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SPORTS

Best bet
Oklahoma
at Oklahoma State
6 p.m. ESPN

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UO blown out of Bay Area by Stanford

The Ducks suffer their second straight loss, an 81-57 blowout in Palo Alto, and fall to 1-3 in the Pac-10

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

STANFORD, Calif. — Luke Ridnour hobbled through a tunnel at Maples Pavilion after answering the

media's questions Saturday night, his head down, leaning on assistant coach Mark Hudson for support.

He found his way to the basketball floor, where his parents were waiting for him. They gave him a big, long hug.

He needed it.

Despite Ridnour's best efforts, No. 12 Oregon was blown out of the Bay Area, suffering its second loss

of its first Pacific-10 Conference road trip of the season. This one was an 81-57 loss to Stanford in front of a national television audience and 7,034 fans in Palo Alto, but it felt eerily similar to the Ducks' loss Thursday in Berkeley.

Opponent lights it up. Oregon can't respond. Ducks get buried early.

It must be bad when the normally soft-spoken Ridnour says this: "We're

pissed off. We got our ass kicked twice in a row on this trip."

Indeed, Oregon went down by 10 points eight minutes into Saturday's contest, and never put together an offensive run to get back into the game. The Ducks shot just 33.3 percent from the floor, and Ridnour was the only Oregon player to score in double digits. He had 19 points in 33 minutes, despite

spraining his left ankle in the California game.

"Mentally, we're all down, I know I'm down," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "Physically, I can't say enough about Luke Ridnour. But we're a little banged up."

Oregon was banged up on the boards all night by Stanford, another item to file in the "broken record"

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Powell's free throws sink UO women

Oregon comes back from 15 down but can't pull out a win over No. 6 Stanford

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

It was a bittersweet ending to an otherwise spectacular game for the Oregon women's basketball team.

Nicole Powell's free throws with 1.3 seconds left ended an Oregon comeback from 15 down, cementing a 75-74 No. 6 Stanford victory Saturday night in front of a season-high crowd of 5,253 at McArthur Court.

All of this after the Ducks seemingly had tied the game on Carolyn Ganes' free throws with 3.3 seconds left.

"You're always thinking about (the win) at that point, but you're also thinking three seconds is a long time," senior Alissa Edwards said.

On the immediate inbounds — after a Stanford timeout — T'Nae Thiel's hail-Mary pass fell into the hands of Powell and in front of sophomore Kedzie Gunderson near Oregon's three-point line. Powell, with a clear path to the hoop, streaked toward the basket.

With Gunderson trailing, Powell went up for a layup, but was blocked by sophomore Brandi Davis, much to the delight of most in attendance. However, with Oregon (6-9 overall, 2-4 Pacific-10 Conference) fans and players celebrating, Gunderson was called for a foul with 1.3 seconds left, putting Powell at the free-throw line.

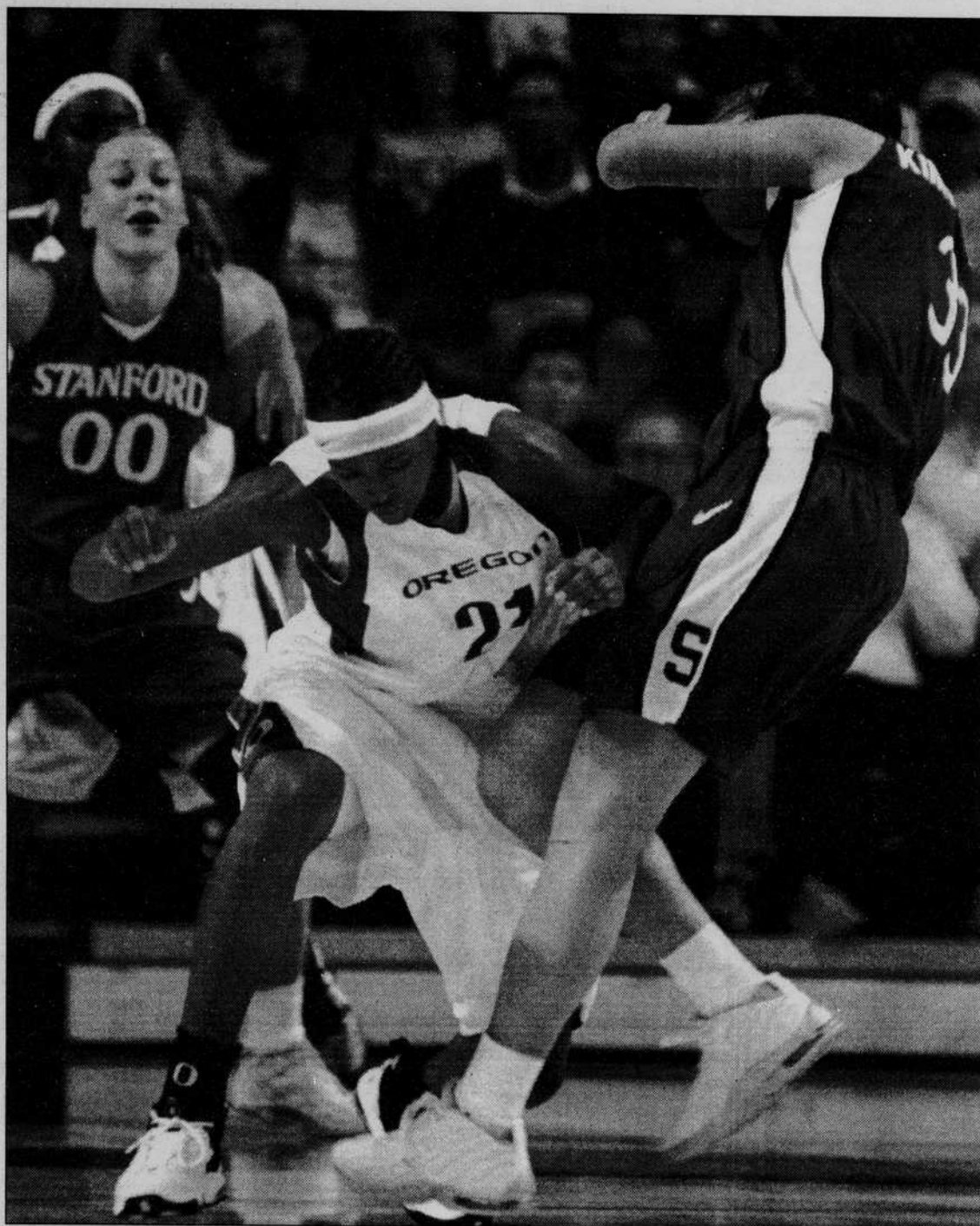
"It felt like I got hit on the catch, dribble and shot," Powell said. "I know (Davis) got the ball, but it was body too. I just thought it had to be a foul and turned around and saw the ref running up."

"It was just one of those instances where I knew the ball was going to her," Gunderson said. "I thought I would get in front of her and get the ball. I tried to grab anything possible and grabbed her shorts."

"We talked about keeping the ball in front of us," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "It was a

"We fought hard. We did everything we could. We had people step up big on offense. We gave it all we could."

Alissa Edwards
senior



Adam Amato Emerald

Brandi Davis (21) fights for a loose ball with Stanford's Sebnem Kimyacioglu in the Cardinal's 75-74 win.

hell of a pass and a hell of a catch. Kedzie probably did the right thing. Certainly, we'd like to have that one over and had we been able to keep it in front of us, the outcome would've been different."

Oregon trailed 62-47 with 10:36 left. But that's where the Ducks began their comeback.

Oregon went on a 14-4 run over the next four minutes to pull within five.

They weren't done there as sophomore Andrea Bills' jumper with 3:57 left got the Ducks within one, 69-68. Neither team would trail by more than three from that point on.

"We fought hard," Edwards said. "We did everything we could. We

had people step up big on offense. We gave it all we could."

A layup by freshman Yadili Okwumabua with 1:32 gave the Ducks the lead, but Stanford's (12-1, 4-0) Chelsea Trotter then scored two of her 16 points on a layup to give the lead back to the Cardinal.

Then it was Ganes' turn with three seconds left, and two free throws that looked to be enough. Enough, at least, for two seconds.

"Players win games," Smith said. "Plays don't win games."

Edwards led the Ducks with a career-high 17 points on 6-of-8 shooting and was on fire from beyond the 3-point arc. The guard made 5-of-6 from downtown.

"Alissa Edwards hit some great

"Alissa Edwards hit some great shots. She had that look in her eye."

Bev Smith
head coach

shots," Smith said. "She had that look in her eye."

Bills had 16 for the Ducks, while Ganes (14 points) and Gunderson (13) also came through on offense. On the night, Oregon shot 51 percent from the field and was 9-of-19 from three-point range.

However, the Duck free throw Turn to **Women's**, page 8

Fans help Oregon in comeback

Oregon's sixth man rocks The Pit as the Ducks rally late, only to fall to No. 6 Stanford

Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Not even 5,253 fans at McArthur Court could help the Oregon women's basketball team overcome No. 6 Stanford on Saturday night. But they came awfully close.

With 1.3 seconds left, and the Ducks leading by one, Mae Court erupted in cheers in hopes that Stanford's Nicole Powell, the reigning Pacific-10 Conference Player of the Year, would miss at least one of her final two free throws. But she didn't.

And Oregon suffered a heartbreaking loss to the Cardinal, 75-74.

The loss seemed as hard for Oregon's crowd as it was for the Ducks themselves. Oregon gave its fans plenty to cheer about as the team kept the game close and put up the kind of fight that was somewhat unexpected.

With more than 10 minutes gone in the first half, senior Alissa Edwards hit a three-pointer to tie the game at 16-16 and the crowd erupted in cheer. It was going to be one of those wild nights at The Pit.

"The fans are always what help us and we love playing at home," sophomore Kedzie Gunderson said. "Having them get fired up whenever we make a stop, they are up on their feet cheering and that just makes us want to play even harder."

But Stanford finished the first half on a 14-4 run to deflate the Oregon faithful and sent the Ducks into the locker room down 39-28.

With 10:36 left in the game, Stanford's Chelsea Trotter hit a three-pointer to give the Cardinal a 62-47 lead. The crowd went silent.

Then, Oregon went on a 21-7 run in the next seven minutes. The Ducks got right back in it, trailing by one at 68-69. Absolute pandemonium blasted from the season-high crowd that packed into Mae Court.

"Our fans really helped us," Edwards said. "Stanford had a hard time trying to get into offenses because they couldn't hear anything. The fans were so loud."

Oregon (6-9 overall, 2-4 Pac-10) took a 74-73 lead after two free throws by Carolyn Ganes with three seconds left.

"That was the most amazing thing I have seen from a crowd in a basketball game," Ganes said. "The back-

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