

## SPORTS

Best bet  
Fiesta Bowl:  
Ohio State v. Miami  
5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3, ABC

Monday, December 9, 2002



Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Ridnour celebrates with the crowd after hitting the game-clinching three-pointer with 1:21 remaining in the Ducks' win over Kansas. The trey put Oregon ahead 83-76.

## Ducks topple 'Hawks in Elite grudge match

With an 84-78 win, No. 7 Oregon avenges its Elite Eight loss to Kansas in front of a record crowd in Portland

## Men's basketball

Adam Jude  
Senior Sports Reporter

PORTLAND — The largest crowd in state history witnessed what may be remembered as the greatest game in state history.

No. 7 Oregon (5-0) won its grudge match Saturday with an 84-78 win over No. 14 Kansas (3-3), the team that ended the Ducks' season in the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament in March. The sellout crowd of 20,762 at the Rose Garden for the nationally televised Papé Jam was the largest ever for a college basketball game in Oregon.

For the Ducks, the win was more than redemption. It gives them weight to support their top-10 ranking, Oregon's highest ever.

"I'd like to call it a statement game," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We are a very good basketball team. This gives us the opportunity to feel good about

where we're at."

With the shot clock winding down, Luke Ridnour hit a three-pointer with 1:21 remaining to give the Ducks a 83-76 lead and halt a late Kansas charge.

"This was just like a March game," said Ridnour, who finished with 25 points, seven rebounds and nine assists to counter a nine-point, seven-turnover performance in the Midwest Regional final loss to Kansas last season. "They did put us out last year, and that sticks with you all summer. This is a huge win for this program."

Down by as much as 11 in the second half, the Jayhawks, who entered the season ranked No. 2, tied the game at 74 on a Keith Langford jumper with 3:41 left. Oregon had gone nearly five minutes without a field goal before Jay Anderson hit a jumper at the 4:30 mark.

But in a game that the Ducks never trailed, Luke Jackson grabbed a rebound, hit the put-back and was fouled with three minutes remaining as Oregon took the lead for good.

"I think this was the best college basketball game of the pre-season," Kent said.

Oregon's success started and ended on the boards. Out-rebounded 63-34 by Kansas last March, the Ducks set the tone early by grabbing three-straight defensive rebounds to open the game. Ridnour put the exclamation point on the win by running down a Langford missed three-point attempt in the closing seconds and then chucking the ball downcourt in celebration.

Kansas won the rebounding battle, 49-43, but Oregon was satisfied with the improvement.

"Me and the rest of the big guys put it on ourselves to hit 'em harder and crash the boards," Johnson said.

Johnson recorded his sixth career double-double (12 points, 10 rebounds), while Jackson led the Ducks with 26 points and added nine rebounds.

"We had a sour taste in our mouth from last year's loss," Jackson said. "And for our big guys to dominate from the beginning was big for us."

Kansas senior center Nick Collison, who had 25 points and 15 rebounds in his first meeting with the Ducks, was held to seven points and eight boards

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## Ridnour shines brightly in Papé Jam spotlight

Luke Ridnour leads the Ducks in every way during their big win over Kansas on Saturday

Peter Hockaday  
Sports Editor

PORTLAND — When Luke Ridnour was in high school, he was small. He was skinny. He was talented. But he wasn't going to be a top-level player for a top-level team.

Or so Roy Williams thought.

Williams, the head coach at Kansas, passed on Ridnour, and on Saturday, Ridnour passed back, dishing out nine assists in Oregon's win over Kansas. He also shot in bunches, scoring 25 points, including the game-clinching three-pointer with less than a minute remaining.

And as the Ducks made a statement in front of a national CBS television audience

about the legitimacy of their No. 7 ranking, Ridnour also made a statement.

Perhaps Williams could best describe it.

"That kid has made himself into a big time, big time player," Williams said.

Luke Jackson led all scorers with 26 points Saturday, but Ridnour's baskets were a mirror for the Ducks' progress. When he was hot, the Ducks were hot. When he faltered, the Ducks slipped. And in the end, it was Ridnour who hit the biggest shots when they mattered most.

It wasn't just the three-pointer that Ridnour hit. It was the fast-break layup he made seconds before that. And the play with three minutes left, when Ridnour snuck up on Kansas guard Kirk Hinrich and blocked Hinrich's jumper from behind. Ridnour missed a three-pointer on the ensuing fast break, but Jackson tipped in the rebound.

And the play served to rattle Hinrich, who, after scoring 24 points in the first 37 minutes of game time, went the last three without a point.

"There are some intangibles there that you look at, outside of his playing ability, with his character, that have just given this basketball team an opportunity to grow and get to another level," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said about Ridnour.

After the game, Kent kept trying to deflect questions about Ridnour's effort into answers about the Ducks as a team, but it was Ridnour who ran the team like a general all afternoon. He started with four assists in the game's first seven minutes, the last on one of the most bizarre plays of the game — or any game.

With the Ducks setting up a play on the offensive end of the floor, forward Ian Crosswhite was frantically tying his shoe on the

other end. He motioned to Kent to call a timeout, but Kent instead called a play. Ridnour waited for Crosswhite, who finally jogged up the floor, hung out at the top of the key, waited for the pass from Ridnour, and promptly drained a three-pointer to put Oregon ahead 17-8.

Then Ridnour started getting in on the scoring act, hitting back-to-back three-pointers to increase Oregon's lead to 14, the Ducks' largest lead of the game, with 5:09 left in the first half.

Williams said Ridnour has come a long way from the scrawny high school phenom he once was.

"He's stronger, but he still has that same quickness that I saw in high school," Williams said. "He's a classic gym rat. I don't think I could picture anybody being a bigger gym rat

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## Ducks surge past BYU for victory

## Women's basketball

Oregon records its fifth straight win in the annual Papé Jam in Portland

Hank Hager  
Sports Reporter

PORTLAND — If only they could've played the Papé Jam at McArthur Court.

What a game that would have been, if for no other reason than that the Ducks would have had an opportunity to celebrate their come-from-behind, 80-77 victory Saturday over No. 19 Brigham Young on the Oregon "O" at center court instead of on the Portland Trail Blazers logo.

Still, the victory couldn't have tasted any sweeter.

"It feels really good," senior Kourtney Shreve said. "(BYU) was a good team."

Oregon, which fell behind 38-32 entering halftime, used an offense that Duck fans are not used to seeing. With senior Shaquala Williams suspended and Oregon's perimeter shooting cold, the Ducks pounded the ball inside.

Junior Cathrine Kraayeveld led Oregon with 26 points, while freshman Carolyn Ganes, in a breakout performance, had 25. Together, the duo combined for 51 of the Ducks' 80 points.

But it wasn't what the Ducks were doing on the court that fueled them to victory. According to Ganes, it was a desire to just have fun and take advantage of the excitement afforded them by the Jam.

"I think we all came together and decided we're a team and wanted to have fun," Ganes said. "Everybody was out there having a good time."

That is, of course, true for everyone

but the Cougars. BYU held a 55-43 lead with 13 minutes left in the second half and seemed to be in control of the game.

However, the Oregon offense jumped into gear, chipping away at the BYU lead until the Ducks were within two at the five-minute mark, 70-68.

The game remained a see-saw battle until the final minutes of the contest.

After BYU's Erin Thorn connected on two free-throws to tie the score at 74 deep in the second half, Ganes answered back with her final two points of the night.

But the Cougars were not done, as Danielle Cheesman knocked down a three-pointer as the clock struck 1:58, putting Oregon's comeback in peril.

Oregon's never-say-die attitude showed in junior Kayla Steen's game-winning layup on an inbound pass from Shreve



Adam Amato Emerald

Cathrine Kraayeveld had 26 points in Oregon's comeback victory.

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