

# Big win comes at a big time in Oregon's '03 campaign

CORVALLIS — Oh, there was excitement at Gill Coliseum on Saturday night.

Those big-air dogs at halftime were incredible! And did you see that one dog do that backflip? Oh, my!

There was suspense at Gill Coliseum on Saturday night.

Would the Ducks break the school three-point record? Would Luke Ridnour set the Pac-10 free-throw record? What in the world could be in those delicious polish dogs?

OK, so maybe Saturday's game wasn't thrilling. From Luke Jackson's thunderous opening dunk to when scrub-a-licious Tyler York finally checked in with a minute left, all doubt left Gill Coliseum and took a walk outside in the rain. Oh, there were vague threatening runs by the Beavers in the second half, and there were vaguely disturbing cold stretches from the Ducks, but

really the game wasn't close enough to warrant any kind of second glance.

But that's exactly what the Ducks needed at this exact moment of their season. A blowout. A yawner. A turn-to-the-bass-fishing, wake-me-when-it's-over romp.

Because the Ducks put the pieces together on Saturday, and when the Ducks put the pieces together, opposing teams can hardly figure out the puzzle.

"This game has pushed us toward peaking," Oregon head coach Ernie



**Peter Hockaday**  
Two minutes for crosschecking

Kent said Saturday night. "This team has not peaked yet, but we certainly made a giant step in that direction with this game."

OK, you say that Saturday's win was over a bottom-feeding Beaver squad that has done less damage to the Ducks recently than Goliath did to David.

But I've covered three Civil Wars at Gill Coliseum, and for the first time Saturday, the atmosphere at Gill was as electric as Oregon's alternate jerseys. It was a sold-out crowd with a sold-out mentality, that here was a chance for the Beavers to finally win a Civil War, a rivalry that's more civil than ... well, you've heard that one before. Let's just say that "lopsided" doesn't do it justice.

And that's why a loss Saturday would have devastated Oregon's season. The Ducks just simply don't lose to the Beavers, and a loss

in Corvallis would have validated Oregon's fall from grace. Even a close win would have set off fire alarms all over Eugene.

But it wasn't a loss, it wasn't a close win. It was a car that just got a tune-up, with all the pistons firing and belts running and valves valving. It was everybody doing everything. And they dominated like Tiger Woods wearing red on a Sunday.

"Not taking anything from Rid and Luke Jackson, it's just that we have so many weapons," Kent said. "We're getting back to how we were playing at the beginning of the year. We're sharing the ball, trusting in our teammates, the ball is moving."

And, perhaps most importantly, this was a road win. The Ducks have struggled in their green road jerseys this season, and Gill Coliseum was an environment poised to unleash a sound-storm on Oregon. But it didn't,

because the Ducks wouldn't let it.

"In order to get to the (NCAA) tournament, you've got to win on the road," Ridnour said. "We've got to build on this. We've got two more tough games next week, so we've got to build on this and try to carry it over."

Well, one tough game, at least. Thursday's game at Washington State is as gimme-a-game as exists in the Pacific-10 Conference. So Oregon will be 8-5 in conference play when it heads to Seattle on Saturday to face Washington.

Maybe that game will be a little more exciting. The Ducks probably hope not.

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## Men's

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14-of-28 (.500) three-pointers.

"It's simple: They were able to shoot the basketball and we weren't," first-year Oregon State head coach Jay John said. "When (the Ducks) play like that, they're clearly one of the top teams in the league. They're fabulous."

Ricci had 24 points and 11 rebounds in Oregon's Jan. 18 win at McArthur Court, but was double-teamed nearly every time he touched the ball Saturday. The Ducks substituted their five post players frequently, and frustrated Ricci with physical play. Brian Helquist fouled out late in the game, while three other Oregon post players had four fouls, and the other (Jay Anderson) had three.

"Ricci is a great player, and we threw a lot of players at him," Ridnour said. "Our game plan was to rotate five guys on him and that

made it really tough for him. Our big guys did a great job."

In a game of five on two — Oregon's posts vs. Ricci and Brian Jackson — the Ducks proved more powerful (if only because of sheer mass) and held a 45-40 rebounding advantage. Jackson hit 10-of-13 free throws to pace the Beavers with 15 points. Ricci was just 3-of-14 from the field and finished with four fouls.

"I think (Ricci) was pretty frustrated," John said. "They kept bringing their big guys in on him. It's hard to shoot with 500 pounds and four arms on your body."

On a positive note, the Beavers had just six turnovers in the game, one more than Ridnour had by himself. Oregon State had 34 free-throw attempts (converting 24 of them), while Oregon had just seven attempts from the charity stripe (hitting six).

"Before I comment too much (about the officiating), I'd better go back and look at the game again," Kent said. "Boy oh boy, it was a

physical game, but to have that lopsided fouls (called) and to still win by 17 — I've never seen anything like that before. We were fortunate to shoot the way we did because we were fouling way too much."

James Davis (16 points, six assists) hit a trey with 16:27 remaining to give Oregon a 56-36 lead, its largest of the game. The closest the Beavers got was within 12 at 67-55 before Oregon closed it out.

The Ducks used a 19-2 run to take a 47-28 lead at halftime. Andre Joseph scored 14 of his 16 points, including four three-pointers, in the first half, and the Ducks had 11 three-pointers in the first 20 minutes. The Beavers shot just 24.1 percent in the first half.

Freshman guard Brandon Lincoln suffered a mild sprain to his left ankle in the first half. He could be available for Oregon's game at Washington State on Thursday.

Contact the senior sports reporter at adamjude@dailyemerald.com.

## Women's

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After free throws by senior Alissa Edwards and sophomore Kedzie Gunderson, Oregon had secured its sixth conference win, leading 64-58 with less than 30 seconds to play.

"The Civil War is a big game, and if you lose the first one you are pretty upset," Edwards said of her final Civil War game. "Coming into this game, we wanted to have fun and work hard, and it was good to get a win."

Oregon had a solid night all around, shooting better than 43 percent from the field. The Ducks

were able to dominate on the foul line as Oregon attempted 18 more than Oregon State and converted 13 of those.

The Ducks dominated the first half of the game as Oregon led by as many as 12 points at one point, and the Beavers couldn't keep pace. Oregon State shot just better than 30 percent in the first 20 minutes.

Oregon State finished the night shooting 39 percent from the field and out-rebounded the Ducks 34 to 31. The Beavers turned the ball over 11 times and accounted for two blocks.

The Ducks were led by Gunderson, who finished with 12 points

and five assists, followed by Steen, who added 11 points in her 21 minutes. Junior Cathrine Kraayeveld returned to action for the Ducks after missing the last 13 games due to injury, and had a solid performance with nine rebounds, seven points and two blocks.

Junior Leilani Estavan paced the Beavers with 17 points to lead all scorers, followed by Chapman, who added 15 points and nine rebounds.

Oregon continues its homestand next week hosting the Washington schools as it tries to keep the ball moving off the two-game win streak.

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## Duck tennis plays up and down in strange weekend

The Oregon men's tennis team wins its fourth straight at home and the women have a seven-game winning streak snapped

### Tennis

Ryan Heath

Freelance Sports Reporter

Tucson, Ariz., is probably one of the least likely places to experience a rain-out, but that's exactly what happened to the No. 51 Oregon women's tennis team before its match against Arizona, in a week-end full of strange occurrences.

The ominous Friday rain-out was followed by a 5-2 loss to No. 8 Arizona State in Tempe, where No. 28 Daria Panova suffered her first loss of the regular season.

Oregon's Panova lost to No. 21 Adria Engel in straight sets as the Sun Devils snapped the Ducks' seven-match winning streak.

"We played a pretty good match," head coach Nils Schyllander said. "We had a couple of chances, we just weren't able to take advantage. It's just a matter of taking them when they're there."

The Ducks' lone points came from junior Courtney Nagle's victory over No. 109 Mhairi Brown and sophomore Ester Bak's three-set win against Joslynn Burkett.

The No. 69 men also had their share of strange delays, but at the

Student Tennis Center, in a 7-0 victory over No. 75 Boise State. The lights over courts one and two went out and Ducks Manuel Kost and Sven Swinnen were forced to finish their matches on different courts.

The delay didn't bother either player, though, as Swinnen battled back from losing the first set 3-6 to take the next two 6-3, 7-6 (11-9) against No. 86 Guillaume Bouvier. Swinnen came from 6-4 behind in the tiebreaker to take his match.

No. 64 Kost bounced back from losing the second set in a tiebreaker to earn his fourth win of the season and his first from the No. 1 spot.

"We had a really good week of practice," head coach Chris Russell said. "And I think it showed."

Senior Oded Teig celebrated his and Swinnen's doubles win over No. 42 Bouvier and Marcus Berntson by winning his singles match in straight sets and moving within two victories of the Oregon career singles record.

Freshmen Thomas Bieri and Aron Spencer continued their dominance of the lower spots and remain undefeated in the dual season. Spencer won his grueling match 6-7 (7-4), 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) despite being hobbled by an ankle injury.

The women were scheduled to make up the Arizona match Sunday and the men host Pacific and California-Santa Barbara next weekend.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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