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Best bet
NCAA Basketball
No. 5 Connecticut at No. 4 Pittsburg
10:30 a.m. Sunday, ABC

Friday, February 13, 2004

Oregon sends Cougs packing with home win

The Ducks won their fourth Pac-10 game with a strong showing against the last-place Cougars

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

On Thursday night at McArthur Court, the Oregon women's basketball team shared the love.

Junior Kedzie Gunderson tied a career high in rebounds and points, forward Eleanor Haring set a career high in points scored and point guard Corrie Mizusawa blocked her first shot as a Duck.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Ducks (12-11 overall, 4-9 Pacific-10 Conference) had one of their best rebounding games this season, and for the first time in the Pac-10 season, Oregon scored more than 70 points with a 74-52 victory against Washington State.

"Everyone just came out ready to play," Gunderson said. "We stuck to our strengths and played how we wanted to play, not how they wanted us to play."

Quick starts were one of the Ducks' biggest energizers in the win. Oregon took the lead immediately when center Andrea Bills hit a layup with less than a minute and a half gone on the clock. Persistent defense and an off-shooting night for the Cougars helped the Ducks jump out to a 9-0 lead before Washington State scored its first points — a wide-open three pointer by forward Nikki Stratton — 4 minutes and 47 seconds into the game.

"We wanted to get a really good start and maintain that intensity that we created all throughout the game," head coach Bev Smith said. "That's what we needed to do tonight."

The second half started in similar fashion, with Oregon making a 13-0 run before the Cougars (5-18, 1-13) scored on a three-point basket by Kate Benz 4:20 into the half.

"We just got it done tonight," said Bills, who led Oregon with 10 rebounds.

For the fourth time this conference season, the Ducks didn't give up their lead near the end of the game. After Smith and the squad spent weeks running situational drills for having a late lead, Oregon kept its lead in double digits — from a Carolyn Ganes three-pointer almost halfway through the first half until the final buzzer sounded at a 22-point lead.

As a team, the Ducks made a season-high 31 field goals in the victory, shooting an impressive 51.7 percent. They also out-rebounded the Cougars, 40-29.

"Obviously, 19 assists on 31 baskets, that's where we were at when our team was playing very well and we had some offensive flow," Smith said. "We just did the game plan to a 'T.' For the first time in a long time in the second half, we put a team away when we needed to put them away."

Haring had a career night against the Cougars. The freshman from Australia put up a career-high 16 points and came one shy of tying her career high of five steals.

Turn to **WIN**, page 9



Tim Bobosky Photographer

Guard Brandi Davis (21) had 13 points in the Ducks' 74-52 victory against the Cougars. The Ducks host Washington at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Ducks have fun beating WSU

Thursday night was a fun night for the Oregon women's basketball team.

Along with pounding hapless Washington State into the McArthur Court hardwood, the Ducks got to do something they hadn't done on a basketball court for quite some time.

They had fun.

Oregon used solid defense, flashy passes and plenty of smiles to defeat Washington State 74-52 in front of 3,388 appreciative



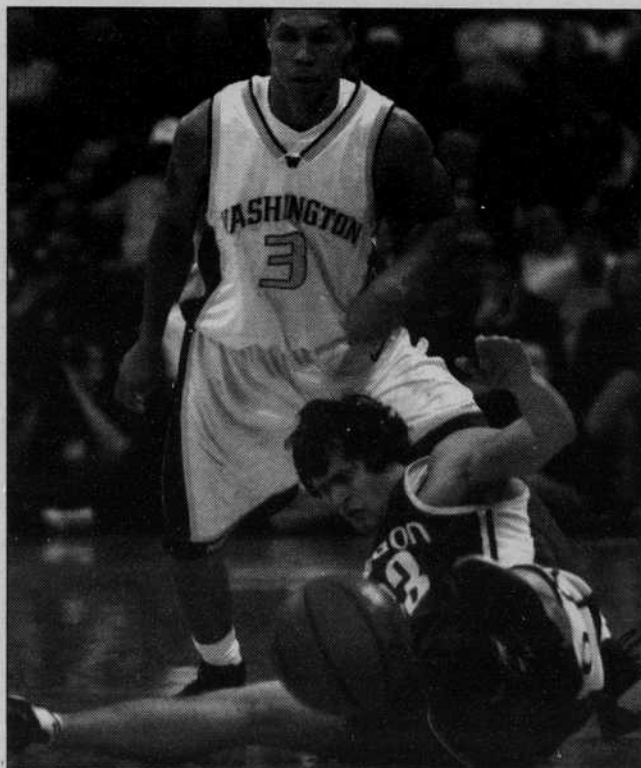
Jon Roetman
Roughing the passer

fans at McArthur Court.

From the opening tip, the Ducks carried themselves like a team that knew it was going to win. They carried themselves with a confidence that had been missing since senior All-American candidate Cathrine Kraayeveld was lost for the season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee on Dec. 2.

And most importantly, they carried

Turn to **ROETMAN**, page 8



Oregon's Luke Jackson (33) got into foul trouble early, playing just three minutes in the first half of the Ducks' 83-74 loss to Washington.

Matt Lutton The Daily (UW)

Ducks succumb to Washington via turnovers and rebounding

The Oregon men's basketball team went flat against the Huskies in Seattle without senior leader Luke Jackson on the court

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

SEATTLE — Luke Jackson last won at Bank of America Arena during his freshman season at Oregon.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

On Thursday, Washington extended his losing streak in the Emerald City to three games.

Jackson had his worst game of the Pacific-10 conference season as the Huskies defeated Oregon 83-74 in front of 7,618 at Bank of America Arena.

The forward scored 11 points. He played in just three minutes of the first half after earning two fouls by the 16:49 mark.

Without his control of the game, the Ducks (11-7 overall, 6-5 Pac-10) literally lost control. Up by 13 points midway through the second half, Oregon slowly succumbed to Washington.

"Just coming down in the stretch of the ball game, we didn't do a good job defensively," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said.

Looking for a reason for the loss? Look no further than the 26 turnovers the Ducks committed, 13 in each half. The Huskies (11-9, 6-6) capitalized early and often, scoring 29 points off of Oregon's turnovers.

Conversely, the Ducks netted 12 points off of 15 Washington turnovers.

"Way too many turnovers, way too many (Washington) offensive boards," Oregon forward Ian Crosswhite said. "We can't turn the ball over."

Oh, but the Ducks did. Every Oregon player turned the ball over once, with Jackson, forward Mitch Platt and Brandon Lincoln leading the way with four apiece.

"Yeah, it was turnovers," Platt said. "We had 23 or something."

Turn to **TURNOVERS**, page 10