

SPORTS

Online
Oregon volleyball
couldn't handle USC and
UCLA, but played solidly.

Monday, November 11, 2002

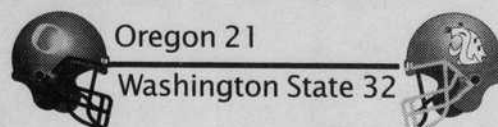


Mark Harrison The Seattle Times

Washington State's Mike Bush pulls in a pass from quarterback Jason Gesser. Oregon contained the Cougar passing attack, but the Cougars defeated the Ducks for the first time since 1997.

Fife shoulders blame for sluggish offense

Jason Fife and the Ducks produce only 252 yards of offense in Saturday's loss



Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

PULLMAN, Wash. — After Saturday's tough 32-21 loss to Washington State, Jason Fife and Keenan Howry left the makeshift Oregon interview room at the same time but not together. Fife went first, followed two steps behind by Howry, both with heads down and not talking to each other.

They didn't meet much on the field Saturday, either.

With Washington State's defense stacked toward the run — the Cougars desperately wanted to prevent a repeat of Onterio Smith's 285-yard performance of 2001 — Fife took the blame for a passing attack that hardly made Washington State pay for its run-oriented defense.

"When it came down to it, I wasn't effective," a dejected Fife said after the loss. "My performance didn't help at all. In fact, I think it hindered us."

Fife went 16-for-35 — 47 percent — for 192 yards, one touchdown and one interception. Smith rushed 25 times for 64 yards — his lowest rush total of the season — and the Ducks produced 252 yards for their weakest offensive showing of the season.

"We just were not efficient today," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I don't think we were particularly effective throwing the ball."

Most of the offensive players were quick to defend the Oregon defense, which scored two touchdowns and, for the most part, kept Washington State star quarterback Jason Gesser in check. Gesser went 20-for-38 — 53 percent — and threw four touchdowns, but two of his scores were easy

lobs to tall receivers and one was an odd pass that deflected off Marques Binns and into the hands of Devard Darling.

"Overall, our defense played with great character," Bellotti said.

Washington State's defense, which sacked Fife four times, received cautious praise from the Ducks, who in general blamed their own "O" rather than the Cougar "D."

"I don't want to talk about their defense," tight end George Wrihster said. "I think it was more on our offense."

Despite all the offensive struggles, Oregon still entered the fourth quarter of Saturday's loss with a 21-20 lead. But the Ducks started the fourth quarter with a four-play drive that ended in a punt, then watched as the Cougars went on a 96-yard drive for a touchdown to put Washington State ahead 26-21. On the Ducks' next possession, Fife threw an interception that set up the Cougars' final scoring drive.

"Regardless of the situation, if coach gives me a play, I should be able to execute," Fife said.

Later in the fourth quarter, with Oregon struggling to get back into the contest, the Ducks executed a drive that typified their offensive effort on the afternoon.

Fife scrambled for 12 yards, hit Howry for a 27-yard gain and then hit Wrihster for a 31-yard pass. Three plays later, Howry was thrown for a loss on an attempted trick play, setting up Jared Siegel — who had hit 15-straight field goals — for a 40-yard field goal attempt.

"The most upsetting thing about that kick was that it was going to put us in position to win," Siegel said. "The most frustrating thing was not being able to help my team when it needed me."

For the Ducks, it was just the anti-exclamation point on an anemic offensive performance.

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Ducks' season ends with loss

Oregon finishes its year with a loss to rival Oregon State, but even that couldn't break their spirit on that rainy day

Soccer

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's soccer team fell to rival Oregon State on Friday night at Papé Field in its second all-time loss to the Beavers.

In the seventh edition of the annual Civil War and the final game for both teams, the Ducks found themselves trailing early and couldn't rally in a 2-1 loss.

Oregon State began its charge in the 28th minute as forward Katie Henderson scored from five yards center after senior goalkeeper Sarah Peters raced out for the save. The ball was lost in a crowd, but the Beavers recovered to cross it parallel to the net, where Henderson converted.

The Beavers clinched the game with two minutes left in the first half when forward Tessa Baker sprinted up the center of the field, split the defense and found the back of the net from 17 yards out.

Again, Peters charged out of the box to try and wrap up the ball, and a split-second move by Baker allowed the Beavers to take a 2-0 lead.

"Oregon State stayed very composed and organized," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said. "We made mistakes and lost battles in the first half that cost us, and as a result, we dug ourselves a hole we couldn't get out of."

Amid pouring rain and 47 degree temperatures, Oregon found itself 65 minutes into play before it scored. Junior midfielder Lindsey Werdell began Oregon's offensive charge by scoring from 18 yards center on a penalty kick to put the Ducks on the scoreboard.

Oregon rallied in the last seconds of the game, seeking the goal that would press the game to overtime. However, amid the desperation, the Ducks could not find that last score.

"We just couldn't put one in the back of the net. We were so

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Ducks exhibit offense in victory, with aggressive play, rebounds

The Oregon women's basketball team comes out firing in a 57-point victory in its exhibition game

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

It's hard to point out what was most impressive about Oregon's 100-43 victory over Horsholm BBC Saturday in front of 3,540 at McArthur Court.

Was it the fact that the Ducks jumped out to a 20-0 lead to start the game, or that they held their overseas competition to just 19 points in the first half?

"Holding them to under 20 points in the first half," senior Shaquala Williams said. "Our focus was defense. We know we can score, but we haven't proven we can defend yet, at least to our coaches, so it was more important for us to get off to a great defensive start."

Oregon, which exhibited the same up-tempo offense that helped lead them to the WNIT Championship last season, made 11 of its first 12 shots in the game en route to the blowout. Every Duck scored — including freshman Yadili Okwumabua, whose only free throw make pushed the Ducks to 100 points — with Williams leading the way with 20.

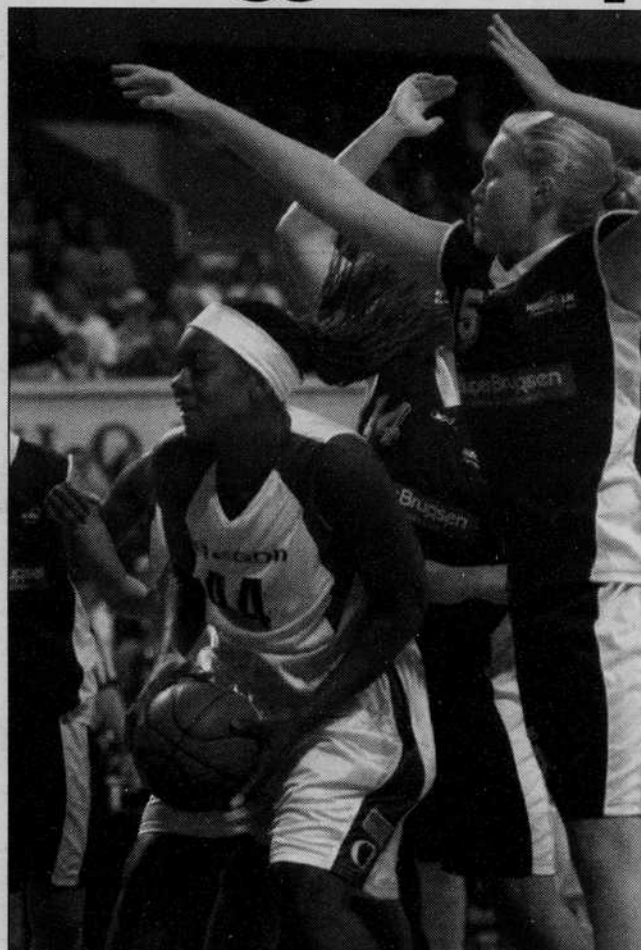
"There was tremendous depth we were able to play with tonight," head coach Bev Smith said. "It is important to get everyone some playing time, especially here at Mac Court."

As was not the norm last season, every Oregon player grabbed at least one rebound against Horsholm. As a team, the Ducks pulled down 53 boards and held Horsholm to just five offensively.

"We talked about rebounding, just playing aggressively, and getting open shots," junior Cathrine Kraayeveld said.

Kraayeveld posted a double-double with 14 points and 12 boards, while sophomore Kedzie Gunderson made the most of her first start with a 15-point performance.

Smith said the Ducks entered the contest keying on three



Adam Amato Emerald

Sophomore Andrea Bills is swarmed by Horsholm BBC defenders, but overall, the Ducks had no problem offensively.

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