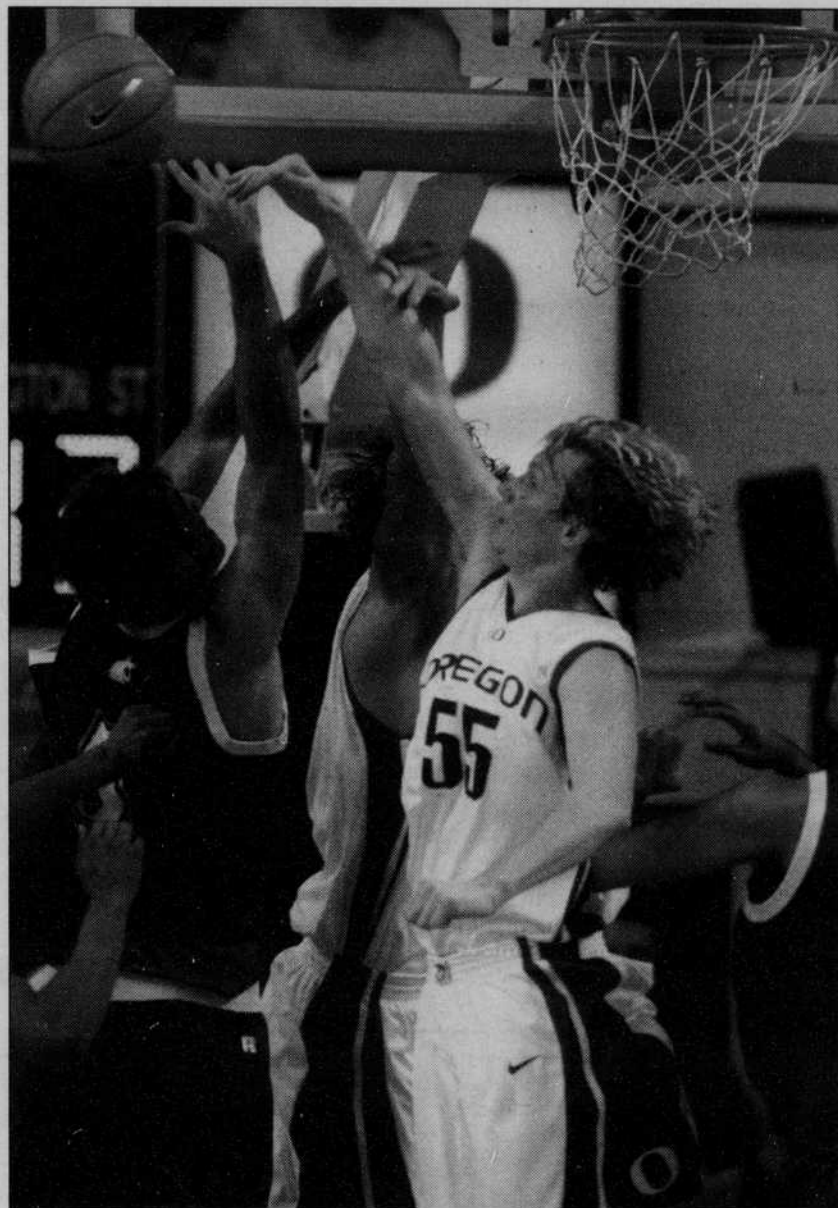


Friday, February 6, 2004

Not-so movie star

Jay Anderson brings much more to the Ducks than can be seen in 40 minutes



Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Center Jay Anderson (55) is averaging 3.8 points and 2.7 rebounds per game. He has been a consistent contributor off the bench in his senior season.

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Chances are you don't know Jay Anderson. He doesn't make the big headlines and he doesn't average a double-double.

His name is never announced at the beginning of the game when the crowd chants and cheers and the band plays for Oregon's starters.

Anderson comes off the bench, contributes as much as he can and averages 3.8 points and 2.7 rebounds per game.

"People that come to watch the games and stuff — people just see some skinny white guy that's going hard and running around the court," redshirt sophomore Matt Short said. "(They) probably think he's maybe a pretty boring guy."

And that's all, right?

Wrong.

"A lot of people may not know at first glance what Jay is like," Short said. "He kind of seems quiet at first, but if you're around him a bit, he's going to have you rolling around on the ground. He's one of the funniest guys I know."

Anderson is also a movie star. Well, maybe not a star.

He served as an extra in the 1993 film "Grumpy Old Men."

"Right as the title of the movie comes up on the screen, you can see me walking across the street, it's pretty funny," said Anderson, who was in sixth grade at the time. "They all make fun of me. I got my dad's boots on, and my boots are just huge. I have this big parka on."

Anderson's mother, who worked at a radio station in Faribault, Minn. at the time, hooked him up with the spot.

The senior is the first native Minnesotan to play for the Ducks. Graduating from Faribault High School as a McDonald's All-American nominee, Anderson "didn't even know where Oregon was," he admits.

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3-point defense provides segue for UO offense

Oregon leads the Pac-10 in three-point defense, allowing teams to shoot 29.1 percent this season

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

As much as the three-point shot has been the sizzle of the Oregon offense this season, the three-point effort on defense has been the team's steak.

The Ducks, already known as one of the top sharp-shooting teams in the nation, have also turned the tables on opposing teams this season. While Oregon has shot 42.4 percent from the three-point line — good for third in the nation — it has held opponents to 29.1 percent defensively.

That figure places the Ducks first in the Pacific-10 Conference, a good five percentage points higher than second place Arizona.

"It's a big focus, because one of the things I think you have to do defensively is field goal percentage defense, both from the field and the three-point line," Oregon assistant coach Fred Litzenberger said. "I think it's improved this year. One of the big reasons is that our defensive transition has gotten more consistent."

Oregon has been known as a fast-paced running team under head coach Ernie Kent, and now it is beginning to pay off defensively. Last season, the Ducks allowed opposing teams to shoot 34.9 percent from beyond the arc, seventh in the Pac-10.

Overall, opposing offenses were successful on 42 percent of their shots last season.

Now, in the third year under defensive guru Litzenberger, the Ducks are showing the capability to stop opposing teams.

"We're getting back to where we're supposed to be more consistently," he said. "Both at the wings and on top. One of the most important things is to give up no open shots. No open looks, no easy baskets. To me, it's just like a lay-up, except it counts for three points because it's outside the arc. I think it's really important you get the floor covered outside the three-point arc."

With the capability of being able to stop opposing teams up high, the Ducks, theoretically, have the opportunity to outpace teams in the long run. A three-pointer is always worth more than a lay-up.

Remember, Oregon averages 9.1 three-pointers per game. That's nine more points than teams that take those same nine shots from inside the three-point line.

"If you do the math, that sounds good," Oregon guard James Davis said. "Definitely we just try to key on the great shooters. We just try to take out their best perimeter players and just go from there."

"We know that's a huge advantage for us and we know there are some great shooters in this league as well. If we take away the three-point shot, it will definitely help our chances."

Count the development of Ian Crosswhite, Mitch Platt and Jay Anderson as keys to Oregon's success this season.

Crosswhite has become the inside threat the Ducks have been looking for in recent years and Platt is playing well in his freshman season. Anderson has come off the bench to supplant the two at times and played a season-high 30 minutes against California last week.

With the three becoming physical posts for Oregon, the team has had to worry less about its inside game, allowing Davis and the rest of the guards to worry more about opposing team's perimeter players. With that, they don't have to collapse down as much.

"I think that's really an important part because if an offense can come down and throw it inside real easy and get an easy basket, then a foul, that's a three-point opportunity too," Litzenberger said. "You need inside players who won't let it go inside and that's one of the things that Mitch, Ian and Jay have really done a good job of this year."

That will be key for the Ducks against Oregon State on Saturday. The Beavers connected on just 25 percent of their three-point attempts in a nine-point win on Jan. 10, but hit four in the first half to keep the game close.

As a team this season, Oregon State has shot 32.6 percent from beyond the arc. Like the message has been all season for opposing teams, though, the Beavers cannot be underestimated.

"It's a good matchup for them because their perimeter

Ducks use emotion as fuel for OSU

The Oregon women's basketball team heads north to Corvallis for this season's second Civil War

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

The first game came down to the final 4.9 seconds.

Oregon's final possession ended with a 19-foot jumper by Brandi Davis for a 56-54 victory.

That was the first Civil War this season, Jan. 10, at McArthur Court.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday brings the second round of the women's basketball Civil War, this time at Gill Coliseum with a 7 p.m. tipoff.

"I know we're going to go through the highs and lows during the game because it's so emotional, but we need to come and be emotional for the game and be ready to go," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "I thought that's what we did here (in January). We just played with composure and allowed the energy to fuel us when we needed it to and yet didn't get too high or too low."

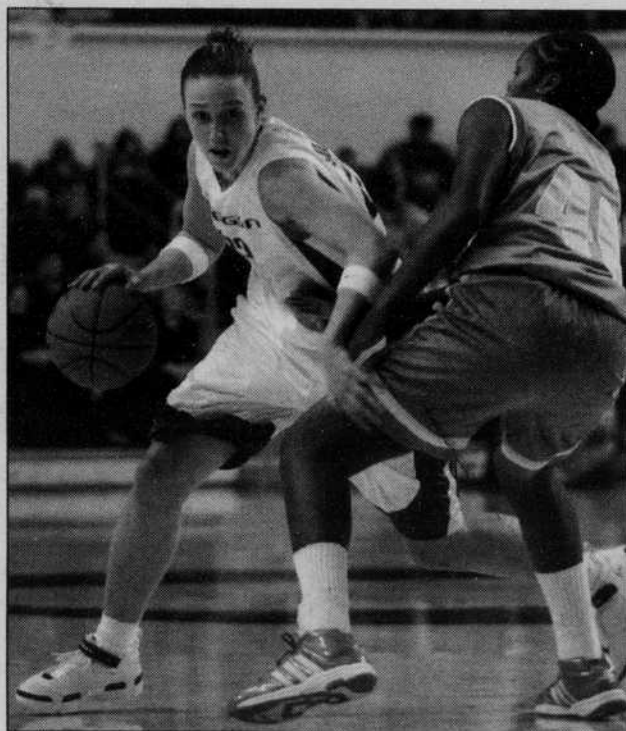
"In a rivalry game, who ever looks after those emotions — both good and bad — will be in control."

In the 72nd women's Civil War, both Oregon and Oregon State are rebounding from a split road trip to Los Angeles last weekend. The Beavers (11-9 overall, 5-6 Pacific-10 Conference) are currently sixth in the conference while Oregon sits eighth.

The Ducks' record — 11-10 and 3-8 — has sparked a bit of emotion into their season.

"It's always a big game against Oregon State," forward Kedzie Gunderson said. "We're just going to go in and play like we've been playing. We've been playing well right now, working well against the zone and they play a lot of that."

Oregon has spent the past weeks concentrating on one concept: playing as a team. Past the lost leads, the struggle against the full-court press and the cold-shooting nights, the Ducks are



Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Oregon junior Kedzie Gunderson has three career highs — assists, field goals and three-point field goals — in past Civil War games.

making each game about themselves more than their opponent.

"You always study the scout and do this and do that, but right now it's totally about making sure that we're playing well together," Gunderson said. "Once we do that, the rest just comes."

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