

UO women struggle in win against Cougars

The Ducks find a way to win after losing three straight close games in Pullman

Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

It wasn't pretty Saturday night in Pullman.

But it was a win, and that's the most important thing to the Oregon women's basketball team.

The Ducks had solid all-around performances and pulled out another last-second thriller against Washington State, 73-69.

The Ducks were ahead the entire second half but never could find comfort in it. Oregon led the Cougars 71-66 with 28 seconds left, but after a few missed free-throws for Oregon and clutch free-throws from the Cougars, Washington State had the ball with six seconds left, trailing by two.

But the Ducks, who lost on last-second shots in Pullman last season and the year before, would not suffer the fate again, as Edwards stole the ball to secure Oregon's first victory in its last four games.

"This is a very tough game for us, psychologically and emotionally," Oregon head coach Bev Smith told KSCR-AM. "Our team did a really good job knowing that this was a good opportunity. We did some things offensively that we haven't done in the past."

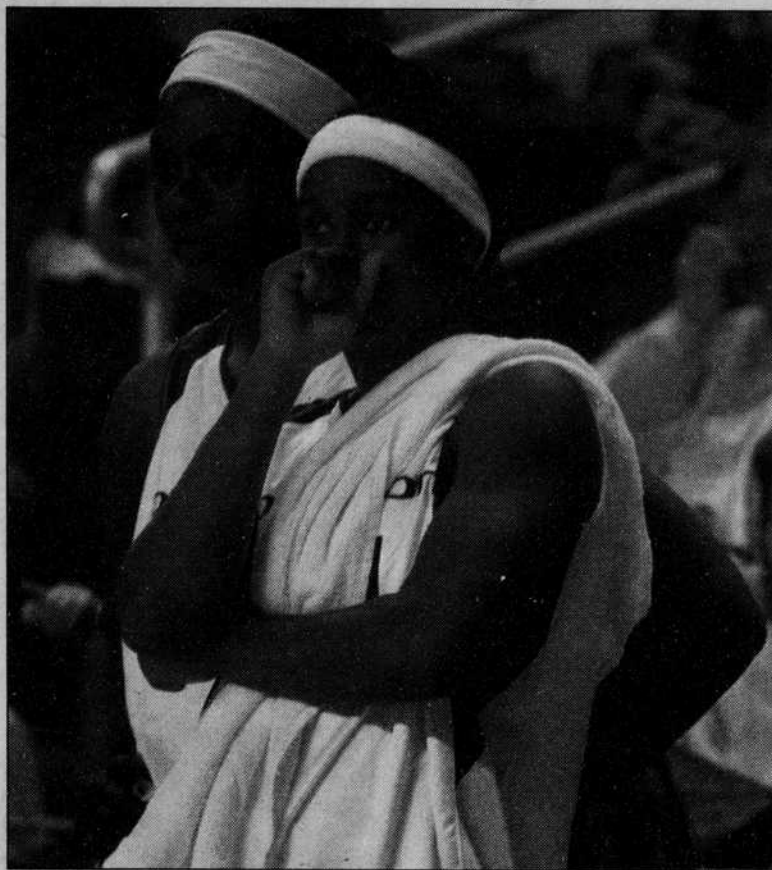
Oregon (7-11, 3-6 Pac-10) splits its weekend with the Northwest rivals after a loss to Washington on Thursday, and the Ducks will move within one game of fifth place in the Pacific-10 Conference with the win.

The Ducks shot 44 percent from the field on the night and went 9-for-15 from the free throw line. Oregon turned the ball over 13 times and was out-rebounded by four.

The Cougars shot 43 percent from the field, and were 5-for-12 on three-pointers. Washington State accumulated 43 rebounds on the evening, yet gave the ball up 20 times thanks to Oregon's newfound defensive energy.

It was a game that was evenly matched from the open tip-off. And after the first 10 minutes of play, the teams were almost square with Oregon leading just 18-17.

The Ducks struggled from that



Adam Amato Emerald

Brandi Davis (front) had 24 points, a career high, in the win over Washington State.

point, as junior Lindsey Egeland hit a three-pointer to give the Cougars their first lead of 20-18 en route to an 11-0 run. But after a hot first half by sophomore Brandi Davis, the Ducks weathered the storm and fought their way back to a halftime lead of 36-35.

Davis was hot from the start, scoring eight of Oregon's first 10 points, and she headed into the locker room with 19 points of 9-of-14 shooting. She fell just one shy of her career-high 20 points and had played only 17 minutes.

The California native finished the night with 24 points, a new career high.

"She is just unbelievably talented," Smith said. "She did a great job of taking advantage of her opportunities. Thank god she was hot in that first half, because it really kept us feeling good about ourselves offensively."

When Oregon entered the second half, it found the offensive rhythm and defensive intensity that it had been looking for. The Ducks led the final 20 minutes, by as many as nine,

although the Cougars did not make it easy on Oregon.

"Defensively, we rallied harder than we ever have and I think that was the turning point tonight," Smith said.

The Ducks had solid performances across the board tonight, and it made the difference. Davis led all scorers, followed by freshman Carolyn Ganes, who earned her first career double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Sophomore Kedzie Gunderson also came through strong for Oregon with some clutch offensive rebounds, and added 11 points in her 32 minutes.

Junior Bianca McCall, who had 20 points and nine rebounds, led Washington State, followed by Egeland with 14 points and eight rebounds.

The Ducks are past the halfway point in Pac-10 play and now return home to McArthur Court, where they face Arizona State on Thursday night.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Ducks pinned by Oklahoma

The Ducks return with two losses against Oklahoma and No. 1 Oklahoma State

Wrestling

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

Oregon travelled to the heart of Oklahoma and came out with two losses, but many lessons learned.

"We're proud of the way the kids competed and we're excited about the kids' talent," Kearney said. "We're just making little mistakes that are keeping us from getting to that level."

Against Oklahoma on Friday, Oregon earned three wins in its 21-13 loss, and the Ducks had two wins in their loss to No. 1 Oklahoma State. Freshman Tony Rolen, who won both his matchups in back-to-back home meets Jan. 17, pinned his Oklahoma opponent 51 seconds into the second period.

The pin gave Oregon six points.

Derrick Brown, Rolen's Sooner competitor, came into the match ranked No. 3 by The Wrestling Mall at his weight class.

Rolen wrestles at the 184 weight class, where sophomore Elias Soto wrestled during the early part of the season. Soto has moved up to the 197 class, filling in for injured red-shirt junior Jake Leair.

Tony Overstake, at 149, took out his Sooner opponent forcefully. After Sooner Daniel Rubenstein tied the match in the first period, Overstake, a senior, took control. He won 16-5 earning a major decision for the Ducks. Redshirt sophomore Luke Larwin came on strong early in the 165 match and held his lead, winning 6-4. Larwin's win gave the Ducks three points.

Three of Oregon's losses against the Sooners came by one point, and three more were lost by two points.

"We're at a point where we're wrestling with the best people in the country," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "We have just got to

find a way to get it done."

Junior Branson Phillips battled his high school teammate Rafael Maturino. After two scoreless periods, Maturino scored a takedown late in the third to take the 157 match 2-1. Sunday, the Ducks battled the Cowboys of Oklahoma State and were handed a 33-2 loss to the No. 1 team in the nation.

No. 11 Skyler Holman of Oklahoma State lost a 8-6 overtime match to sophomore Martin Mitchell at the 125 weight class. Shane Webster, the sophomore ranked No. 14 in the nation at the 174 weight class, took out his Cowboy opponent with a 7-3 decision. Webster is now 19-3 on the season after going 1-1 over the weekend.

Three Ducks were pinned by their Cowboy opponents, for 18 of Oklahoma State's 33 points. Oregon plays host to Boise State on Friday and Arizona State on Sunday in return to Pacific-10 Conference competition.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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