

Sports Editor:  
Hank Hager  
hankhager@dailyemerald.com

Best bet  
NCAA basketball:  
Texas vs. Texas Tech  
4 p.m., ESPN

Monday, January 26 2004

## Ducks hit Pac-10 midway point with last-minute loss to 'Devils

Chelsea Wagner leads the Ducks with 20 points as Oregon falls to 2-7 in conference competition

By Mindi Rice  
Senior Sports Reporter

Fear made an appearance at McArthur Court on Saturday. For the second consecutive game, the Ducks let their opportunities to win slip through their fingers in the final minutes. Arizona State picked up the pieces for a 69-67 victory.

"We're scared to win," Oregon guard Chelsea Wagner said. "We're just holding the ball, hoping the clock will run out and we'll be ahead. We worked so hard throughout that entire game for 37 minutes, and we're scared to win. We won't finish it off."

Wagner led the Ducks with a season-high 20 points after coming in 35 seconds after tip-off for injured starter Kedzie Gunderson, who might have a torn meniscus in her knee, Oregon head coach Bev Smith said.

The Ducks (10-9 overall, 2-7 Pacific-10 Conference) tried to improve on the positives from their Thursday loss to Arizona, but when it came down to the last four minutes, Oregon found itself on familiar footing.

Ahead by eight, the Ducks went on a dry spell just in time for the Sun Devils to make a 10-point run.

Oregon didn't score another point until center Andrea Bills made a free throw with 27 seconds remaining to push the Ducks to within one, 66-65.

The Sun Devils (12-6, 6-3) scored their final three points on free throws. Point guard Corrie Mizusawa made a layup with 1.8 seconds left to cut the score to 69-67, but the Ducks didn't get another shot attempt.

"Today I felt they were really ready to get it done," Smith said. "With three minutes left you can almost feel it in Mac Court. It seems like we're scared to lose."

The Ducks missed four shot attempts in the final four minutes and had two passes picked off. They committed seven fouls during that span, including three in the final minute.

"We need to play for 40 minutes," guard Brandi Davis said. "We have to be able to put teams away."

The loss was Oregon's third in its last four games and its fourth at home this season.

"I really believe we're just not aggressive offensively," Smith said. "We've just got to go out and do it."

Much like Thursday's loss to Arizona, Oregon was outshot on the free-throw line. With 46 total fouls called Saturday, the Sun Devils made 82.8 percent of their attempts while the Ducks hit 65.4 percent.

Arizona State was 10 for 14 from the line in the final four minutes. "Making those free-throws is part of that confidence thing," Smith said. "It's where you can put the hammer down. We did a better job, but it was not enough."

Saturday's loss was the second time this season that the Ducks outrebounded their opponent — grabbing 33 to Arizona State's 32 — and still lost the game. Bills led the way with eight while Wagner added six.

## Arizona State gets big performances from three Oregon-born players

The Sun Devils receive key contributions from Oregon natives en route to a 69-67 win over the Ducks Saturday

By Jon Roetman  
Sports Reporter

Arizona State guard Betsy Boardman proved Saturday that the use of "proper" defensive technique is overrated.

With fewer than 10 seconds remaining and the Sun Devils ahead of the Ducks 67-65, Oregon forward Eleanor Haring beat Boardman off the dribble and appeared to have a clear lane to the basket.

Just as Haring passed by, however, Boardman reached around the Oregon freshman and flicked the ball off her leg. Arizona State grabbed the loose ball and held on for a 69-67 come-from-behind victory at McArthur Court.

"That's something I do to make up for my lack of quickness on defense," Boardman

said. "I'm very blessed with long arms ... I can do that 85, 90 percent of the time without getting a foul, so I was fully confident when I flicked it."

Arizona State head coach Charli Turner Thorne said she doesn't approve of Boardman's defensive technique but was pleased with the result.

"Betsy relies a little bit too much on the flick," Turner Thorne said. "I do not coach that. I coach position defense; move your feet and stay in front of somebody, but today I'll take it."

While pulling out a dramatic victory was sweet for every Arizona State player, the win carried something extra for a trio of Sun Devils, all of whom hail from Oregon.

Boardman, junior Carrie Buckner and sophomore Amy Denson returned to their home state and played pivotal roles in defeating the Ducks. Sophomore Jill Noe, a fourth player from Oregon, was lost for the season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee on Oct. 8.

Boardman was the first of the group to

arrive in Tempe, playing her way onto the 2000-01 Pac-10 All-Freshman Team. The Portland native was a 2000 graduate of Beaverton High School, where she was a three-time honorable mention USA Today All-American.

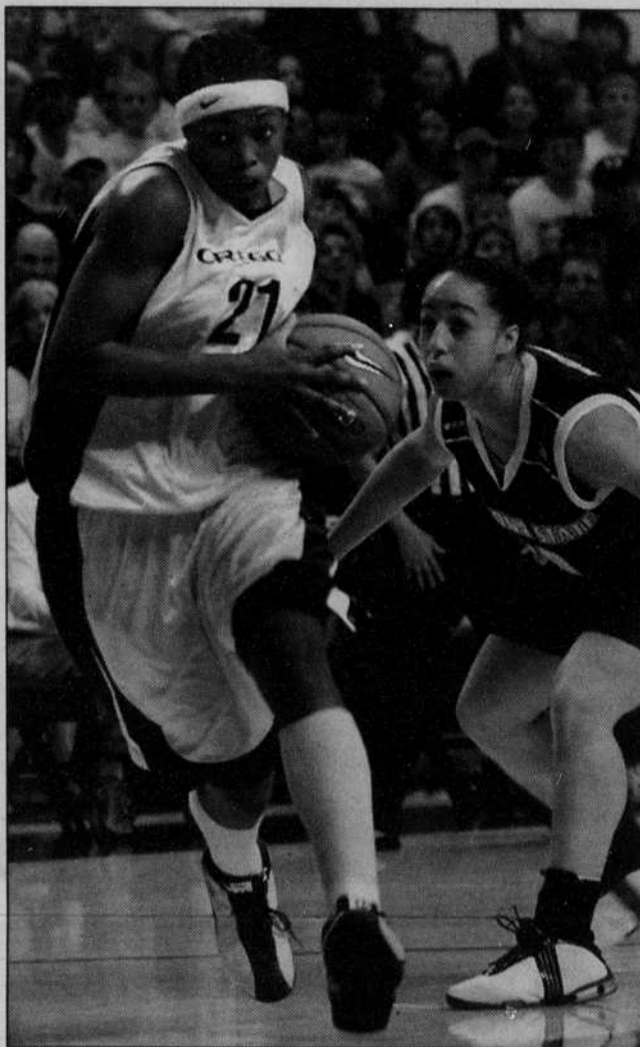
The 6-foot-1 junior is the team's leading scorer (12.0 points per game) despite missing all of last season with an ACL tear in her left knee.

Boardman was Arizona State's energy boost Saturday, hitting a pair of big three-pointers and grabbing a game-high three steals.

"I love coming to play here," Boardman said. "The Pit is a great atmosphere ... it's a lot of fun to come here and play and beat them."

Buckner arrived in 2001 after graduating from Crescent Valley High School in Corvallis. The 5-foot-9 guard was a USA Today honorable mention All-American her junior season. She finished with eight points, four rebounds and four assists Saturday.

Turn to **NATIVES**, page 8A



Erik Bishoff Photographer

Brandi Davis scored 13 points in Oregon's two-point loss to Arizona State on Saturday. The Ducks led by as many as eight late in the game.

"That's something we had wanted to work on," Wagner said. "We wanted to make sure they didn't get any offensive rebounds."

Davis was Oregon's second-leading scorer with 13 points, while Bills contributed 11. Mizusawa and forward Eleanor Haring both had 10 points. For the first time this season, Oregon had five players score in double figures.

Gunderson was scheduled to have an MRI by the end of the weekend.

Wagner played her second-consecutive game with a brace on her knee. She also had her left ankle re-taped in the final minutes after she rolled it coming down from a shot.

Contact the senior sports reporter at [mindirice@dailyemerald.com](mailto:mindirice@dailyemerald.com).

## Wildcats rout Ducks with 24-point win

Oregon suffers its worst loss of the season as Arizona scores 90 points for the fourth straight game; the Ducks fall to 4-3 in Pac-10 play

By Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

Against the nation's highest-scoring offense, Oregon's offense was shut down and shut out at the McKale Center on Sunday.

No. 14 Arizona moved into sole possession of second place in the Pacific-10 Conference with a 90-66 win against Oregon in Tucson.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Wildcats, who are averaging 92.7 points per game in conference play, scored 52 against Oregon in the first half. Arizona (13-3 overall, 5-2 Pac-10) scored a season-high 109

points against Oregon State on Thursday.

Arizona brought its traditional high-speed transition offense that Oregon struggled to defend. And Arizona's pressure defense forced Oregon to scramble and fall out of sync.

The Ducks turned the ball over 19 times in the game, 13 in the first half alone. Arizona had nine steals.

"This game was lost in terms of turnovers, not blocking out and allowing this team to get into transition and into their comfort zone," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent told KUGN (590 AM) radio after the game.

Oregon led only once, during the first minute of the game, and the score was tied once, 11-11, at the 15:43 mark in the first half. After that, Arizona put on a show.

Oregon went scoreless for more than five minutes during the first half, and Arizona went on an 18-0 run.

Arizona's Ivan Radenovic came off the bench and was key for the Wildcats during the stretch. Radenovic entered the game averaging 9.9 points per game and finished with a career-high 19 points and eight rebounds.

Freshman Mitch Platt brought Oregon back. After trailing 36-14 with fewer than seven minutes left in the half, Platt scored eight points on four straight possessions to cut the lead to 19.

Oregon trailed 52-27 at halftime.

In the first half, Arizona had only one turnover compared to

Turn to **MEN**, page 8A

## Panova, Nagle pace Oregon in home opener

The Oregon men and women sweep their home and season openers during the weekend

By Alex Tam  
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon women are finally healthy after having been decimated by injuries last season, and their comeback has benefited the start of the new year.

The Ducks swept their home-opening dual matches against No. 55 Sacramento State in the morning session and Nevada later on Saturday to start the season 2-0.

Head coach Nils Schyllander said his team's start is encouraging, but he would like to see it continue to improve.

"I am excited about the good start," Schyllander said. "We were ready to play and beat (Sacramento State), a program on the rise."

The highlight of the morning was the Ducks winning the top three singles-position matches and sweeping the three doubles matches. Oregon went on to defeat Sacramento State 5-2.

The doubles side was led by the duo of junior Daria Panova and senior Courtney Nagle. They defeated Sacramento State's top two players, 45th-ranked Margarita Karnaukhova and No.

Turn to **TENNIS**, page 9A