

Friday, February 21, 2003

Women deflate Cougar offense in victory

Oregon shoots 59 percent and keeps Washington State to under 60 points in its third-straight win

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

Heading into Thursday's contest at McArthur Court, Washington State had some things going for it.

First off, the Cougars lost by only four to Oregon when the two teams met earlier this season. Secondly, their last Pacific-10 Conference road victory was on Feb. 15, 2001, at Mac Court.

The Ducks knew all of that, and they didn't let it get in their way.

Oregon had six players score in double figures as the Ducks easily defeated Washington State, 85-52, in front of 4,087 fans.

Sophomore Brandi Davis led the team with 17 points on the strength of four 3-pointers, while Cathrine Kraayeveld, Amy Taylor and Carolyn Ganes all pitched in with 13. For good measure, sophomore Andrea Bills finished the night with 11, and sophomore Kedzie Gunderson had 10.

"We were really looking to get the best shots we could," Kraayeveld said. "We really wanted to execute our plays."

The win gives Oregon its first three-game winning streak of the season after the Ducks outlasted California and Oregon State in their two previous contests. Oregon also held an opponent to under 60 points for the fourth-straight game.

But the way the Ducks (11-13 overall, 7-8 Pac-10) handled Washington State was most important, especially after struggling against the Cougars in Pullman. In that game, the Ducks —

minus Kraayeveld — shot just 44 percent from the field in a 73-69 victory.

Back then, Oregon led by one at half-time, and never was able to take control of the game.

This time around, it was a different story. The Ducks shot just less than 59 percent while limiting the Cougars to less than 38 percent from the field. That was a team goal, according to head coach Bev Smith.

"We're a better team defensively," she said when asked about the differences between the games. "We just made it a collective effort that we had to get better defensively. Our players really respect that team and they sent us a message when we played up there."

The Ducks sent a message themselves with the win, though, proving they are playing their best basketball of the season when it matters the most.

Smith pointed out the fact that Oregon made 34 shots against the Cougars, and on 26 of those, Oregon was awarded an assist.

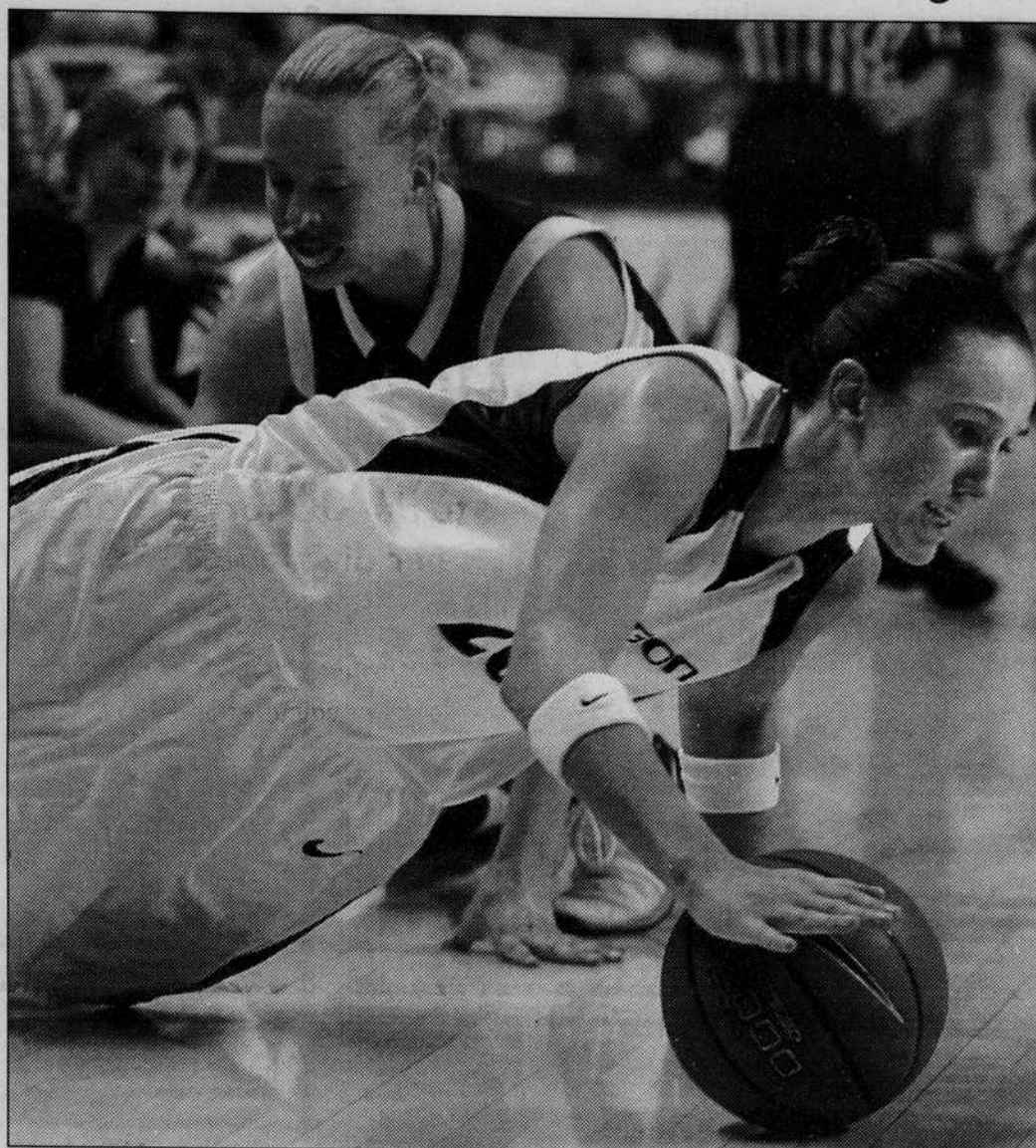
Every Oregon player played at least 13 minutes in the victory, and all but senior Kourtney Shreve scored. Oregon's victory was truly a team effort.

"We created a lead and I think it gave everyone a chance to get comfortable," Taylor said.

Taylor's 13 points marked a career high for the sophomore, while Kraayeveld and Bills both missed double-doubles by one rebound. It would have been the 18th career-time for Kraayeveld while for Bills, it would have been the first time she would have achieved the feat.

"We went out and played hard and had fun from the get go," Kraayeveld said. "We really tried to focus on not

Turn to **Women's**, page 6



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon's Kedzie Gunderson keeps the ball away from a Cougar defender in the Ducks' 85-52 victory over WSU on Thursday.

Oregon post players shut down WSU's McCall

The Ducks play hard defense on the Cougars' top post player, junior Bianca McCall

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

After Washington State's Bianca McCall had her way with Oregon in the teams' first matchup of the season, the junior forward was stopped short of anything Thursday night as the Duck post players dominated.

McCall scored 20 points and had nine rebounds in the Oregon win on Jan. 25. But in the Cougars' trip to

McArthur Court, McCall had just three points and two rebounds.

"She was a focus because she played really well before," junior Cathrine Kraayeveld said. "We definitely wanted to try and stop her and her momentum. We did a great job on her."

Oregon's post was a much different story, as three out of the Ducks' six players in double figures were post players. Freshman Carolyn Ganes and Kraayeveld both had 13 points, followed by sophomore Andrea Bills, who netted 11.

Kraayeveld had an all-around solid

performance, shooting 6-for-8 from the field and adding nine rebounds and three blocks. Bills was just as dominant with her nine rebounds and three assists in 24 minutes.

"Tonight we were just working hard," Bills said. "We've been practicing all week to get down low and get position and think in our mind that we have an advantage in there."

The Ducks' four players down low did just about whatever they wanted right from the start and had no trouble converting in the paint. To start the game, Oregon's post contributed 18 of the first 20 points.

The low post has made some solid strides over the season to better establish dominance as each player has started to learn her strengths. From Ganes' high-arching shot to the defensive presence of Bills, Oregon head coach Bev Smith has seen great improvement.

"They really did a very good job defensively," Smith said. "They have done their homework in studying their opponent and all four of them are very supportive of each other."

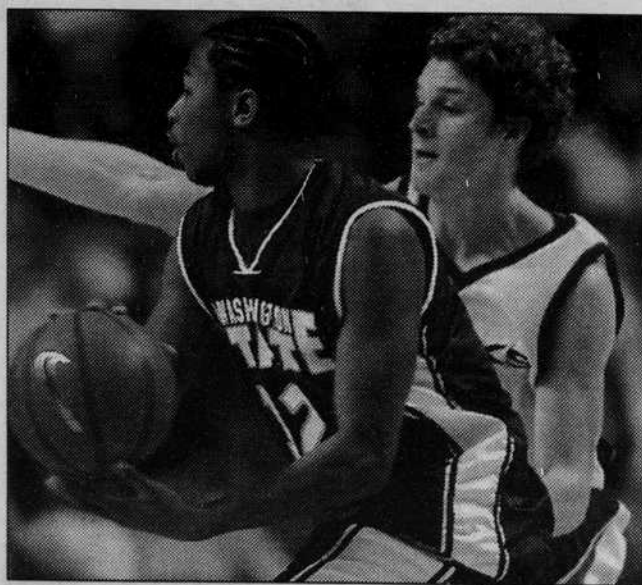
The Ducks big women got it done on both sides of the floor Thursday night and did not give the Cougars

anything easy. McCall, who is the leading scorer and rebounder for Washington State, was extremely limited as she turned the ball over four times.

Forward Holly Harris and center Candance Fields did combine for 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Cougars, but Oregon won the battle of the boards.

With Kraayeveld back in the lineup for Oregon, it has allowed the Ducks to have a solid rotation of four players at any time down low to contribute both offensively and defensively.

Turn to **Post**, page 6



Adam Amato Emerald

Luke Ridnour had 21 points and seven assists against the Cougars.

Men put hush on WSU in Pullman

The Ducks blow out the Cougars in a game that's never close at WSU

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Friel Court was a black hole of sound Thursday night.

It was quiet to begin with. Then the Oregon men's basketball team went up by nine at halftime, and it went even quieter. Then Oregon broke the game open in the second half and sound actually disappeared into the arena.

Well, not really, but the point is that the Ducks silenced the silent with an 89-70 victory over the Cougars in Pullman on Thursday night. Oregon played its

second solid road game in a row and moved to 18-6 overall and 8-5 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

More importantly, the Ducks moved to 3-3 on the Pac-10 road, which puts them into good position for the NCAA Tournament.

"This was a complete game on our part," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent told KUGN-AM after the game. "We were businesslike and workmanlike, and that was a good thing."

KUGN's Jerry Allen commented that his station actually turned up its crowd microphones during the game. It didn't help. Oregon shot 58 percent from the field, and held the Cougars to 40 percent shooting in a solid defensive effort. Though the Cougars kept the game semi-close in the first half, the Ducks dictated

the tempo and never seemed threatened by Washington State, which still hasn't won a Pac-10 game.

Oregon was led by Luke Jackson's 24 points and Luke Ridnour's 21. Ridnour also went 8-for-8 from the free-throw line, extending his Pac-10 record for consecutive free throws to 59.

Ridnour added seven assists, his most spectacular assist coming on a behind-the-back feed to Robert Johnson in the second half, which Johnson finished to give the Ducks a 57-38 lead.

The play almost solicited a cheer from the Washington State crowd.

"Ridnour was just outta control tonight," Johnson said. "That was a great pass."

Johnson led the Oregon big men with

Turn to **Men's**, page 6