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Post players shine in win as guards go cold from 3

Oregon's two main post players create the turning point in the Ducks' win

Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

PORTLAND — The Oregon women's basketball team has a lot to be thankful for.

The Ducks' post players stepped it up and answered the challenge in Oregon's victory over Brigham Young in the Papé Jam on Saturday.

A horrendous first half of shooting from outside the paint left Oregon just 11-of-34 for 32.4 percent. The Ducks trailed 38-32 going into the half, and they knew adjustments had to be made.

"We just walked in and said that we didn't execute anything offensively," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "We talked about doing the little things like executing, setting screens and getting the ball inside."

On the night, Oregon's guards accounted for only 16 of the team's 80 points. The Cougars limited Oregon's shot selection, and when the Ducks' guards could find a shot, nothing fell.

"Lately, we have been off, and a lot of times we are not shooting when we are open," guard Kourtney Shreve said. "When we got the ball inside, that was where we needed it, and we didn't have to go back outside."

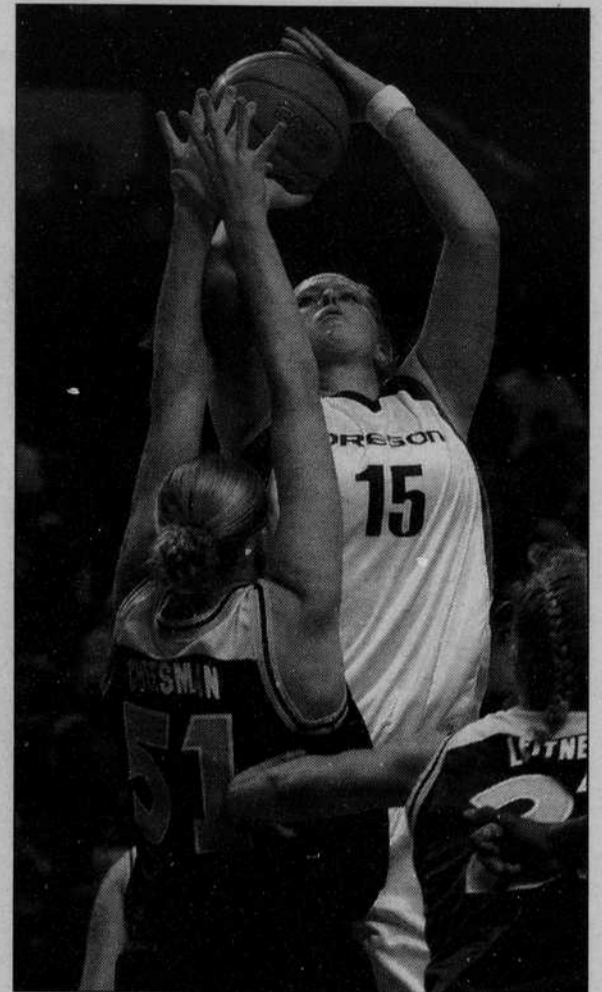
Oregon's post players took it upon themselves to carry the load from that point, and the second half was won in the paint.

Junior forward Cathrine Kraayeveld scored a season-high 26 points, adding 12 rebounds in her 37 minutes on the floor. Freshman center Carolyn Ganes answered her call for duty by also scoring a season-high 25 points, along with seven rebounds. Ganes was also five-for-five from the free-throw line in her 28 minutes.

"We just all came together, and we decided that we are going to play as a team," Ganes said. "It is good to know that if the perimeters are having a tough time, that the post can come and step it up. We were just clicking, and we know we have each other's backs."

And after the Ducks were down by as many as 12 points in the second half, they found what worked and stuck with it.

Ganes and Kraayeveld combined for 36 of their 51 points in the second half. As a result, the Ducks went



Adam Amato Emerald

Carolyn Ganes (15) stepped up in the second-half comeback, combining with Kraayeveld for 36 points in the second frame.

20-for-33 and shot 60.6 percent in the second half, and 46.3 percent on the night.

"I really focused on just trying to do what I can for the team," Kraayeveld said. "I had an advantage inside at the end, and I was just trying to make quick moves, and I felt like I was there."

With the Ducks' newfound glory in the paint, Oregon
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