

SPORTS

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Best bet

International soccer:
Argentina vs. United States
9 a.m. Saturday, ESPN2



Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Ridnour bowled over Stanford with 23 second-half points.

Ridnour torches Stanford

The junior point guard scores all of his 23 points in the second half as Oregon avenges January's blowout road loss to Stanford

Men's basketball

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

Luke Ridnour doesn't get mad often, but he was pissed off Thursday night. And he took his aggression out on Stanford.

After picking up his second foul in the first two minutes of the game, Ridnour was relegated to the bench for the final 18 minutes of the first half, having not taken a shot. So the Oregon star point guard sat — and steamed.

"We know he's on the bench mad, and when he's mad, he plays at a whole 'nother level," Oregon forward Robert Johnson said. "We wanted him to get mad and go out there and explode. And that's what he did in the second half."

Like a ticking bomb, Ridnour blew up on No. 25 Stanford for 23 points while playing all 20 minutes of the second half to lead Oregon to a 79-64 victory before a sold-out crowd at McArthur Court. Ridnour connected on all six of his free-throw attempts to set the school record with 43-straight free throws. The previous school record for consecutive free throws made was 41; the Pacific-10 Confer-

ence record is 49.

"I was fired up and wanted to play pretty bad," said Ridnour, who finished with zero assists for the first time in his career. "I think it's just natural for someone to get frustrated when they can't play. I made some stupid fouls, and I knew I probably wouldn't go in (in the first half)."

With the win, the Ducks (16-5 overall, 6-4 Pac-10), who beat the Cardinal (16-6, 7-3) for just the second time in 15 games, avenged an 81-57 loss at Stanford on Jan. 11. Oregon, playing perhaps its best defensive game of the conference season, had a 38-37 rebounding edge Thursday after Stanford had a 45-26 rebounding advantage in its win three weeks ago.

"We did a better job of matching their work ethic and intensity," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said.

And this wasn't even Oregon at its best.

"We can play better basketball," Kent said. "We're playing at about 70 percent of productivity as far as everybody being on the same page right now."

Oregon led 36-27 at halftime, but Stanford cut the lead to 50-46 with 10:57 remaining. Then the Ducks went on a decisive 19-9 run to take a 69-55 lead, and closed the game out by hitting their final 10 free throws.

With Ridnour on the bench, freshman Brandon Lincoln gave the Ducks 15 quality minutes in the first half. Reserve guard Andre Joseph scored 15 of

his 17 points in the first half, while Jackson and Ian Crosswhite each added 14 points for the Ducks. Julius Barnes led Stanford with 17 points, while Josh Childress had 15 points and 13 rebounds.

Former Oregon star Freddie Jones, in his first season with the NBA's Indiana Pacers, made his first appearance of the season at Mac Court and was greeted by The Pit Crew's chat of "Freddie, Freddie, Freddie." He sat in the front row behind the Oregon bench.

Johnson (four points, 11 rebounds) and Crosswhite (14 points, five rebounds) overcame a dismal performance Sunday in a loss to USC and outplayed Stanford's big men. It was the first time this season that Oregon won when its post players combined for less than 22 points.

"I feel like we did our job," Johnson said. "When we play (well), we win. When we don't, we don't. We just gotta be more consistent."

"Our big guys were challenged by some of the stuff that was written about them and they responded by boxing out better and rebounding," Kent said.

Redshirt freshman Matt Short made his second start of the season (both have been against Stanford) and finished with three rebounds and two blocks in 15 minutes. Crosswhite may have started, but was late for Oregon's shoot-around earlier in the day.

"We just felt like Matt deserved an

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Stanford's young players surprised by The Pit

Cardinal head coach Mike Montgomery can't place why his team struggles Thursday

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

This week, the talk was about Stanford as the surprise team of the Pacific-10-Conference at the season's midpoint. Surprise.

Stanford is still young and still susceptible to the ebbs and flows of a season, the two reasons the Pac-10 media tabbed Stanford to finish seventh when the season began. Coming off two big wins against then-No. 1 Arizona and Arizona State in Arizona, the Cardinal came into McArthur Court and were too flustered to come back when they got in a hole against the Ducks.

"I'm sure there was some element of 'now we've got it figured out,'" Stanford coach Mike Montgomery said, in reference to Stanford's recent success. "We never did get back to

where we were in control of this game."

Stanford was led by a veteran and a young player — senior Julius Barnes and sophomore Josh Childress — who combined for 32 points. But young players like sophomores Nick Robinson and Rob Little looked lost in the sea of yellow at McArthur Court.

The Cardinal shot just 32.8 percent from the field in the game.

"In the first half we had a lot of point-blank looks that we didn't make," Montgomery said. "At some point we became frustrated and started taking bad shots."

But the Ducks labeled their foes as "tough," and said Stanford put up a fight underneath the basket. That fight may have illuminated more about the future of the Ducks' season than the future for the Cardinal.

"Stanford is a hard-nosed team, and we had to go out there and be intense, and we were," forward Robert Johnson said.

Oregon shut down Stanford's big men. Rob Little and Nick Robinson — who combined for 22 points and 20 rebounds against the

Ducks in Oregon's loss in Palo Alto — had just six points and seven rebounds Thursday. Justin Davis, who was injured in the first game, had seven points and three rebounds.

Little, Robinson and Davis combined for more fouls, 12, than rebounds, 10.

"We knew we needed to step up," Johnson said, speaking for his fellow big men. "Everybody just contributed."

McArthur Court may have been the sixth man on the floor for Thursday's game, as the Cardinal spoke of being flustered in the game.

"For our freshmen, McArthur Court may have had a little bit of an affect on them," Montgomery said.

"When we went down there, (Stanford and California) have good environments and they were fired up to play us," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We wanted to turn that around when they came up here. We play with high energy, high intensity when we're on our home floor."

Oregon guard Luke Ridnour, who scored all 23 of his points in the second half, said the

reaction is only normal.

"Any time you play a team on their home court, they're going to play a little better," Ridnour said. "But Stanford kept battling. They're a good team and it shows how tough this conference is."

Stanford will find out just how hard the conference is in upcoming weeks. The Cardinal head to Corvallis to take on the hot Oregon State Beavers on Saturday, then face Washington on Thursday. The Huskies nearly knocked off Arizona in Seattle on Thursday night.

Stanford fell two games behind second-place California on Thursday night, as the Bears knocked off the Beavers in Corvallis. That Cal win also shut Oregon out of the conference's top two spots for the week. But the Ducks could move into the third spot if Stanford falls to Oregon State.

Contact the sports editor
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Cardinal women dominate UO

The Oregon women's basketball team is handed its eighth conference loss in a blowout at Stanford

Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Maples Pavilion is a place no basketball team wants to visit.

And for the Oregon women's basketball team, the scene was all too familiar, as the Ducks have not beat Stanford in its arena since 1987.

Oregon walked off the court Thursday night after suffering a 31-point loss to the Cardinal, 85-54.

After a thriller against Stanford on Jan. 11, when

the Cardinal squeaked by with a one-point victory, Oregon wasn't able to repeat the performance away from McArthur Court.

Oregon (8-13, 4-8 Pac-10) started the night strong with a determination to seek revenge from a month ago, but halfway through the first half Stanford (18-2, 10-1) proved to have the upper hand.

The Ducks jumped to a 9-4 lead within the first five minutes of play and appeared revived from its recent home loss to Arizona. But as Stanford junior Nicole Powell and sophomore T'Nae Thiel began to find rhythm, Oregon found it tougher to hang with the No. 6-ranked team.

"We started the game well and did some things very well offensively and execution defensively," Oregon head coach Bev Smith told KSCR-AM. "We

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Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Andrea Bills (on floor) and the Ducks fell hard at Stanford on Thursday night, 85-54.