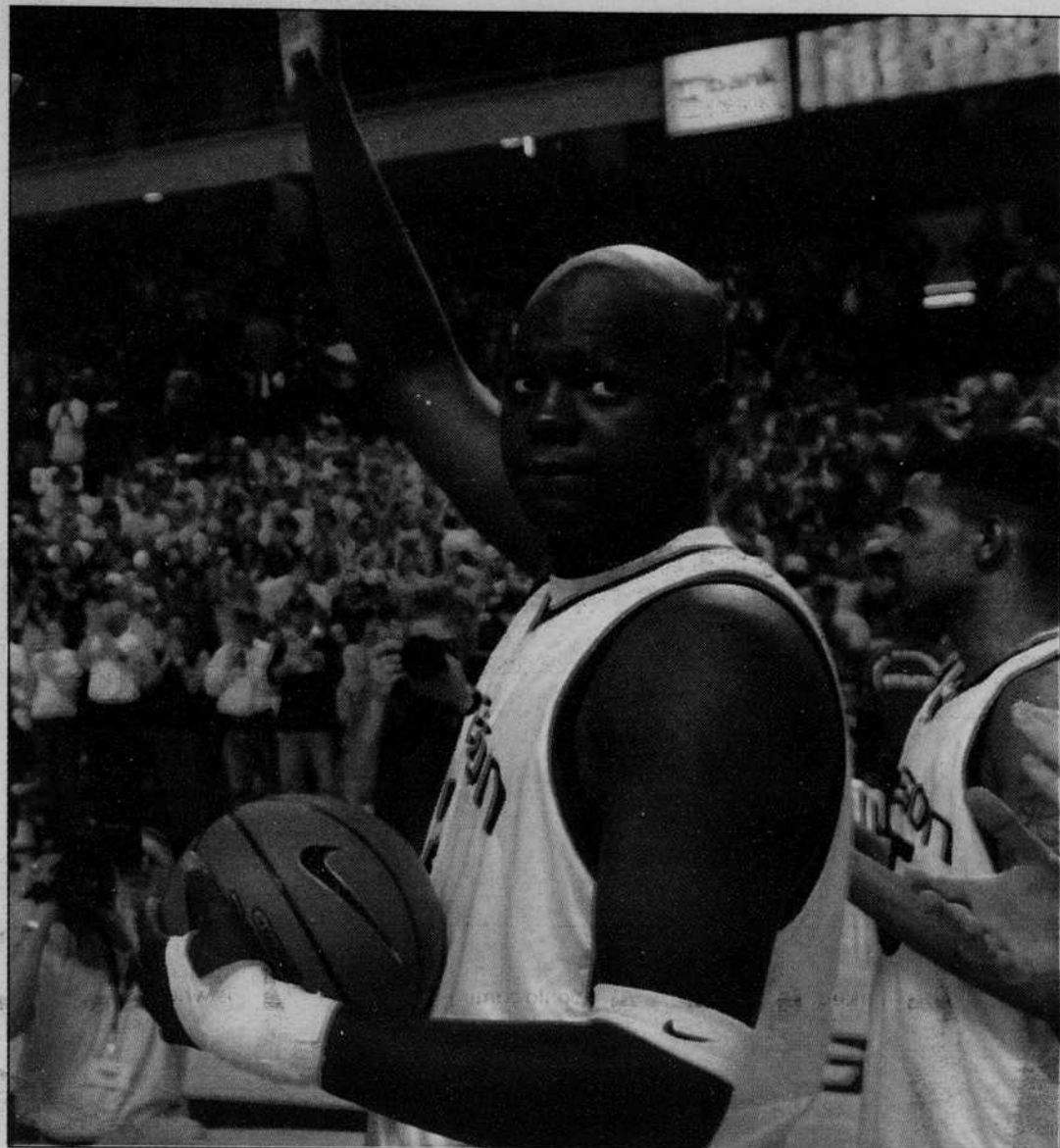


Monday, March 3, 2003

Ducks use threes to sink Bruins early



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Robert Johnson drained a three-pointer, the only one of his career, in his last game at McArthur Court on Saturday.

Oregon's hot shooting performance Saturday is an indicator of where it could be when the postseason starts

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

What was next? The Duck hitting a three? The guys with the Mickey-Mouse gloves coming out of the Pit Crew to drain treys?

It seemed like everyone was hitting threes at McArthur Court on Saturday. Robert Johnson hit a three. Even the Outback Three-Point Thriller guy drilled five threes in 30 seconds.

In the game, Oregon hit 14 of 22 three-pointers, burying UCLA 79-48 on the strength of a perimeter game that will have to be strong again when the Ducks hit the NCAA Tournament.

"When we're shooting the ball like that, obviously we're a very difficult team to beat," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "We've shot like that before. I think the impressive thing in this game was not so much the shooting but the fact that we had 22 assists on 27 buckets. That allows them to have good shooting, because that means they're making the extra pass, and usually when we make the extra pass, we take good shots, and when we take good shots, we're a very good shooting team."

Oregon set the tone for the fiery-hot shooting night by hitting three three-pointers on three of its first four possessions. On the second possession, point guard Luke Ridnour fed James Davis for a three, and when Davis connected, Ridnour looked to the Mac Court roof and yelled as the sold-out

crowd erupted around him.

The Ducks went up 19-2 and used five three-pointers to get there.

Later in the game, with the win secure, Kent ran a designed play to get his senior forward, Johnson, open for a three.

"If you've seen our practices, we have a lot of shooting games where he shoots the three, and he can shoot it," Kent said.

With 3:26 left in the game, Johnson came off a screen, got the ball at the top of the key and popped off a shot, which tickled the net for the only three-pointer of his career. He held three fingers in the air as he ran back down the court, smiling.

"I suggested it earlier in the game, I was like 'I'm feeling it a little bit!'" Johnson said. "We ran it for Brian (Helquist); we wanted to both get one. But he never got open."

On the next few possessions, Helquist tried to get open for three, but never was able to. But on the possession after Johnson's three, Ridnour found a slashing Helquist for a lay-in.

"I'm not worried about it," Helquist said about not getting a three.

Kent, who pulled the seniors out with 2:14 left, said he wanted to give the departing players a going-away present of sorts.

"I thought it was a great send-off, and no disrespect to UCLA or anything else," Kent said. "More so than anything else, it was about Robert and it was about Brian Helquist."

But Oregon's three-point barrage was also, in part, about the postseason. The Ducks have an almost mathematical formula for winning and losing, which Kent alluded to. When the Ducks can get assists on almost every basket, get open looks and hit their

Turn to **Threes**, page 9

Sorry, Luke, but students might not let you go to the NBA

Dear Mr. Ridnour,

Ask any student at Oregon, and they'll say yes, they would tie you to a lamppost next to Mac Court. Yes, they will lock you in your house and camp outside on guard for a few months. Yes, they will ambush you in class, kidnap you and hold you for ransom.



Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

The ransom? One more year.

One more year in lightning yellow. One more year of oh-my-gosh-where-did-that-come-from passing. One more year of slicing defenders like they're birthday cake and hitting the Mac Court floor like it's a swimming pool.

Talk to any student, and please, don't even mention those dirty three letters. NBA. National Boring Association. The Next Best thing to Archery league. Nobody Brings it Association.

You really want to go to the NBA? You think Pat Riley is going to love you like Ernie

Kent does? Think Vince Carter isn't going to slice the tires on your new Lexus if you don't pass to him enough ... in practice?

C'mon, Luke, you were *made* for college ball. You were made to make the college girls swoon, and the girls love those curls. After the game Saturday, two girls waited at the top of the locker room stairs long after the game was over. One clutched a photo of your curly locks to her chest. "He is sooo fine," she said. "I knooow," her friend said.

Get to the NBA, and that conversation is held in a skybox.

"Who's that rookie point guard?"

"Shut up and mix me a cosmopolitan."

You're not a mixed drink, Luke. You're a beer. A non-alcoholic beer. A guy who turned down Playboy's All-American team because of your rock-solid faith. You didn't want to go to the Playboy mansion.

But in the NBA, Luke, the Playboy mansion comes to you. The limos are long and the champagne is bubbly. It's another world. So stay in ours just a little longer.

I know, we're a hassle, we here in the

Turn to **Hockaday**, page 10

Greco's shot boosts Bruins to win over Oregon women

The Ducks and Bruins will meet again in the Pac-10 Tournament in San Jose on Saturday

Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Pauley Pavilion provided the setting for upcoming attractions Saturday afternoon.

Senior Michelle Greco hit the game winner for UCLA, which overcame Oregon, 56-54, in a last-second thriller.

The Ducks had their chances at the end, but after three strikes, they were out.

After Greco's final shot, sophomore Amy Taylor threw a full-court pass to junior Cathrine Kraayeveld, who beat the defense but missed the lay-up and didn't get a foul. Strike one.

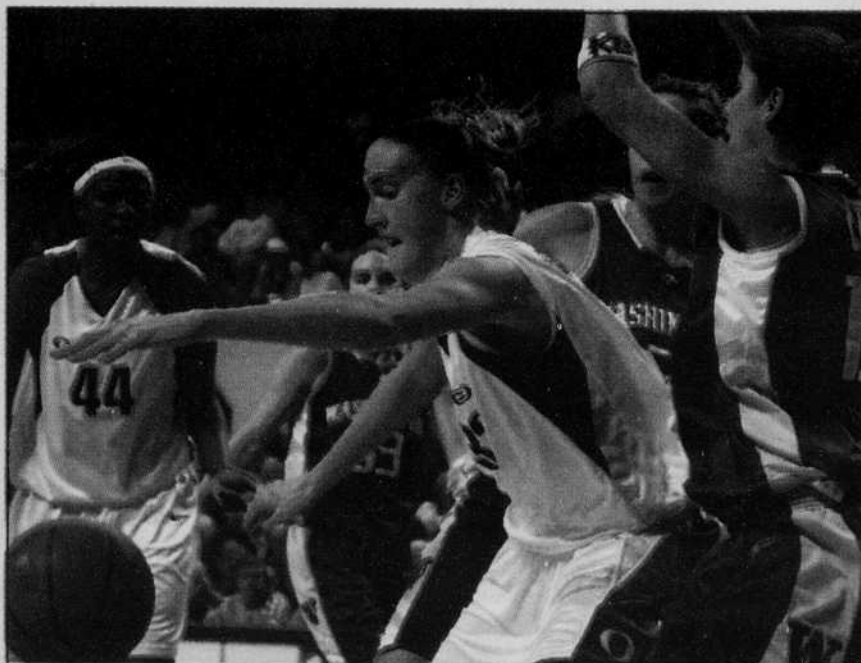
With 2.7 seconds left, Oregon inbounded the ball to Kraayeveld, but two Bruin defenders knocked the ball away. Strike two. Oregon had its last chance with 1.6 seconds left. The ball was lobbed to Kraayeveld over junior Whitney Jones but her shot was no good. Strike three.

"We had our opportunities to win this game," Oregon head coach Bev Smith told KSCR-AM. "For me and our coaching staff and our players; we had the game, we had the opportunity and it kind of slipped away from us."

Despite Oregon's loss, the Ducks (12-15, 8-10 Pac-10) moved from seventh to fifth in the Pacific-10 Conference standings on the weekend. And with the Bruins (17-10, 12-6 Pac-10) in a secure fourth position, the two squads will meet again to do battle Saturday night in the Pac-10 Tournament.

It was an afternoon that included everything in

Turn to **Women's**, page 10



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Cathrine Kraayeveld missed three shots at the thrilling end of the game Saturday at UCLA.