

Sports Editor:
Peter Hockaday
peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com

Monday, February 10, 2003

Cal silences Oregon's home advantage

The Ducks can't overcome a second-half Golden Bear spurt and drop to 6-5 in the Pac-10

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

California did something Saturday that no team has done in a long time.

The Golden Bears silenced Oregon's notoriously loud Pit Crew.

During a timeout with 10:44 left in the second half of Saturday's game, you could've heard a hot dog turning at a McArthur Court concession stand. The score stood 57-48, California, after Oregon had been up for most of the game.

The sold-out crowd swelled with furious noise again as the Ducks led a charge and got as close as six points with 2:45 left, but Cal hit free throws down the stretch, kept Oregon at arm's length and won the game, 86-75.

"We really wanted this game," Oregon center Matt Short said.

But instead, the Ducks lost their second game in three tries and, today, Oregon (16-6 overall, 6-5 Pacific-10 Conference) should drop out of both national polls for the first time since

mid-January 2002.

The Bears (16-4, 9-2 Pac-10) used a strong second-half run to topple the Ducks. Oregon scored only 10 points in the first 14 minutes of the second half, as Cal went on a 30-10 run that all but ended the Ducks' chances.

But Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said the key to the Ducks' loss was contained in the first half, not the second.

"In the first half, we had several opportunities to push the lead to 10 or 12 points, but we felt like we rushed some things, made some tough decisions," Kent said. "And each time we did that, Cal made us pay."

Cal truly made Oregon pay in the second half. Cal shot 68.4 percent from the field in the second half, and when the free throws mattered down the stretch, the Bears made just enough to get the win. Cal hit 16 of 20 free throws in the final 2-1/2 minutes, when Oregon was fouling on almost every possession.

For a while, it looked like Oregon might get back into the game despite Cal's second-half dominance. With 5:57 left and the Ducks losing by 16, Oregon's Luke Ridnour fed Short for a dunk and an extra point when Short was fouled by Cal's A.J. Diggs. The Ducks started a full-court press, which caused

Turn to **Men's**, page 8



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon players (from left) Ian Crosswhite, Brian Helquist, Robert Johnson and Luke Ridnour can't watch the closing minutes of Saturday's 86-75 loss to California at McArthur Court. Ridnour led the Ducks with 19 points but fouled out.

Phone calls serve to motivate Cal's 'Big Three'

Despite a night of heckling phone calls, three Bears overpower Oregon Saturday

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

Amit Tamir answered the phone around 11 p.m. Friday at his Valley River Inn room and listened to the Oregon fan on the other end rant about how the Ducks were going to "get him" Saturday.

Tamir, one of the most successful Duck hunters in the Pacific-10 Conference, didn't get abusive with

the abusive fan.

"I just said, 'OK, good luck tomorrow,' and hung up the phone," the 6-foot-11-inch Cal forward said.

Turns out the Ducks — and their phoning fans — could've used the luck.

Cal's "Big Three" of Tamir, Joe Shipp and Brian Wethers combined for 62 of the Bears' 84 points Saturday to hand Oregon just its second loss at McArthur Court in 29 games. Oregon's Lukes — Ridnour and Jackson — couldn't match Cal's firepower, scoring 28 points

on 10-of-34 shooting with nine turnovers between them.

Perhaps the Lukes needed a motivational call, like most of the Bears received at their hotel Friday.

"I liked it. It was funny," said Shipp, who had two prank calls to his room. "It was motivation to come out here and get a win, to get back at 'em."

Cal head coach Ben Braun had a restless Friday night as well, for a different reason. He watched film of Oregon's win over Stanford on Thursday, and didn't enjoy

what he saw.

"I don't like watching Oregon on film," Braun said. "I watched them dismantle Stanford, and I didn't sleep well after that."

But Braun's game plan to stop Ridnour and Jackson — by no means an easy task — worked to near-perfection, and the Ducks (16-6 overall, 6-5 Pac-10) shot just 36.8 percent in the second half.

Shipp, the Pac-10's scoring leader who had a game-high 23 points Saturday, held Jackson (nine points) in check defensively.

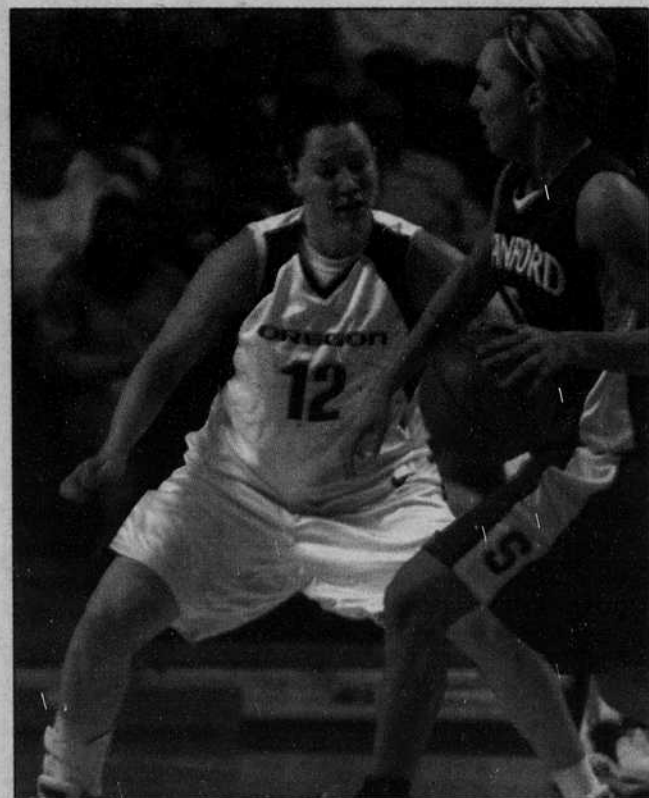
"We wanted to be physical with (Jackson) and get him out of his game," Shipp said. "We didn't let him get on a roll, and that affected him throughout the game. Our goal coming into the game was containing the two Lukes and I think we did a good job of that."

Ridnour, too, had trouble with Cal's switching defense, which prevented Oregon's shooters from getting good open looks.

"We wanted to slow down Ridnour," Wethers said. "He goes, they go."

Turn to **Big three**, page 8

Edwards' late shot sinks Golden Bears in California



Adam Amato Emerald

Alissa Edwards (12) sank the game-winner against Cal on Saturday.

The Oregon women notch their 19th win over Cal in 20 tries

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

Senior Alissa Edwards has done everything but shoot a game-winning jumper this season for the Oregon women's basketball team.

That is, until the Ducks visited California on Saturday.

Behind Edwards' jumper with 2.4 seconds left, Oregon squeaked by the Golden Bears, 54-52, at Haas Pavilion in Berkeley.

Edwards, who began with the ball off an Oregon inbounds pass, drove to the left side of the court. California center Olga Volkova stepped out in an attempt to defend Edwards, only to have the Oregon guard step back and sink a 15-foot jumper.

"There were a lot of opportunities we could have gone to," Oregon head coach Bev Smith told KSCR-AM. "We felt confident in Alissa Edwards."

"She did a smart thing, and pulled out and hit a jumper."

After repeated timeouts by both

teams, California (8-13 overall, 4-7 Pacific-10 Conference) inbounded the ball at halfcourt with 2.1 seconds left. A last-second 3-pointer by Kristin Iwanaga hit the backboard but not the rim.

The win was Oregon's fourth straight over California and 19th in its last 20 contests against the Bears.

"I'm very pleased with the toughness the team played with, especially after the Stanford game," Smith said, referring to the Ducks' 85-54 loss Thursday.

Neither team was particularly impressive on the offensive side of the ball, with the Ducks (9-12, 5-8) shooting just 36 percent from the field compared to California at 35 percent.

The same can be said for the 3-point contest, with the Golden Bears connecting on just 2-of-8 treys and Oregon shooting one better.

But both teams did take care of the ball, with the Ducks committing 11 turnovers while the Golden Bears had 13.

As expected, the game came down to the team that was strongest defensively. "It's just something that has to come from within the heart," Smith said.

The battle of the boards settled in Oregon's favor, 37-34.

Sophomore Andrea Bills and freshman Carolyn Ganes and Yadili Okwum-

abu combined for 27 points and 22 rebounds. Ganes, especially, has come a long way since the start of the season.

She led the team with 17 points and tied for the lead in rebounds at eight.

"I think (the post players) did a very good job on (Timea) Ivanyi," Smith said in reference to California's center. "We did a much better job on the inside game. The inside game was very important."

Oregon, battling for most of the season with a nine-player active roster, almost saw that figure dwindle even further.

Sophomore Kedzie Gunderson, who broke her nose Dec. 19 against Montana, fell to the floor in pain early in the first half when she was inadvertently hit in the face by Volkova.

The six-foot forward came out of the game and it was deemed that she re-broke her nose. However, she didn't sit out long, coming onto the floor to start the second half.

"I thought we had probably lost her," Smith said. "She gave us that collective glue to allow us to hang together."

Gunderson failed to score a point, but that didn't keep her from sprawling on the floor for loose balls and driving through the lane in search of a shot.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.