will be released for Oregon's first round game against Montana on Thursday. Tickets will be available at the Casanova Center for \$50; credit card payments are required.

If the Ducks advance to the second round on Saturday, student credit cards will automatically be charged an additional \$50 for the second game.

UO women land WNIT date at Pit

■ The Ducks will host St. Mary's at Mac Court on Thursday

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

After all the talk and all the speculation, it comes down to the Ducks and the Gaels.

Oregon failed to be included in the field of 64 for the NCAA Tournament for the first time in eight years, despite reaching the semifinals of the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament a week ago. However, the Women's National Invitational Tournament deemed the Ducks worthy of the postseason.

That postseason begins with a first-round game against St. Mary's (Calif.) at 7 p.m. Wednesday at McArthur Court. It will mark the third time the two teams have faced off, the first time since 1995.

The Ducks have won both previous matchups against the Gaels (16-12 overall, 9-5 West Coast Conference).

Oregon's invitation to the postseason marks the squad's ninth straight year making it beyond Pac-10 play. The Ducks won the WNIT in 1989.

The Ducks (17-13, 10-8) showed some disappointment in not being named to the NCAA Tournament, but understood their 17-13 overall record most likely kept them out. The team's rating percentage index of 103 was sixth in the Pac-10 and also played a factor.

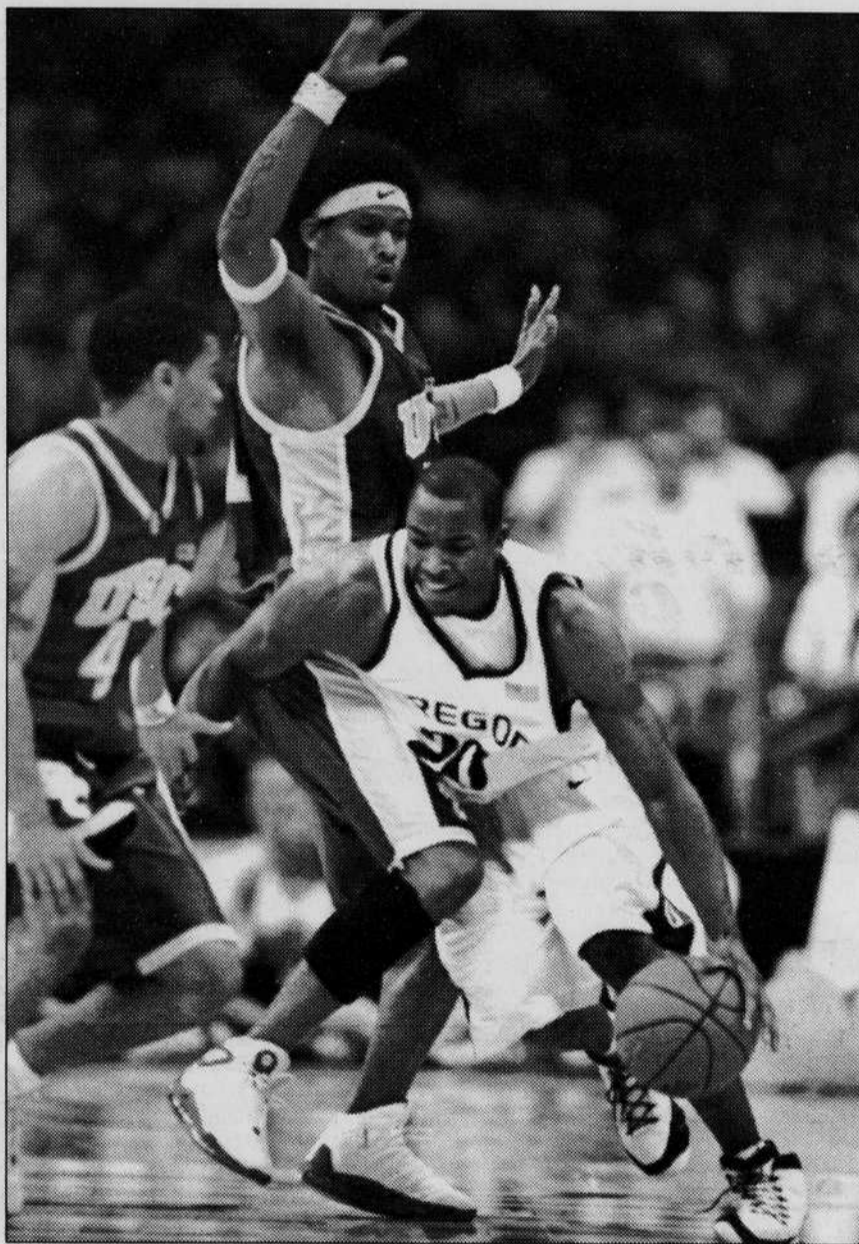
"I think there are some games we'd like to have back that might have made a difference," first-year head coach Bev Smith said. "We finished the season out well and there were some teams that we would be able to beat in the NCAA Tournament."

Oregon went 1-7 against NCAA-Tournament-bound teams this season, losing three games to Arizona State, two to Stanford, and one each to Texas Tech and Wisconsin-Green Bay. Their only win against an NCAA-bound team came against Texas Christian in November at the Rose Garden in Portland.

The Ducks have had a bit more success against the teams they may face in the WNIT. If Oregon is able to defeat St. Mary's, they could possibly face Oregon State, which takes on Hawaii in Corvallis on Thursday.

Because only Stanford and Arizona State were chosen for the NCAA Tournament from the Pac-10, the conference will be well represented at the WNIT.

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Oregon's Freddie Jones drives around USC's Jerry Dupree in the Trojans' 89-78 win Friday.

Ducks end Pac-10 Tournament Friday with loss to Trojans

■ Top-seed Oregon falls to the Trojans after a dismal second half Friday at the Staples Center

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

LOS ANGELES — Sitting in the Lakers' spacious locker room Friday night, Luke Ridnour didn't feel like a pro.

He grabbed a pair of scissors and cut off the tape around his ankles, signaling the end of his trip to the fancy Staples Center.

Across the room, teammate Luke Jackson sat in the corner with an ice pack attached to his back, which was sore after falling on it hard after he made a dunk in Thursday's win over Washington.

For both Lukes, their first taste of one-and-done tournament basketball was disappointing in that they didn't help lead their team to the final day as No. 1 seed Oregon fell to No. 4 USC, 89-78, in the semifinals of the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament.

But the season isn't over for them. In fact, the real season is just beginning with the Ducks set to open the NCAA Tournament as a No. 2 seed Thursday against Montana (16-14) in Sacramento, Calif.

Friday night in Los Angeles, though, the Oregon sophomores were more concerned with what had just transpired than anything else. Ridnour was feeling down about turning the ball over nine times. Jackson was frustrated with his second-half performance, scoring just three points after a 13-point first half.

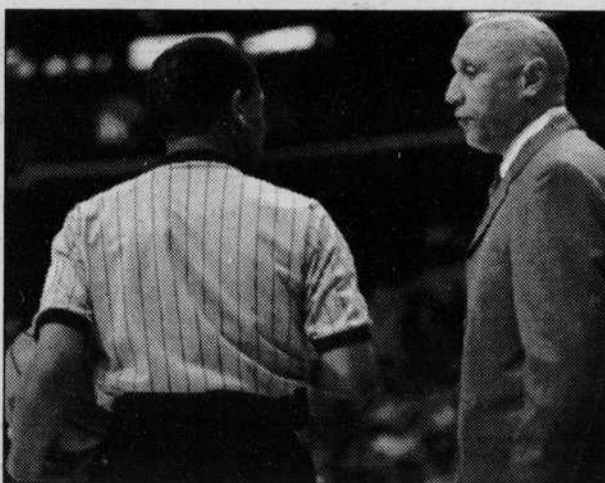
Ridnour was one of four Ducks (23-8, 14-4) in double figures with 18, but he felt like he was mainly to blame for the defeat.

"I had too many turnovers and really hurt us," Ridnour said. "We're disappointed about how we performed, especially in that second half."

To understand the Ducks' second-half dropoff, one

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Bibby 'berates' ref as USC falls to 'Cats in title game



USC coach Henry Bibby (right) was called for a technical foul late in the second half of Arizona's 81-71 win over USC in the title game.

■ Freshman Salim Stoudamire scores a career-high 29 points to lead Arizona to the Pac-10 Tournament championship

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

LOS ANGELES — Oregon students hurt USC head coach Henry Bibby's feelings with personalized chants during the Ducks' win at Eugene on Feb. 2.

Saturday, it was Bibby who was doing the talking, and he appeared to hurt the feelings of Pacific-10 Conference official Charlie Range.

Range issued a technical foul on Bibby with 1:50 remaining that sealed the deal on No. 2-seed Arizona's 81-71 win over the fourth seeded Trojans in the

championship game of the Pac-10 Tournament in front of 18,997 at the Staples Center.

Afterwards, Bibby was not apologizing for his on-court actions, which included ignoring the request of Grange to hand the ball over and simply dropping it to the floor. Bibby received the technical after continually getting in Grange's face.

"I don't think a technical foul was warranted," Bibby said. "I don't go out and abuse and curse at the officials. I think you guys should be able to question the officials on what they saw out there."

When asked for his interpretation of the technical, Grange had a decidedly different take on the situation.

"It was the fact that Mr. Bibby kept

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