

SPORTS

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Best bet
NCAA Basketball:
Kansas v. North Carolina
6:30 p.m., ESPN2

Wednesday, November 27, 2002



Adam Amato Emerald

Junior Cathrine Kraayeveld led the way for the Ducks on Tuesday night with a double-double. In Oregon's first loss, Kraayeveld accounted for 11 points and 13 rebounds.

Ducks' offense stalls in first loss of season

Oregon loses to the team that upended the Ducks in their season opener last year

Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

In Oregon's first-ever visit to the state of Wisconsin, the women's basketball team found history awaiting.

The Ducks never found the right path in their first away game, as the Wisconsin-Green Bay Phoenix handed Oregon its first loss, 69-53.

Oregon's 16-point loss was the largest margin of victory for an Oregon opponent since the Ducks lost to the Phoenix last year 75-57, in Oregon's home opener.

Wisconsin-Green Bay put pressure on Oregon all night, and the Ducks could not convert. In the first half, Oregon shot 29 percent on just 7-of-24 shooting and committed 14 turnovers.

"Wisconsin-Green Bay is a team that plays very well," Oregon head coach Bev Smith told KSCR radio. "We were not ready to play against that kind of pressure that they put on us. They put a lot of pressure on the ball and definitely take you out of your rhythm offensively."

Offense is what Oregon struggled with from the beginning. The Ducks never led, and the only tie was in the first two minutes when both teams had two points.

Oregon would keep it close in the first 10 minutes, after a baseline jumper by sophomore Kedzie Gunderson to bring the Ducks within three.

But then the offense went stagnant, and after back-to-back three pointers by the Phoenix four minutes later, the Ducks trailed 24-10.

Oregon found itself down by 19 at one point but battled in the final minutes of the first half to reduce the lead to 34-20.

In the start of the second half, junior Kayla Steen hit back-to-back shots to bring Oregon as close as 10 with 17:30 left to play.

The Ducks' offense continued to struggle in an attempt to establish rhythm, and the Phoenix would go on a 10-0 run to lead 56-36.

Oregon would only come as close as 15 points after that. A three-pointer by Phoenix senior Sara Boyer pushed the lead to 20, and that was the final straw for the Ducks.

Oregon ended the night better than it started, with 39.6 percent shooting from the field.

"Wisconsin-Green Bay is a team that plays very well. They put a lot of pressure on the ball and definitely take you out of your rhythm offensively."

Bev Smith
Oregon head coach

Wisconsin-Green Bay also shot 40.3 percent. The two teams also tied in the battle of the boards at 35 apiece.

But Oregon's 25 turnovers and 2-of-14 shooting from downtown would be too much to overcome in the end.

Junior Cathrine Kraayeveld led the way for Oregon with a double-double on 11 points and

Turn to **Women's**, page 6

Men's hoopsters rest, prepare for two more Kansas tuneups

The Ducks will look to work on rebounding and defense against Pacific and Portland

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

The No. 10 Oregon men's basketball team will be working on turkey and relaxation — emphasis on relaxation — just as most other Americans will be over the short Thanksgiving holiday.

But the Ducks will also be thinking about rebounds, zone defenses and free throws.

Oregon will take on Pacific on Saturday in their first of two tune-ups before

facing No. 2 Kansas in the Papé Jam at the Rose Garden on Dec. 7. The Ducks will also face Portland — a team that upset Oregon in the preseason last year — Wednesday. Both games will be played at McArthur Court.

After Oregon struggled to an 86-77 win over California-State Northridge on Monday night in the title game of the John Thompson Challenge and the Ducks' second game in as many nights, head coach Ernie Kent said his team would take it easy for a while.

"That's pretty hard on us, back-to-back games like that," Kent said. "We probably pushed that throttle a little too much (Sunday night) in terms of not getting a lot of rest, because it certainly showed tonight."

The Ducks said they learned from

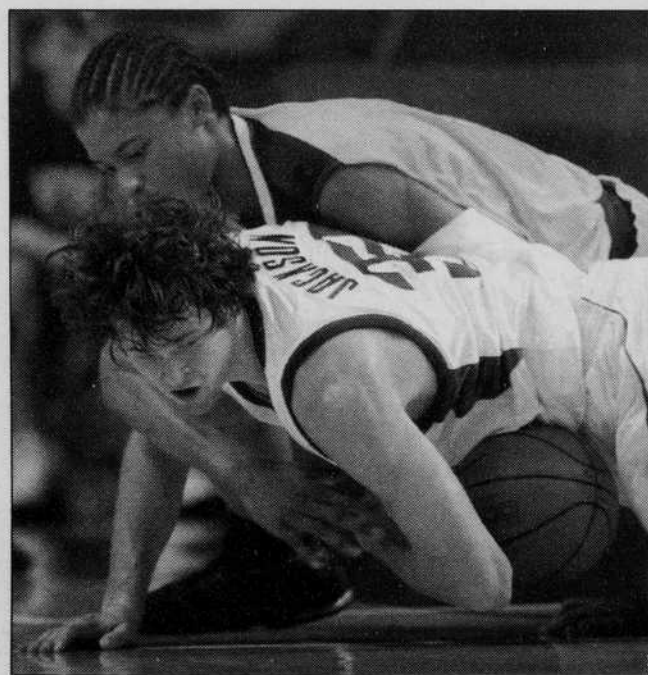
Monday night's scrappy, hard-fought contest.

"This should help us, because we found a lot of things that we need to work on," center Brian Helquist said.

Helquist and the rest of the Oregon team will focus on rebounding and defense as they head toward a matchup with Pacific. The Ducks were outrebounded by Grambling State and Northridge by a combined 87-77 in the two games of the Challenge. And after holding the Tigers to 26-percent shooting in the first contest, the Ducks allowed the Matadors to hit 48.4 percent of their shots Monday.

"What I'm going to go back and work on after we rest this basketball team is getting back to a rhythm, getting back

Turn to **Men's**, page 6



Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Jackson (bottom) and Oregon will face Pacific on Saturday.

Wrestlers face off against East Coast competition

Oregon's wrestling squad faces nine teams, including three ranked in the top 25, in Saturday's meet

Wrestling

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

After finishing third in its first tournament of the season, the Oregon wrestling team will take on top teams from across the country in Saturday's Mat-Town USA Invitational.

The tournament, in Lock Haven, Pa., will feature 10 teams, including Oregon, 15th-ranked Nebraska, 19th-ranked Penn State and 23rd-ranked Purdue. The yearly tourna-

ment is hosted by Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, Oregon competed in the Body Bar Invitational at Cornell. The Ducks finished third against eight East Coast teams, trailing only 14th-ranked Edinboro and 16th-ranked Cornell.

Redshirt junior Jason Harless, in the 133 weight class, and redshirt sophomore Luke Larwin, in the 165 weight class, both finished third in their weight classes, the highest Duck finishers at Cornell. Oregon got points from nine different wrestlers, including Harless and Larwin.

"We wrestled real hard," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "The effort level was outstanding, and we did a lot of positive things that we

can build on."

Helping Harless in the 133 weight class were sophomore Martin Mitchell and redshirt freshman Skyler Woods. Mitchell and Woods placed fourth and fifth, respectively, adding to Oregon's points.

Woods beat Drexel's Joe Cristaldi, the tournament's No. 2 seed, 5-1 in the first round.

Another weight class with more than one Duck scoring was the heavyweight class. Senior Eric Webb and redshirt freshman Neil Phillips both earned points for Oregon.

"Neil showed us some signs of things we hadn't seen before," Kearney said. "He wrestled really well."

Sophomore Shane Webster won two match-

es in the 174 weight class before pulling out of the meet because of a sore muscle, which the coaching staff played cautiously so Webster would be healthy for Saturday.

The Mat-Town USA meet features 12 wrestlers who are ranked in the top 10 in their weight class. One of those wrestlers, Oregon's Webb, suffered an injury at the Body Bar match and will not participate in Saturday's tournament. Representing Oregon at heavyweight will be Phillips.

Senior Tony Overstake is the only other ranked Oregon wrestler, at No. 12 in the 149 weight class. He has not wrestled at that weight class this season, but Overstake was the Pacific-10 Conference champion last year at the

Turn to **Wrestling**, page 6