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Monday, February 9, 2004

Oregon holds on for important Civil War victory

The Ducks overcame a late eight-point deficit for their sixth Pac-10 win of the year

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

It was a game the Ducks absolutely needed to remain alive for the NCAA Tournament.

Or so they said. Either way, it was a game against the Pacific-10 Conference's 10th-place team.

Absolutely winnable, right?

Oregon State made a game out of it, holding the lead until the eight-minute mark of the second Civil War of the season. The Ducks, buoyed by nine points in the final three minutes, defeated the Beavers, 81-74, in front of a sold-out McArthur Court on Saturday.

"If we lose this game, we probably don't get into the NCAA Tournament," Oregon guard Andre Joseph said. "Everybody had to be focused. This is a big win for us at home."

A win is a win, and this is a win that could mean the season for Oregon. With Arizona losing to Stanford earlier in the day, it meant California was all alone in second place in the Pacific-10 Conference.

With a win, the Ducks would slip into third, slightly ahead of Arizona. With a loss, they'd be in pushed down the standings, behind the Wildcats, UCLA and Washington.

"Just watching Pac-10 basketball this week and seeing Stanford beat Arizona, I knew it was a good chance for our team to make a run and get a lead on some of the teams in the Pac-10," Oregon forward Luke Jackson said. "This was a huge game. There was a timeout where the guys just came together and said, 'This is our season right here.'"

That run was helped along by a three-pointer by Joseph with 1:38 left to play in the game. With time quickly winding down on the shot clock, Joseph buried the three, sending Oregon (11-6 overall, 6-4 Pac-10) to a five-point lead.

"He hit that three from deep and I just wanted to go hug him," Jackson said.

Both teams played the give-and-take game throughout the afternoon. When it was Oregon's turn, the Ducks took a 10-point lead with nine minutes to play in the first half.

Then the Beavers (8-12, 2-8) went on a run, staking out a one-point lead with 2:37 remaining in the first half.

It pretty much went that way for the Beavers through the early part of the second half. Oregon State was up, 59-51, eight minutes into the second half. The Beavers scored the first six points of the half and kept the Ducks from making a field goal until almost six minutes had elapsed.

Oregon State looked to be in control. Oregon's shots were not falling, and the Ducks were not making stops on the defensive end.

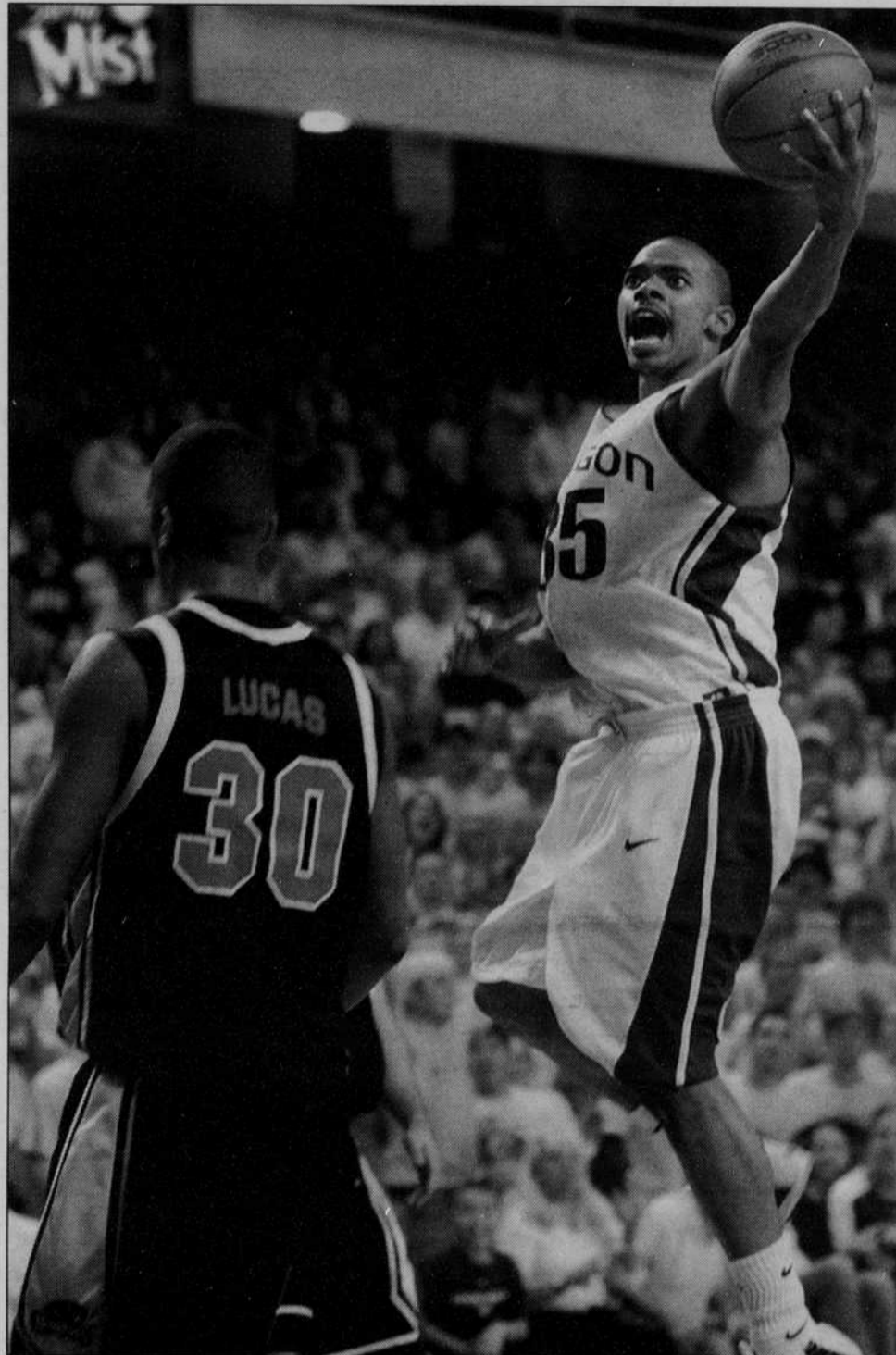
"We gave them easy baskets right off the bat," Jackson said. "We were missing shots we're capable of knocking down. We gave them a lot of confidence."

The Ducks started making those stops and grabbed the lead with 7:43 remaining. Jackson then took over the game, posting eight of his game-leading 24 points in the final six minutes.

"It was a great gut-check win for this program," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "There did come a point in time that the team dug in its heels and decided it was going to win this basketball game."

Ian Crosswhite had 16 points for the Ducks and was tied for the team-high with seven rebounds.

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Andre Joseph had 14 points for the Ducks, who now sit at third place in the Pac-10. Oregon split the season series with Oregon State, pushing the Beavers to 2-8 in Pac-10 play this season.

Erik Bishoff Photographer

Career-best performance, defense equate to OSU win

Oregon's offensive presence was limited in Saturday's loss by a lull in the Ducks' three-point attack

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

CORVALLIS — There are basketball teams that live and die by the three-point shot. Then there is Oregon.

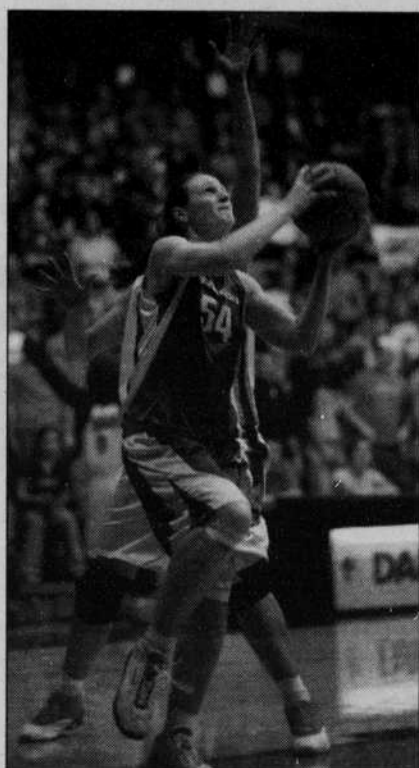
"I don't think we really live and die by the three-point," guard Chelsea Wagner said. "I think we've been relying on it a lot lately."

During Oregon's 3-9 Pacific-10 Conference season, the Ducks have taken at least 17 three-point shot attempts in their three victories, making eight shots in two of the wins.

Saturday, the Ducks had just eight attempts against Oregon State. Those eight, it seemed, either went right in the basket or had no chance — in equal proportion.

By percentages, Saturday was Oregon's best three-point shooting night of the season as the Ducks were 4 for 8. But basketball isn't a game of percentages.

"You've got to credit Oregon State's defense," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "They played very well, they kept in our shooters' faces and one of the reasons that



Tim Kupsick Freelance Photographer
Eleanor Haring (54) scored 12 points Saturday.

Oregon State uses Brina Chaney's 31 points to beat Oregon in the season's second Civil War matchup; the teams split

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

CORVALLIS — Oregon simply had no answer for Brina Chaney.

The 6-foot-5 Oregon State left-hander scored a career-high 31 points — including 15 of 15 from the foul line — to help the Beavers to a 75-61 win over the Ducks on Saturday in front of 4,763 at Gill Coliseum.

Oregon experimented with several different defenders against Chaney, with each ultimately failing to slow the Seattle-area native. Fouling the Beaver center was the Ducks' only option in most cases, but even that didn't work.

Chaney's 15 free throws — without a miss — tied a Pacific-10 Conference record set by UCLA's Maylana Martin in 1999.

"I think we gave her a lot of really good looks and a lot of great touches," Oregon State head coach Judy Spolstra said. "Brina just had a great work ethic in there tonight."

Chaney said the Beavers had revenge on their minds after losing the season's first Civil War matchup, 56-54, at McArthur Court.

"We had extra motivation (after) losing a tough one down there earlier in the season," Chaney said. "We weren't going to lose on our home court to the Ducks."

Oregon State (12-9 overall, 6-6 Pac-10) opened the game with a 16-2 run and stayed in control for the remainder of the contest. Oregon (11-11, 3-9) pulled to within 10 on a three-pointer by Brandi Davis with 12 minutes remaining in the second half, but the Beavers scored 21 of the next 29 points to blow open the game.

The Ducks were held scoreless for the first four minutes and 20 seconds of the game until a layup by Andrea Bills cut the Beaver lead to 10-2.

"The first (five) minutes were just a killer for us," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "We gave them a 14-point lead and even though we chipped away at it ... it just takes too much out of you. That flat start is going to be the death of us and we're going to keep learning that lesson until we get it right."

Oregon State made shutting down Oregon's perimeter attack a point of emphasis entering Saturday after Chelsea Wagner and Davis torched the Beavers for 31 points and seven three-pointers in the season's first Civil War matchup.

The Beavers were successful in their defensive quest, limiting the Ducks to only eight three-point attempts and a 43 percent shooting clip for the game. Wagner was held to one three-point attempt in 14 minutes as constant pressure from Beaver guards and a lack of

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