

Ducks don't let up in win over Portland

Still tasting a loss at Portland last year, Oregon wins its 20th straight game at home

Men's basketball

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

After relinquishing the throne for a year, the Ducks brought the state championship trophy back to Eu-

gene on Wednesday night.

In short, there was no shocker this year.

The Oregon men's basketball team wasn't about to relive last season's 79-78 loss at Portland, especially at McArthur Court. And the Ducks didn't have to Wednesday night.

"Them beating us last year left a really sour taste in our mouth, and they rubbed it in our face a bit," Oregon forward Luke Jackson said. "This year it was nice to set the record straight

that we're the better team."

The No. 7 Ducks (No. 6 in coaches' poll) jumped on the Pilots (3-1) early and never looked back in a 96-66 rout before a crowd of 8,378. Oregon (4-0), which plays No. 14 Kansas in Portland on Saturday, now has 20 straight wins at home, three short of the school record.

"Tonight we were outplayed and outcoached by the No. 6 team in the country," Portland head coach Michael Holton said. "It was an up-

hill battle from the opening tip for us. It quickly became the anatomy of a blowout."

Jackson, who had 28 points and 10 rebounds against Portland last year, hit 8-of-10 shots Wednesday to lead the Ducks with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Luke Ridnour added 17 points and five assists.

The teams combined to commit 47 fouls and to take 56 free throws (Oregon was 25-of-33 from the charity stripe). Oregon's Robert Johnson and Matt Short fouled out, as did Casey Frandsen for Portland.

"They put it on us up there last year, and we're going to go hard at each other each time," said Oregon center Ian Crosswhite, who made his first career start for the injured Brian Helquist and posted 16 points and seven rebounds.

Frandsen, Portland's leading scorer, was held to six points on 3-of-15 shooting. Guard Adam Quick, who put up 20 points in the win over the Ducks last year, had just two points (0-for-1 from the field) and five turnovers.

"We're not going to let up on anybody," Johnson said.

"They completely dismantled any chance we had from the opening tip," Holton said. "We were all out of sync offensively as a result of their defense. They don't have any weaknesses."

Holton said Oregon's defense was the difference this season. The

Ducks had 15 steals, part of Portland's 22 turnovers. Portland shot just .339 from the field.

"This year it was nice to set the record straight that we're the better team."

Luke Jackson
Oregon forward

"I thought we did an outstanding job offensively," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said.

Perhaps more importantly, Oregon outrebounded the Pilots 45-29, something the Ducks struggled with in their first three games.

"The coaches were stressing rebounding hard," said Johnson, who had 10 points and seven boards. "We went very hard today. We wanted it more."

And the more the rebounds come, the easier it is for the Ducks to get into their fast-break offense.

"We had great intensity from the beginning," Jackson said. "We feel like if we could come out with high intensity that we can control the tempo and be able to beat teams."

And bring home state bragging rights.

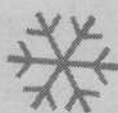
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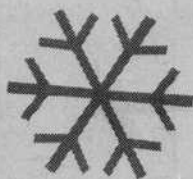
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Overstake drops one weight class

Redshirt senior Tony Overstake has already had success at the lower weight class this season

Wrestling notes

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

Redshirt senior Tony Overstake has lost a little weight.

Not too much weight, though, only the eight pounds needed to make the jump down from the 157 weight class to 149.

Overstake has made two consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament at 157, qualifying as the Pacific-10 Conference champion last season.

"He wants to go to the weight class he needs to be at to be an All-American," said head coach Chuck Kearney.

Overstake, from Central Point, did not compete in the team's first tournament of the season, the Nov. 23 Body Bar Invitational.

Saturday, he made his debut at 149 and finished sixth in his weight class. He was ranked 10th in the nation at 149 before having wrestled at that weight.

Last year, Overstake won the Pac-10 title at 157. He won one match and lost two at the national meet, finishing the season with a 25-9 record.

In his sophomore season, Overstake finished fourth in the Pac-10, with an 18-16 overall record. He qualified for the NCAA tournament, but went 0-2 with a knee injury.

Overstake is an integral part of the wrestling team. Kearney calls Overstake part of the squad's "core leadership" this year, working with seniors Casey Hunt and Eric Webb to lead the Ducks.

"As a fifth-year senior, he's one of our true leaders," Kearney said. "He's coming off a Pac-10 Championship. He's setting his sights and not just achieving at that level, but achieving at the national level."

In last spring's award banquet, Overstake earned the Dave Abraham Award, which "honors a student athlete that demonstrates a true passion

for the sport of wrestling."

Overstake will help fill the leadership role held last season by Eugene Harris, who graduated last year after finishing fourth at the NCAA Championships and earning an All-American honor.

Injury update

Shane Webster, a sophomore in the 174 weight class, competed in the first two matches of the Body Bar Invitational before pulling out because of a minor injury. He came back to win his weight class in the Mat-Town USA meet one week later.

Senior heavyweight Webb, who suffered a slight injury in the first tournament of the season, sat out Saturday's matches.

"He wants to go to the weight class he needs to be at to be an All-American."

Chuck Kearney
Oregon head coach

Experience and desire

After losing three seniors, the Ducks are missing a few key scorers, but still return 18 members of last year's squad.

"We've got people able to step in behind them," Kearney said.

Five of the returning 18 members have experience at last year's NCAA Championship meet. Overstake made it past the first day of last year's tournament, while junior Jason Harless, Hunt, Webster and Webb all made an appearance at the meet, but did not make it past the first day of competition.

Kearney said this year's squad has a "burning desire to be successful," and thinks all the returning experience will be beneficial to the team.

The Ducks open their home season Dec. 13 against Oregon State and Dec. 14 against Nebraska at McArthur Court.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.