

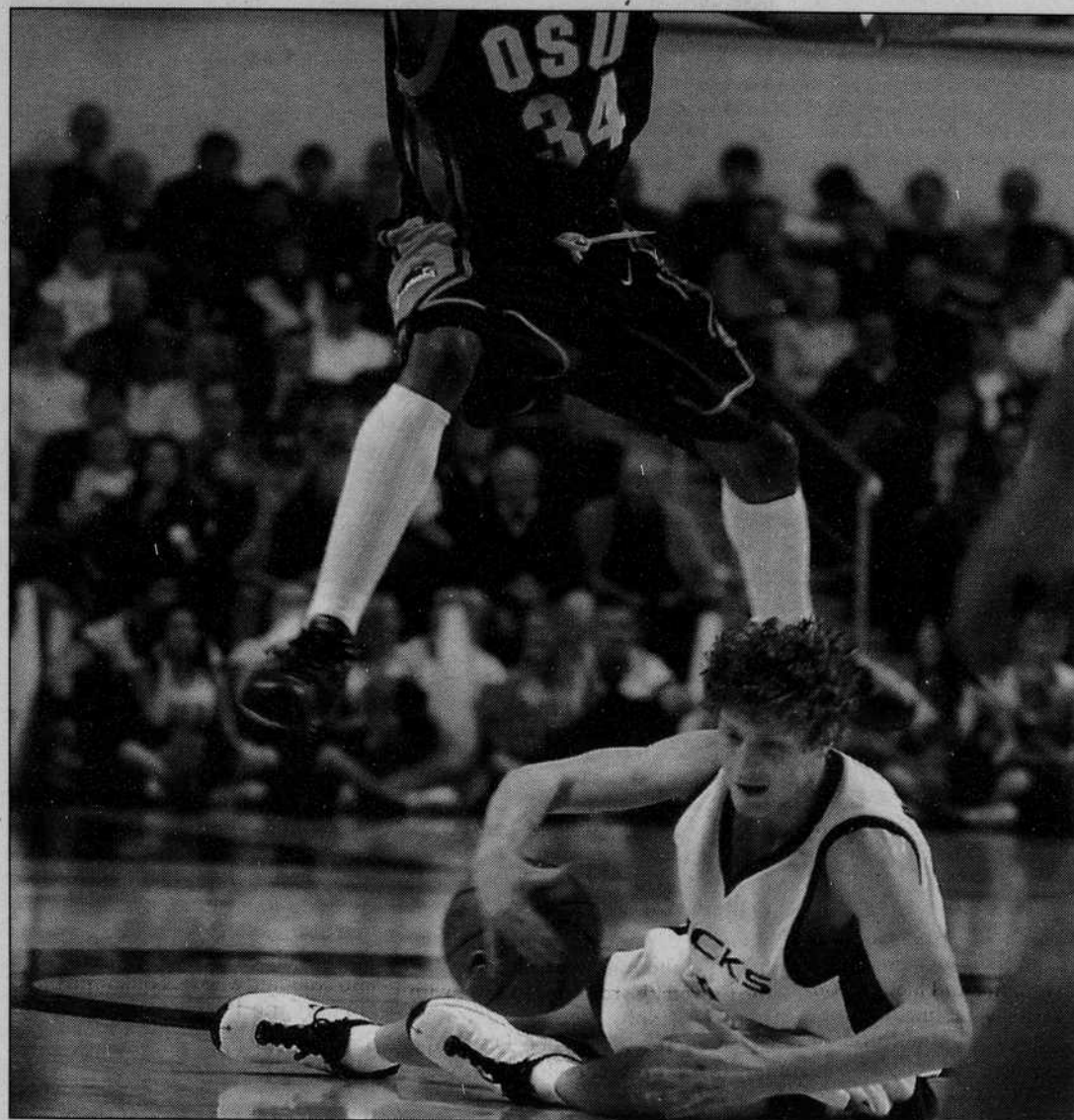
SPORTS

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Best bet
NCAA basketball:
Ohio State at Indiana
4 p.m., ESPN

Tuesday, January 21, 2003

Men return to form with Civil War victory



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Luke Ridnour (bottom) 'had his hand in just about every play' down the stretch, according to Beaver coach Jay John.

The Ducks struggle in the first half, but find their rhythm in the second to handle the Beavers at home

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Baby steps.

The No. 23 Oregon men's basketball team, in need of a Pacific-10 Conference win after dropping three of its first four Pac-10 games, took steps back toward greatness with a 79-68 win over Oregon State in front of a sold-out crowd at McArthur Court on Saturday.

But the steps were small.

The Ducks, wearing their different yellow "lightning" jerseys, came out and played the same — downright sloppily — as they played in their two losses in the Bay Area last weekend. Oregon committed 11 turnovers in the first frame and went into the locker room leading 34-31.

"We talked about (the sloppiness) at halftime, and I did not have a problem with that at all," Duck head coach Ernie Kent said. "They were hustle mistakes; they were mistakes trying to do too much; they were not because of lack of effort."

"We came out aggressive, but that's what we needed to do in this game," said guard Luke Ridnour, who scored 28 points in the game to lead all scorers. "We set the tone, and we finally got them to break in the second half a little bit."

Ridnour simply took over the game in the second frame, leading the Ducks on a charge that was reminiscent of the preseason runs they used to blow out

teams like Kansas and Minnesota.

"If there was a way for me to get the ball out of Luke Ridnour's hands..." mused Oregon State coach Jay John, when asked what he would have done differently in the second half. "He probably had his hands in about every basket in the last six, seven, eight minutes of the game. It seemed like he was either feeding, shooting or shooting free throws."

Ridnour's play helped the Ducks go on an 11-4 run midway through the second half to put Oregon ahead by 10 points with 7:07 remaining. The Beavers never got within eight points over the rest of the contest as the Ducks put the game away.

Luke Jackson scored 19 points but went 6-for-19, or 32 percent, from the field and 2-for-5 from three-point land. But Jackson had six rebounds, a block and two steals, and Kent was pleased with his effort.

"The two Lukes jumped back into their rhythm again, they got back on their game," Kent said.

Without Jackson, the Ducks may not have been in the game at all in the first half. The junior forward opened the game with a three, then hit a fadeaway jumper and an alley-oop dunk from Ridnour for Oregon's first seven points of the contest.

"People kind of labeled us as not playing hard, and that's not our team; we don't want to be labeled as not being competitive," Jackson said. "So we just came out and tried to be the aggressor on both ends."

Oregon State forward Phillip Ricci led the Beavers with 24 points. But Oregon was able to shut down forward

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Not so Civil: Beavers blow away women in War

The Oregon women's basketball team falls to 2-5 in Pac-10 play with the loss to Oregon State on Saturday

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

CORVALLIS — It was shaping up to be a traditional Civil War contest between Oregon and Oregon State.

All it took to break that tradition was a freshman from Stayton.

Casey Bunn scored a career-high 20 points and junior Brina Chaney tied an OSU single-game record with eight blocks as the Beavers defeated Oregon, 67-51, Saturday in front of 4,572 at Gill Coliseum.

The win is the Beavers' first victory against the Ducks at Gill since 1996. It was also just the second game since 1998 in which the winner came out on top by at least 15 points.

"Growing up, this is the kind of game you want to be in," Bunn said. "It's always good to beat the Ducks."

Bunn, who came into the game averaging 5.7 points per game in Pacific-

10 Conference play, was the driving force behind a 20-2 Oregon State run that lasted just under 10 minutes midway through the second half.

The scoring run vaulted the Beavers to an insurmountable 55-41 lead.

"It's kind of hard to get back on defense when your offense is struggling," Oregon sophomore Brandi Davis said. "We were struggling at both ends tonight."

Struggling, perhaps, because of the play of Chaney and Oregon State's post players.

Chaney, who came into the game as the Pac-10's leading shot blocker with

35 on the season, turned away five Oregon (6-10 overall, 2-5 Pac-10) shots in the first half alone. Although she played just eight minutes in the second half, she victimized the Ducks for three more.

"I was just playing kind of smart, the first half especially," Chaney said. "Really trying to slide my feet, stay in front of the offensive player. I knew they wanted to turn and shoot. Sometimes, they're shooting kind of right into me, so I didn't really have to stretch for it."

Oregon State (9-7, 3-4) held Oregon to just 14 points in the paint, including two in the second half.

With the Ducks' post players neutralized by the more athletic Oregon State forwards, Oregon had to turn to its outside shooting. It wasn't there.

"We just got a little anxious and a little bit outside of our offense instead of running our offense," Oregon senior Alissa Edwards said. "We've got to stick to being disciplined, because we got away from that on offense and defense."

The Ducks continually forced poor shots in the second half, especially during Oregon State's run. So much, in fact, that the Ducks shot just 25

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Ducks take down Stanford, UC Davis with enthusiasm

Six Ducks win both their matchups Friday en route to two dual meet wins for Oregon at McArthur Court

Wrestling

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

After a month away from their home on the floor of McArthur Court, the Ducks (5-4 overall, 4-0 Pacific-10 Conference) returned Friday to wrestle Stanford and California-Davis, coming away with two big conference wins.

Senior Casey Hunt, wrestling at

141, had the day's top performance, managing to pin both of his opponents in the Ducks' 32-6 win over Stanford and their 28-9 win over UC Davis.

Against Stanford's Brendon Fox, Hunt had a 4-1 lead on two takedowns before pinning Fox at the 2:23 mark in the first period.

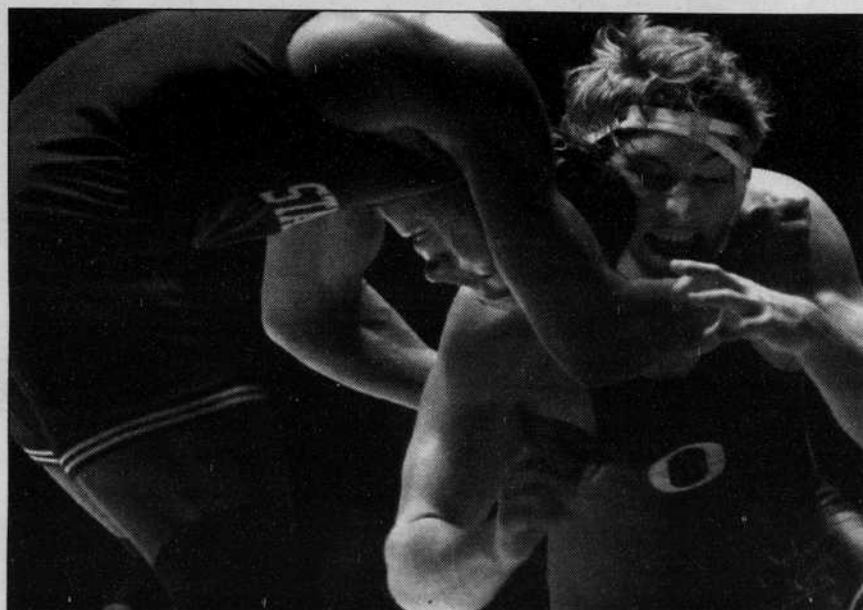
Friday evening, Hunt battled Aggie Cris Brines and ended the first period with both wrestlers still scoreless. In the second period, Brines started down. Hunt held him and got the pin after 1:23.

"He's one of those kids that is dangerous, and he likes to pin people," head coach Chuck Kearney said.

Freshman Tony Rolan, who started the day with a 1-3 record, won both his matches at 184 in the third period, improving to 3-3. In a 5-2 decision over Stanford's Harold Penson, Rolan earned all of his points in the third period.

Against Aggie Ronnie Silva, Rolan had a takedown halfway through the first period with Silva managing an escape. Starting the third period down, Silva had a reversal and Rolan earned an escape to tie the score at three with just more than one minute left.

Looking like it would go into overtime, Rolan pulled out the Turn to **Wrestling**, page 10



Adam Amato Emerald

Tony Rolan (right) won both his matches at the 184 weight class as Oregon swept both Stanford and UC-Davis at McArthur Court on Friday. Rolan was one of six Ducks to sweep their matches.