

POSITIVE

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that night for the second time last season.

So far this year he is averaging 11.8 points per game, including 9.7 during Oregon's three games in conference play.

"I think in Andre's case, from a rhythm standpoint, he is a guy that needs to get his shots because he is a very good shooter," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said.

Jackson took up the slack left by Joseph's slow night offensively, but said that he felt his 39 points may have taken away from the team's offensive rhythm because he took so many shots toward the end of the game.

"He doesn't need to feel responsible because it's not a blame thing as it is we all — coaches, players, Luke, too and even the fans; even Oregon State's fans — we all got caught up in the moment of a great player in the midst of a great ballgame," Kent said. "It was great to see and great to watch."

"The reality of it is it did knock us out of rhythm a little bit. We were aware of that. At the same time, it was a spectacular basketball game on his part."

Jackson revisited

Jackson's night against the Beavers didn't come close to setting a record in the Pac-10. UCLA's Lew Alcindor and Arizona State's Eddie House both hold the single-game points record with 61.

His 16 rebounds were no closer to setting a single-game record. Oregon State's Swede Halbrook set that record

in 1955 with 36 against Idaho.

What his career-best night did was move him up on Oregon's all-time list within striking distance of top-five records.

He needs 12 points to tie Blair Rasmussen for seventh all-time on Oregon's scoring list. Rasmussen, who scored 1,554 points from 1981-85, was drafted 15th overall in 1985 by Denver.

With 11 more steals, Jackson will move into a tie for fourth all-time with Anthony Taylor at 147.

Finally, he needs three three-

pointers for 128 in his career, which would tie him for eighth with Kenya Wilkins.

Yet, that won't mean anything to him unless he can get the Ducks the win.

That was the case Saturday against Oregon State.

"That game really hurt because there were just a few things that cost us the game," he said. "It was just real disappointing. I hate losing."

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

IMPROVE

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"Of the three teams, Army was the best team," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "Due to a couple of injuries we had our worst lineup, but we competed. That is a positive. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Kearney was speaking of injuries to freshman Cyle Hartzell (shoulder), sophomore Joey Bracamonte (undisclosed) and junior Dustin Fisher, who has a sprained ankle. Kearney struggled to find what worked well Friday in the Oregon Classic, where Oregon finished 1-2.

"We didn't wrestle with confidence," Kearney said. "We came out

flat against California State-Fullerton. We can't afford to have let-downs. We need to come out emotionally up and ready to compete against every opponent."

Not quite there ... yet

The Ducks received a strong performance from many of its wrestlers in its win over Army on Friday. One particular match has seemed to earn more attention than the others.

Freshman Cody Parker entered the final match between the Ducks and the Black Knights knowing that a victory by the freshman would earn his team its first team win of the year. Parker defeated his opponent to give the Ducks the 23-21 victory.

However, it wasn't the first time

Parker had faced James Hollis of Army.

"I knew a lot was on the line," Parker said. "I had faced Hollis before and lost."

This time the results were different and in Parker's favor. But Kearney wouldn't put any more emphasis on the Parker victory than he would any other during the match against Army.

"Every point is the same," Kearney said. "If, say, (Luke) Larwin doesn't do his job, Cody can't (be in position to) win the dual meet. And it was no more different than (Chet McBee) getting a fall (earlier in the match). The only difference was the order, but he knew he had to win. It is a little different when everyone in the gym knows what he needs to do."

So, while Parker and the team

must be excited about the win, it was a team effort that made it possible for the victory that put the Ducks over the hump.

However, Kearney isn't ready to hype up his freshman wrestler quite yet. Kearney added that Parker still needed to work on staying in focus and not taking any time off during a competitive match.

But, as individual as wrestling is, if one person doesn't step up, it doesn't matter how the others fare.

Hectic schedule

The Ducks are in the heart of their schedule, and it won't get any easier anytime soon.

Oregon travels to Stanford on Thursday, followed by matches

against UC-Davis on Friday and the Aggie Open on Saturday.

Oregon then has two home matches against Fresno State and No. 21 Bakersfield on Jan. 23 and Jan. 25, respectively.

It will be the first home match since Oregon hosted No. 1 Oklahoma State Dec. 14 and is the second-to-last home match before Oregon State comes to McArthur Court Feb. 15.

February will be a less strenuous month with only three matches. However, each match becomes more critical for the Ducks as they prepare for the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament in March.

Scott Archer is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

ROETMAN

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market or qualified for the playoffs can quickly make one forget about the day's problems.

Sports can also reinstate a sense of hope into one's life. Whoever invented the often-overused cliché

"there's always next year" was right on the money. Nothing will prove this statement more than cheering for a perennial loser. As soon as I start to think about how bitter I am over Seattle's most recent loss, I start counting the months until training camp.

Same goes for Oregon football fans. For anyone who had their 2003

end badly on account of Minnesota, just think about what the Ducks have coming back next year.

For those out there who have been fortunate enough to experience a favorite team winning a championship or making repeated playoff, tournament or bowl appearances, think back to how beautiful those moments were whenever

frustration mounts.

For tortured souls like myself who watch helplessly as their team finds a way to screw things up by season's end, just remember that it won't be that way forever. One day, a player, a coach or an owner will make a move that sends the team in the right direction.

When that day comes for me, and

the Seahawks, Cubs or Blazers hoist a championship trophy high into the air, it will taste oh-so-sweet knowing I stuck through all the losing.

"It will all pay off someday."

Wise words from a wise woman.

Contact the sports reporter at jonroetman@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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