

SPORTS

Sports Editor:
Peter Hockaday
peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com

Best bet
NCAA basketball:
Notre Dame at Pittsburgh
4 p.m., ESPN

Monday, January 6, 2003

Men split Pac-10 openers

The Ducks lose to No. 4 Arizona, turn around to beat Arizona State in their first conference games

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

To borrow a metaphor from football, the Oregon men split the Pac-10 up-rights in the opening weekend of conference play.

But enough about football.

The Oregon men's basketball squad capped off its winter break by blowing out Arizona State, 94-73, at McArthur Court, two days after it lost a hard-fought contest to No. 4 Arizona, 81-72. After a 9-1 preseason, the Ducks are now 10-2 and headed feet-first into the Pacific-10 Conference season.

"We needed to go through a Pac-10 weekend at home, because it has forced us to grow," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We had some adversity that we had to deal with, we fought through the adversity."

Over the Pac-10 opening weekend, Oregon played 57 minutes of stellar basketball, but it was the other 23 minutes that cost the Ducks one game and had them reeling at halftime of the other contest.

Oregon led Arizona by 10 points and 11 points at separate junctures in the second half of Thursday's contest. But the Wildcats whittled away at the Ducks and took their first lead of the second frame at 68-67 with 3:50 remaining.

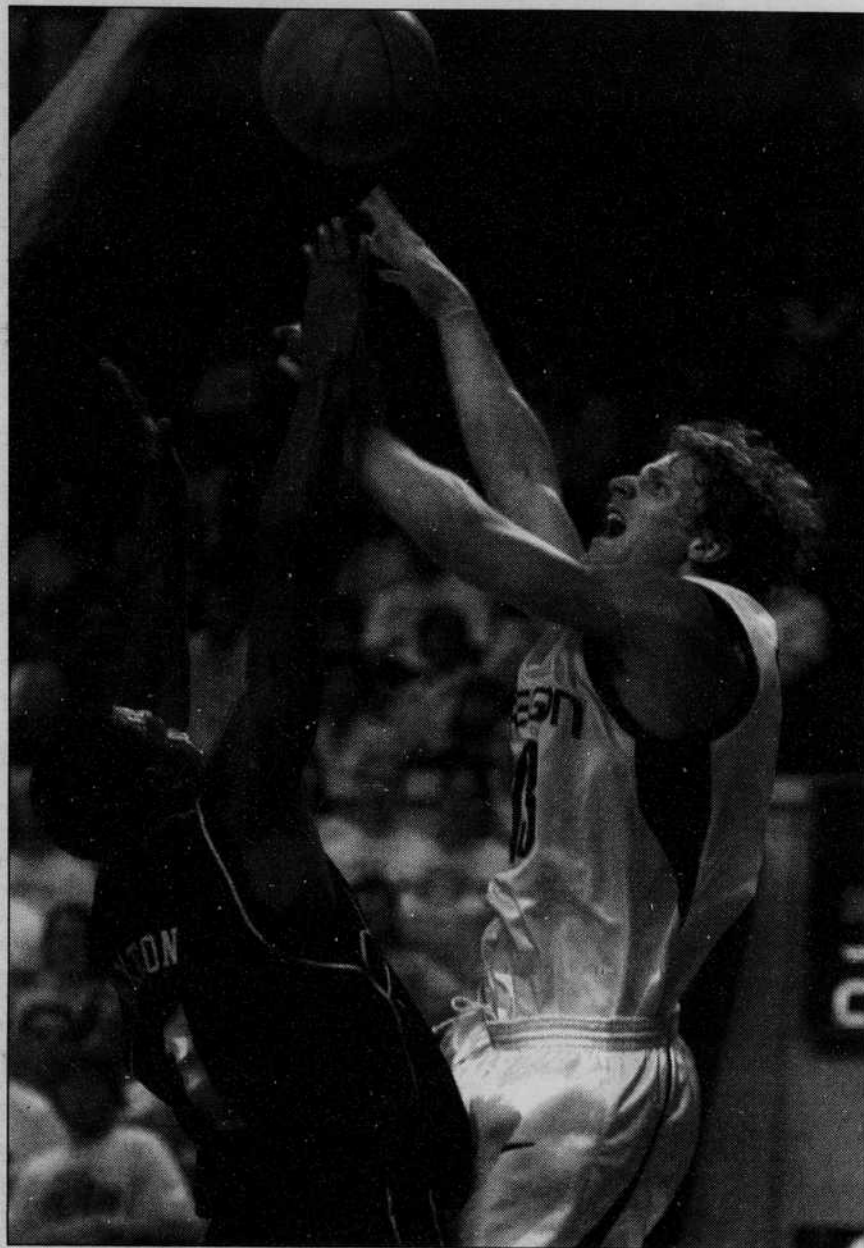
"We lost our composure," Oregon guard Andre Joseph said.

With the game tied at 70 and 2:13 remaining, Arizona seniors Jason Gardner and Rick Anderson hit back-to-back three-pointers to put the Wildcats up by six points with 1:21 left. The sellout crowd of 9,087 sat in stunned silence and the Ducks never recovered.

"They had a lot of energy out there, that's why they were the preseason No. 1," Kent said.

The Ducks were out-rebounded by the Wildcats 50-28 on Thursday, leading Kent to compare the game to Oregon's loss to Kansas in the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament last season.

Oregon carried its lethargy into Saturday's contest with Arizona State. In front of another sellout Mac Court crowd, the



Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Ridnour (13) goes up for two of his 24 points Saturday against Arizona State.

Ducks started slow and went into halftime losing 39-33.

"We were yelling in the locker room, we knew we had to pick it up," said Oregon forward Jay Anderson, who had a career-high 10 points in the game.

In the second half, buoyed by strong performances from Anderson and Matt Short off the bench, the Ducks did pick it up, big time. They shot 80.8 percent in the second frame, at one point going on a 21-0 run to blow out the Sun Dev-

ils. Oregon was led in the second half by Luke Ridnour, who had a poor game against Arizona, turning the ball over eight times and scoring 16 points. But Ridnour made up for it with a 24-point, 7-assist performance against Arizona State.

"Rid just kind of took over the game with about 10 minutes left," Anderson said. "He was driving the lane, and nobody could stop him."

Turn to **Men's**, page 12

Women drop to 5-8 with two losses in 'Zona

Oregon has been struggling without All-American candidate Cathrine Kraayeveld

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

What a roller-coaster season of ups and downs it has become for head coach Bev Smith and the women's basketball team.

After a week in the desert, there's been plenty more downs than ups.

The Ducks, down to nine active players due to injuries and suspensions, fell to Arizona on Thursday, 96-65, in Tucson, then couldn't hold off the potent Arizona State offense and lost to the Sun Devils, 78-63, Saturday at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe.

Oregon failed to hold the lead once in either game, as the Ducks (5-8 overall, 1-3 Pacific-10 Conference) were mismatched on the boards by both schools.

Against the Sun Devils, sophomore Brandi Davis had 18 points and sophomore Andrea Bills continued her hot hand with 13 while pulling in a team-high nine rebounds.

Still, it wasn't enough.

Arizona State (10-3, 2-2) got solid production from Kylan Loney, who hit five 3-pointers and led the team with 21 points. Jill Noe also had a big night, hitting on 10-of-12 free throws en route to 18 points.

"Our effort, work ethic and aggressiveness were much better today," Smith said. "Our players left the floor dead-dog tired. It hurts to lose a game like this because of how hard we played."

The Ducks were outrebounded, 41-31, and noticeably missed the presence of junior Cathrine Kraayeveld, who missed her fourth-straight game with a staph infection in her right knee. Kraayeveld is still expected to miss at least five more weeks.

Still, the Ducks figured they put on a better showing than the 31-point blowout victory by Arizona Thursday.

"We all got a little better today," Davis said. "Sometimes you give your all and it doesn't go the way you want it to."

Sophomore Kedzie Gunderson, ever-proving she is deserving of the team's early season courage award, posted a career-high 12 points. The forward suffered a broken nose against Montana Dec. 19, and has been wearing a face guard to protect it.

The win was Arizona State head coach Charli Turner Thorne's 100th while with the Sun Devils.

Against Arizona, all Smith could do was praise No. 20 Arizona's (9-3, 3-1) effort.

The Wildcats shot 53 percent from the field on the night and jumped out to a 43-29 halftime lead.

Turn to **Women's**, page 16

Ducks fall to Wolverines; Overstake, Webster win

Tony Overstake and Shane Webster both improve to 2-1 in dual meets this season

Wrestling

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

When visiting the No. 7 team in the country, an unranked team realizes it needs to put up a fight to keep the meet close, let alone win.

Oregon just didn't want to lose as badly as they did.

Giving up two falls, two major decisions and one forfeit, the Oregon wrestling squad lost 35-6 at No. 7 Michigan on Saturday.

The falls, major decisions and forfeit gave Michigan 26 of its 35 points. The other nine were earned on one-point and two-point decisions.

Oregon earned its six points on two decisions. Senior Tony Overstake earned an 8-7 victory over Je-

remiah Tobias at 149. Overstake was ranked No. 20 in the 149 weight class going into Saturday's meet.

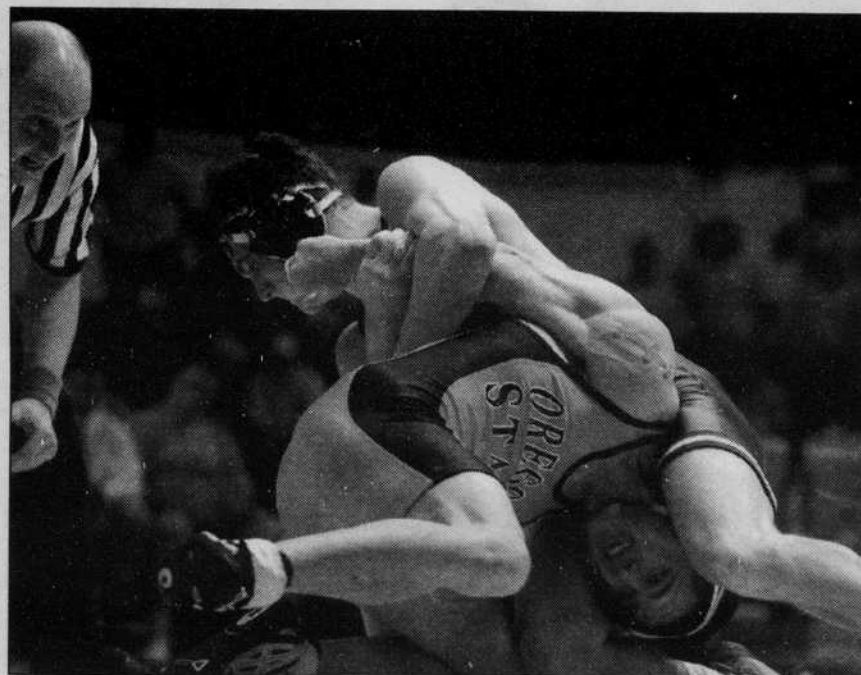
Tobias took the early lead in the matchup with a quick takedown in the first period. Overstake responded with an escape and a takedown to take a one-point advantage heading into the second period.

During the second frame, Tobias had a takedown and a two-point fall, but Overstake matched him with a reversal and takedown, keeping the one-point lead. A scoreless third period kept the match at 8-7.

Sophomore Shane Webster, ranked No. 10 in his weight class, earned Oregon's other decision. Webster defeated R.J. Boudro, 7-3.

Webster jumped ahead early, with two takedowns in the first period. Adding another in the third, Webster allowed Boudro only three points on three escapes.

"We have to eliminate mistakes," head coach



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Turn to **Wrestling**, page 13 Tony Overstake (top), seen here against Oregon State, was one of two Ducks to win at Michigan.