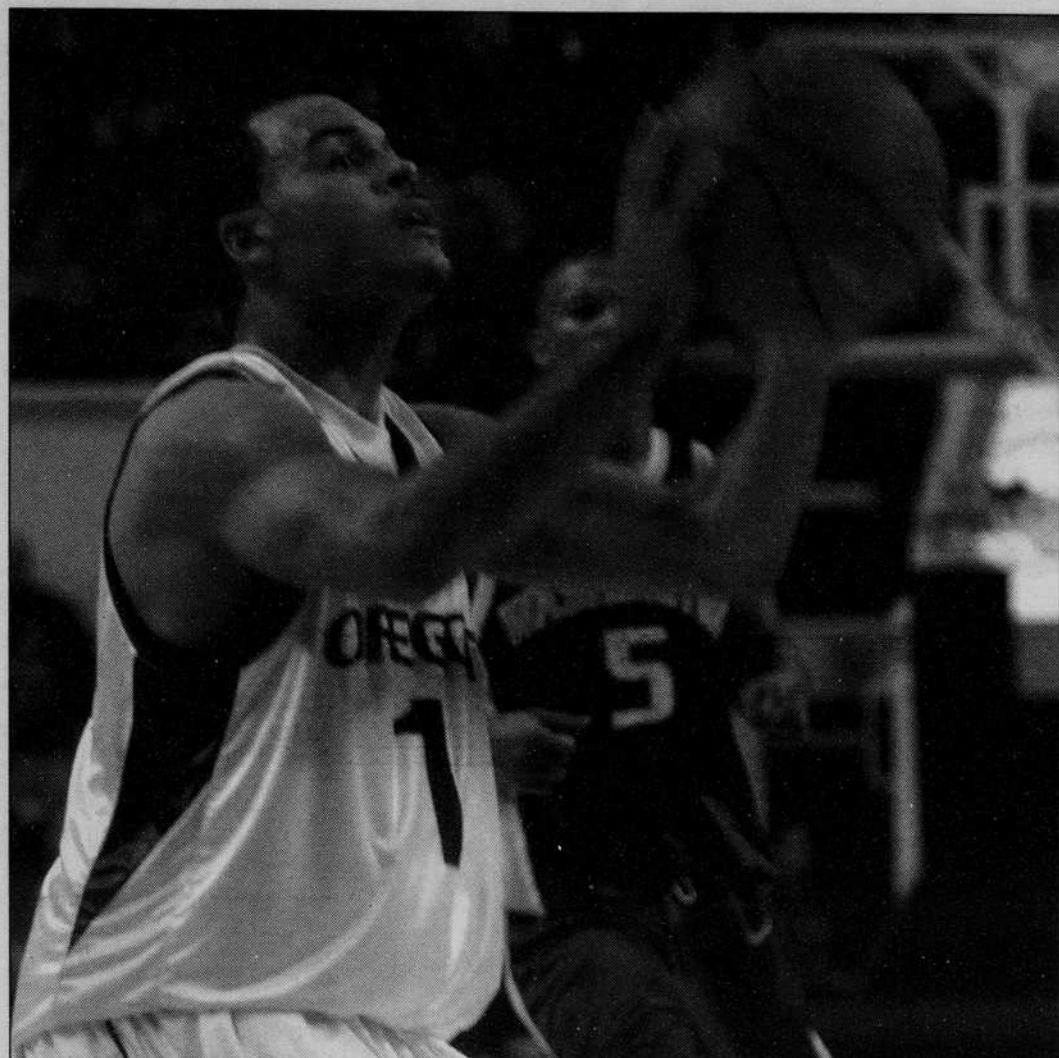


SPORTS

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Best bet
Super Bowl:
Tampa Bay vs. Oakland
3 p.m. Sunday, ABC

Friday, January 24, 2003



Danielle Hickey Emerald

James Davis had six three-pointers in the Ducks' 91-66 win over Washington on Thursday at McArthur Court.

Ducks dawg UW at boisterous Pit

No. 23 Oregon shares the wealth in a 91-66 pounding of the Huskies at Mac Court

Men's basketball

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

Luke Ridnour says he has nothing personal against Washington. This is just basketball. Just another game.

But, on so many levels, this was far from just another game.

For one, Ridnour, typically a level-headed guy who keeps his emotions bottled up, let loose Thursday on the Huskies.

A Blaine, Wash., native, Ridnour sank a 3-pointer early in the second half, then forced a Washington turnover at the other end of the floor. Battling a near-flawless opponent and an unforgiving McArthur Court crowd, the Huskies, trailing 63-33, called a timeout, and Ridnour yelled in celebration, pumped his fist, flexed his muscles, yelled some more, then smiled as he walked back to the bench.

Just another game? Hardly. This game featured a nasty, blood-squirting Luke Jackson finger, 14 Oregon 3-

pointers, 28 Oregon assists on 34 field goals, and a UConn reject. It all added up to a 91-66 win for the 23rd-ranked Ducks (13-4 overall, 3-3 Pacific-10 Conference), who have won three straight after a slow start to the conference season.

"I thought (the Ducks) could've played with anybody in the country tonight," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "I don't know if there's another team in the country that's had a game like that, with 28 assists on 34 baskets."

Still limping from consecutive blowout losses two weeks ago in the Bay Area, Ridnour said the Ducks were just hoping to match the Huskies' anticipated energy. They didn't expect a second-half walk-through, which is what it eventually became at a sold-out Mac Court.

And the Huskies (7-9, 2-5), after defeating Stanford in their last game, were expecting an intense showdown, which is what has become of this rivalry. Instead, Washington gave up a school-record 14 3-pointers to the Ducks and got a lackluster performance from their star, Doug Wrenn.

"I was really impressed by the way they shared the ball," Washington first-year coach Lorenzo Romar said of

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Jackson injures finger in bloody first-half play

Nobody knows how he injured it, and the Oregon forward will miss Saturday's game because of the laceration

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

In an otherwise mediocre contest between Oregon and Washington on Thursday night, the question on everybody's lips concerned a finger.

Luke Jackson's severely lacerated, blood-squirting ring finger, to be exact.

Jackson, attempting a steal late in the first half of the Ducks' 91-66 victory, got his right ring finger (on his non-shooting hand) somehow caught in the jersey of Husky forward Doug Wrenn. Jackson was whisked away right after the game, and nobody else was quite sure how it happened, but two things are for certain.

First, Jackson needed 10-12 stitches on the bottom of his right ring finger, but was healthy enough to return to the Oregon bench with his hand bandaged and his arm in a sling. Second, he will miss Saturday's game. Anything after that is up in the air.

"The cut was three-quarters of the way around the base of his ring finger, and the area where it's at meant there was a lot of blood," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We're just thankful it wasn't worse."

Nobody knows exactly how it happened, except for, perhaps, Jackson himself. Wrenn said he hardly even felt Jackson bump into him, and that he didn't think his fingernail caused the cut.

"Hopefully, he'll bounce back," Wrenn said. "I didn't feel anything; he probably got caught on my jersey."

Kent said he didn't know how it happened, either.

"He just jammed his hand in there; who knows exactly how?" Kent said. "The good news is it didn't hit a tendon or a nerve."

Andre Joseph will start Saturday's game in place of Jackson, and Kent wasn't sure whether Jackson will be back for next week's contests at UCLA and USC.

"Everybody moves up," Kent said of Saturday's rotation. "This will be an opportunity for us to show our depth."

Jackson's finger bled profusely at first, and he was ushered off the court quickly by assistant athletic trainer Clay Jamieson, who wrapped Jackson's hand in a towel. Jackson came back midway through the second frame, but he didn't play. He received an ovation when he returned to the Oregon bench.

Jackson's injury could have been a distraction for the Ducks, who were leading 38-14 when he left the game with 5:52 left in the first half. On the previous possession, Jackson made a steal and took it the length of the court for a lay-in.

"We could sit there and let our minds race, but the key thing was to remain focused and remain calm, and this team did a great job of that," Kent said.

The Ducks did remain calm, and kept the lead where it was until halftime, before blowing the game open in the second half. They even got the approval of Washington coach Lorenzo Romar.

"I've talked to Ernie Kent about his team, and the one thing he always talks about is the character of the team," Romar said. "That's

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UO women fall hard at Washington

Oregon falls to ninth place in the Pac-10 with a loss to Washington

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

It was a game Oregon desperately needed to get back into the Pacific-10 Conference race.

It was a game steeped in rivalry against the Ducks' traditional Northwest foe.

Unfortunately for Oregon, it was a game taken over by Loree Payne and the rest of the Washington women's basketball team.

Payne tied a career high with 29 points and knocked down six three-pointers as the Huskies walked away with a victory, 79-60, Thursday at Bank of America Arena in Seattle.

The loss gives Oregon (6-11 overall, 2-6 Pac-10) a three-game losing streak and drops the Ducks to 1-6 away from McArthur Court this season.

"The game is 40 minutes long, and we have not had that defensive intensity and heart for 40 minutes," Oregon head coach Bev Smith told KSCR-AM.

The Ducks held Washington to 45 percent shooting in the first half, but Washington exploded in the second half en route to shooting 50 percent from the field on the night. The Husky offense was led by Payne, who knocked down nine of 14 shots in 30 minutes of play.

Overall, the Huskies (14-3, 6-2) had four players in double figures and 10 players scored at least one point.

"They have a tremendous rhythm within the players they have playing for them," Smith said.

Oregon was led offensively by freshman Carolyn Ganes, who came within one of her career best with 24 points.

Ganes, as she has done all season, dominated down low, but also showed her versatility in making two 3-pointers.

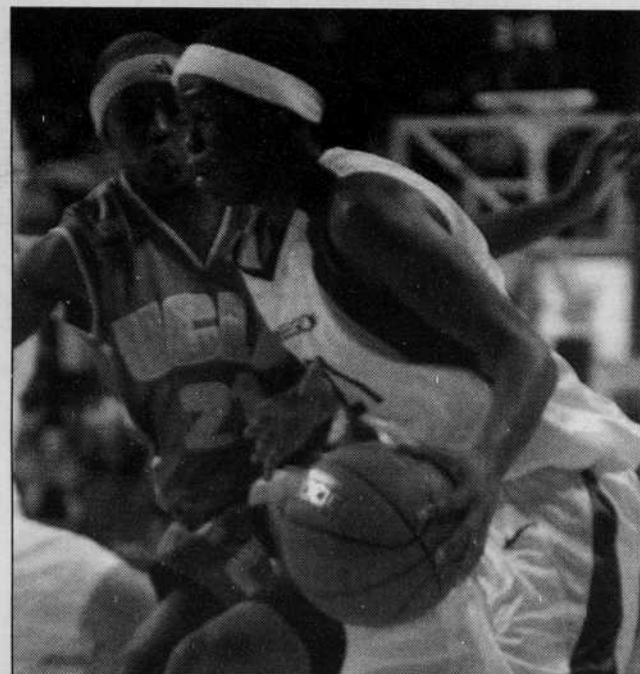
The Ducks did not fare bad offensively — shooting 44 percent in the first half — but could not come through late when it mattered most.

Just like the contest against Oregon State, the Ducks faltered midway through the second half both offensively and defensively.

After going into halftime with a 34-32 lead, Washington took control early in the second stanza, posting an 8-2 run to start the half.

Washington made it 54-43 with 12:17 left on Payne's fourth 3-pointer of the night, and from that point on, the Ducks could get no closer than 13 points.

"Certainly, where we have to look is on the defensive end," Smith said. "That's where we lose our concentration and focus."

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Danielle Hickey Emerald

Brandi Davis and the Ducks fell to 2-6 in Pac-10 play with the loss.