

Friday, January 31, 2003

## Oregon shines in win over Sun Devils



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Sophomore Kedzie Gunderson had nine points in Oregon's victory, as the Ducks improved to 4-6 in Pac-10 play.

The Duck women start the second half of the season on a sweet note

## Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

Through all craziness and the loose balls, the Oregon women's basketball team was determined to not let anything stand in its way between the Ducks a 'w.'

Oregon turned the tables Thursday night and conquered Arizona State en route to a solid victory, 68-52.

It wasn't a high-scoring affair, but a game of defense where every loose ball meant diving to the floor, and no rebound went uncontested.

Oregon established its defensive presence from the start as it jumped out to a 23-9 lead for the majority of the first half. The Ducks held the Sun Devils to under double-digit points for more than 14 minutes of play.

"Right from the get go tonight we worked on just allowing them one shot at the hoop," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "There was some heart shown tonight that we are just ready to turn the page and get after it and just finish plays."

Oregon turned things around in more ways than one as the Ducks won the rebound margin, 38-32. Prior to tonight's match-up, Oregon had lost the battle of

the boards in nine of its last 10 games.

Along with a solid night from the free-throw line — Oregon shot more than 80 percent — the Ducks caused the Sun Devils to turn over the ball 23 times.

"It's one of the best defensive efforts combined with rebounding that we've had for a long, long time," Smith said.

Arizona State would find some light in the first 20 minutes and get as close as seven points, but once Oregon got the lead, it didn't give it up. The Ducks headed to the locker room after a solid first half, leading 35-21.

Oregon came out firing in the second half as sophomore Kedzie Gunderson drove hard to the hoop for an easy lay-in. Gunderson had nine points and five rebounds in her 31 minutes. Freshman Carolyn Ganes added a quick five points to the Ducks' offense and every cylinder of the Oregon engine was firing.

The Ducks led by 16, their largest lead of the night, at 42-26 and never looked back. The Sun Devils never got closer than nine points through the second half, as Oregon kept its poise and converted from the charity line.

"Everybody that went out on the floor played their guts out for the minutes that they were on," Ganes said. "At the end of the game we were all tired and we knew there was nothing else we could've have given and that is the way we should end games."

Oregon (8-11, 4-6 Pac-10) got a solid start to the second half of conference

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

## Ducks show the way it was supposed to be in victory

This is the way it was supposed to be for the Oregon women's basketball team.

The way it was before Cathrine Kraayeveld went down with a mysterious injury, only to find out later that it was staph infection in her knee.

Same goes with Amy Parrish and her sudden disappearance due to medical reasons in December.

And especially the way it was before the Shaquala Williams suspen-

sion began the Ducks' early-season demise.

It was Oregon, playing together with the same flair as the team that went 5-0 in the WNIT last season.

The 68-52



Hank Hager

Behind the dish

victory over Arizona State Thursday was simply the best Oregon has played in a long time.

"Certainly, defensively and rebounding-wise, this is what we're capable of," head coach Bev Smith said.

What the Ducks are capable of is mind-blowing, if not beyond imagination.

You had Brandi Davis shooting over Sun Devil defenders, proving her mid-season slump may be

coming to an end. She showed what she could do in the Ducks' non-conference tilts, and if she can keep it up, Oregon will have a tool in its belt that has not been equaled in a while.

You also had Kedzie Gunderson doing her usual acrobatic stunts for the crowd, something she seemed to perfect last season. If she's not completely over her broken nose — suffered against Montana — wait until she is.

And you had Alissa Edwards and Carolyn Ganes providing the glue to the offense. Edwards with her ability to take abuse farther than seemingly possible. And Ganes with her ability to shoot from inside or outside, able to grab that ever-important rebound when it seems all is lost.

"Now we know we can come out and play a good game like this," Ganes said.

Turn to **Hager**, page 12

## Men win overtime thriller at UCLA

The Ducks get 27 points from Luke Jackson, who was supposed to sit out the game with his finger injury

## Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday  
Sports Editor

Luke Jackson played inspired basketball in the second half. Ian Crosswhite played inspired in overtime.

And between the two of them, Jackson and Crosswhite were able to play enough inspired basketball to lift Oregon to an inspiring 96-91 overtime win over UCLA in Los Angeles.

"We had to win this game," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent told KUGN-AM after the game. "And I think this team showed a gutsy performance to do it."

Gutsy performance No. 1 came courtesy of Jackson, who wasn't even supposed to play in the game in the first place. But he put the pain of a severely lacerated ring finger behind him, came off the bench five minutes into the game, scored 27 points and was the Ducks' spark as point guard

Luke Ridnour sat out most of the second half with four fouls.

"I've never seen anything like that," Kent said. "That will go down as one of the all-time gutsy performances, with the way his hand looked last week, and a week later he's back on that floor, helping this team to win."

Gutsy performance No. 2 came courtesy of Crosswhite, who scored eight of Oregon's 15 points in overtime, most during a crucial stretch midway through the extra period, when UCLA was threatening to take over. With the Bruins leading 85-84, Crosswhite hit a long three-pointer with a defender in his face to put the Ducks ahead 87-85. Later, he spun around defender Ryan Hollins, laid the ball in and converted the foul shot as Hollins fouled the big Australian. That gave Oregon a lead it wouldn't relinquish, at 92-91.

"To come out and score so many points, especially at clutch times, was great for me," Crosswhite, who scored 22 points total, told Fox Sports.

UCLA came out of the gates in the first half as a different team than advertised. The Bruins, supposedly struggling through

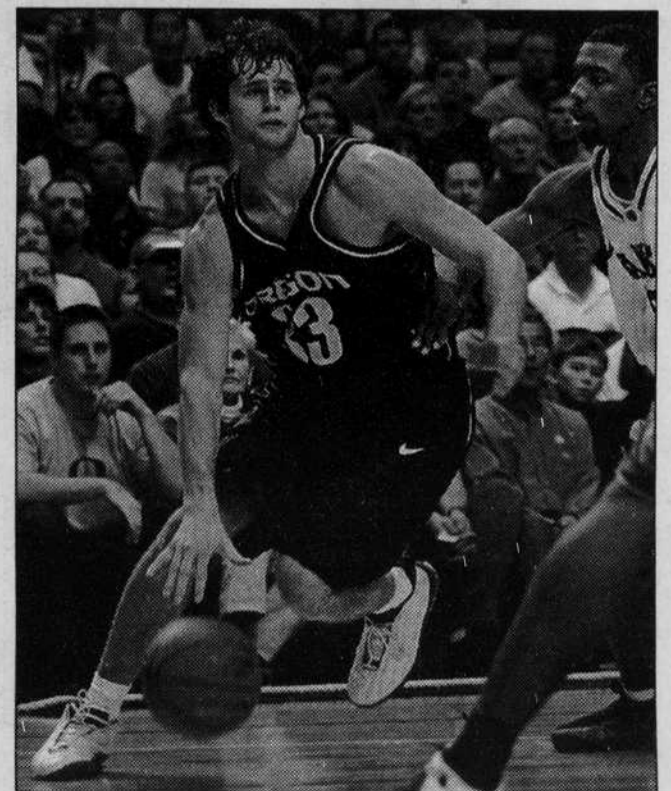
the Pac-10 season, hit eight of their first 11 shots and jumped out to an 18-8 lead. The Ducks got their three-point game going, and went on a 14-3 run to pull back even, and then finished the half on a 7-0 run to lead 42-35 at halftime.

But UCLA came out of halftime fired up. Ridnour picked up his third foul, UCLA went on a 12-4 run and Ridnour picked up his fourth foul with 15:11 remaining. Kent kept him out of the game and the Ducks — with freshman Brandon Lincoln running the point — stayed with the Bruins until the 7:53 mark.

"I thought that was key, that we didn't let them get the momentum with Ridnour on the bench," Kent said.

That's about when Jackson took over the game, scoring six-straight points on three different scintillating moves. The first was a fadeaway in which Jackson faded all the way back to the floor, the second was an up and under lay in, and the third was a quick drive and lay-in, with the final bucket putting Oregon ahead 74-73.

The teams exchanged baskets and

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

Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Jackson came back from injury to score 27 points against UCLA.