

Monday, February 15, 2004

Tourney hopes still alive after overtime win

Oregon wins in its first overtime game of the season and keeps its NCAA Tournament hopes alive; the Ducks play Arizona on Thursday

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

In Oregon's first overtime game of the season, the Ducks scrambled to a win after blowing an 18-point second-half lead to keep their hopes alive for an NCAA Tournament bid.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

After shooting 17 percent in the first half, Washington State crawled back in the second half to force overtime, where the Ducks won 67-62 off solid free-throw shooting in the clutch.

Forward Ian Crosswhite scored a career-high 23 points and five rebounds for the Ducks, but fouled out of the game with 2:35 remaining in overtime.

Crosswhite scored nine of Oregon's first 14 points in the game and dominated in the low post. He was slowed in the second half after Washington State head coach Dick Bennett made the adjustment to double-team Crosswhite whenever he touched the ball.

"Ian Crosswhite was just a man tonight down in that low block," Oregon head coach Emie Kent told KUGN (590 AM) Radio after the game.

Oregon finished the game shooting 44.9 percent from the floor after shooting 8 of 24 in the second half.

Leading 31-14 at halftime, Oregon let an 18-point lead slip away in the second half. Crosswhite was slowed after scoring 14 points and shooting a perfect 6 for 6 from the field in the first half. He didn't miss his first shot until 7:05 was left in the second half.

Washington State didn't play its typical slow offense in the second half, knowing it had a huge deficit to overcome. After four minutes of play, the Cougars had hit three three-pointers and cut the lead to 34-25.

Senior James Davis struggled in the game, missing five three-pointers in the second half. Oregon (12-7 overall, 7-5 Pac-10) shot just 3 for 15 from the three-point line.

By the eight-minute mark, the Cougars had cut the lead to five points. Guards Marcus Moore, Thomas Kelati and Randy Green led the way with 12 points each for the Cougars.

With a little more than a minute left, Moore hit a big three-pointer to tie the game at 51. It was the Cougar's first tie since the game was knotted at 12.

"The encouraging thing or the positive thing that I continue to look at is we're doing something right to get the lead before we lose the lead," Kent said.

But in overtime, Oregon was the better team and played like it did in the first half. Even with Crosswhite fouling out, Oregon managed 14 points to Washington State's nine in extra minutes.

The Cougars had the lead after center Justin Bellegarde hit a free-throw to start but Oregon led the rest of the way.

Guard Andre Joseph had five of his 13 points in overtime and hit clutch shots throughout the game when they were needed.

The game was tied at 60 with 1:09 left, but Oregon finished shooting 6 of 7 from the free-throw line to get the win. Oregon was 20 of 26, shooting 76.9 percent from the foul line on the game.

"This game helped us to be able to regain our composure and win in overtime," Kent said. "The bottom line is when we needed to dig in we did it, (and) we kept our composure."

Oregon finished the night on 22 of 49 shooting and winning the rebound margin 37 to 33. The Ducks were a mere 20 percent from beyond the arc after shooting 0 for 10 in the second half.

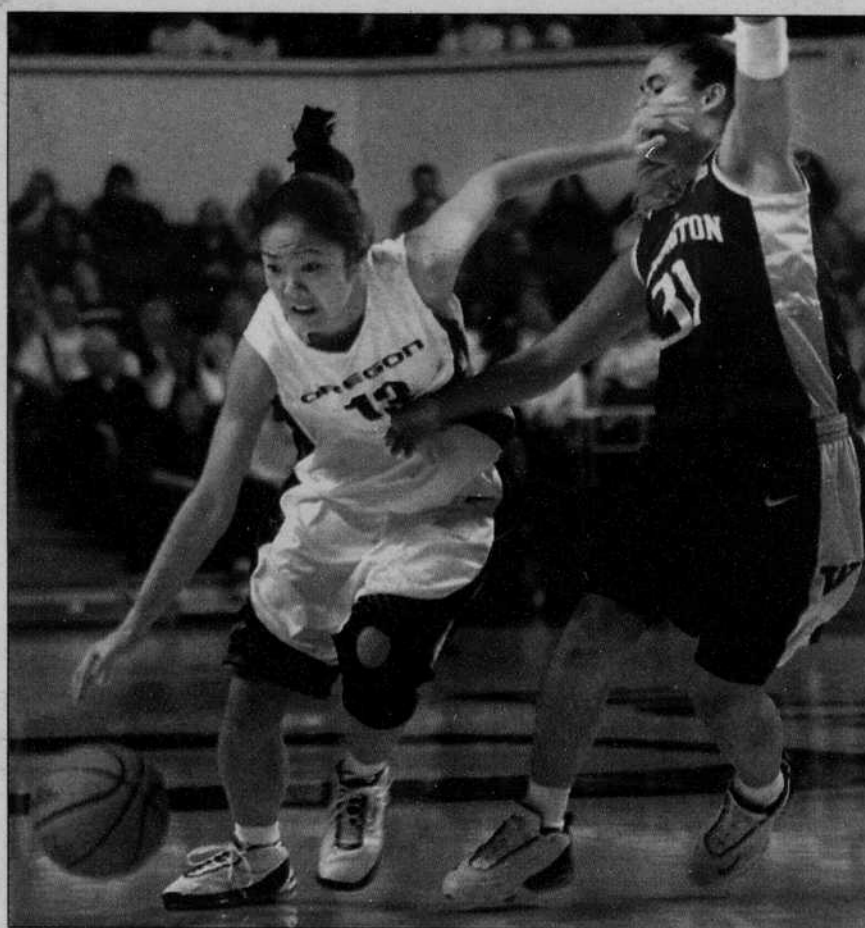
Senior Luke Jackson finished with 16 points after earning just four in the first half that all came off free throws. Guard Brandon Lincoln finished the game with nine points, two assists and two rebounds.

"Brandon hit some tough buckets in this game," Kent said. "He did a great job defensively. I thought it was a big breakthrough game for him."

Oregon now sits in a tie for third place in the conference with Cal — Stanford leads at 12-0 and Arizona sits at 8-5. The Ducks will face Arizona on Thursday back at McArthur Court and have the chance to move into second place in conference play.

Oregon is just trying to keep its NCAA Tournament hopes alive for the third straight year. The Ducks' win against Washington State was crucial in that fight.

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Erik Bishoff Photographer

Corrie Mizusawa played only 15 minutes against Washington Saturday because of a left-knee injury.

Guard's big game bolsters Huskies

Washington received a strong second-half performance from Giuliana Mendiola to defeat Oregon by 11 in Eugene

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

Giuliana Mendiola showed Oregon on Saturday why she was named Pacific-10 Conference Player of the Year last season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Washington senior scored 18 of the team's final 23 points — including 13 straight — in leading the Huskies to a 67-56 win over Oregon in front of 4,254 at McArthur Court.

Turn to **GUARD**, page 9

Duck women grab big win against 'Cats

The women's tennis team defeats Arizona to stay undefeated, while Boise State gives the men their first loss

By Alex Tam
Freelance Reporter

One winning streak continued and another one snapped over the weekend for the Oregon tennis teams.

DUCK TENNIS

The women knocked off their second top-35 team in three days when they beat No. 34 Arizona, 6-1, on Saturday — their eighth straight win of the dual-match season.

The Ducks (8-0 overall, 2-0 Pacific-10 Conference) have already equaled last year's total conference wins and are now

believing they may be a part of something special.

"I think it's great to follow up the big win (against No. 18 Arizona State) the other day," Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said. "Now we know we're for real."

However, the women are not caught up in admiring their undefeated record; all of their wins have occurred at home, and their first road game is this Friday.

"We take it one match at a time," Schyllander said. "From there on out, every match is huge. We just need to worry about ourselves."

The recurring theme of good doubles play translating into strong singles efforts carried on as the Ducks swept all three doubles matches to earn the first point of the match. Oregon's doubles improved to a dominating 21-3 record for the season.

Sophomore Anna Leksinska sealed the win at the No. 6 position when she came back in her singles match after losing the

first set. She dominated Wildcats sophomore Iza Ferreira in the third set to win, 3-6, 6-3, 6-0. Leksinska said things turned around when assistant coach Kathy Sell told her to just play her game and play smart.

"I woke up (in the second set)," Leksinska said. "I have to credit my win as usual to the great coaching."

In another notable match-up, freshman Dominika Dieskova took her singles record to 7-1 when she defeated 28th-ranked Dianne Hollands 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. Hollands grew frustrated as the match progressed, and after the loss she threw her racket into the net in disgust.

"I just stepped up and put pressure on her," Dieskova said. "(Hollands) played really well. I was smart in the end."

The women will continue action as they embark on their first road trip of the season. They face Washington State on Friday

Turn to **BIG**, page 8

Ducks lose last home match to Beavers

Oregon drops its second dual match of the season against rival Oregon State, this time at home in McArthur Court

By Scott Archer
Freelance Reporter

Oregon was hoping its second dual match against in-state rival Oregon State would go better than the first.

DUCK WRESTLING

It didn't. The Ducks (1-12 overall, 0-7 Pacific-10 Conference) wrestled in front of 931 fans, and if it wasn't for the match being held at McArthur Court, it wasn't easy to tell who was the home team and who wasn't. Beaver fans were often more boisterous, even standing and chanting in unison after one of the matches.

Oregon State opened the match with a five-point victory over 184-pound

Dustin Fisher. Fisher, like Jake Leair and Jason Harless, was closing out his wrestling career at Mac Court but didn't have the success that Leair found immediately after Fisher's match.

Leair, wrestling in the 197-pound division, faced Curt Willener. Despite both teams meeting twice annually, Leair and Willener have never wrestled against each other before.

"I had to feel him out a little bit," Leair said. "I really wanted to pin him."

Leair did just that. After building an 8-1 lead, Leair was able to pin his man, closing out his last match at Mac Court in impressive fashion, but more importantly earning six points for the Ducks.

"Nothing could feel better," Leair said. "Leair has had his ups and downs this season," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said. "(But) to end it pinning a Beaver, that's not bad."

Oregon also received a strong performance from Jason Harless, who ended his wrestling career at Mac Court, with a victory over Bobby Pfenning. Harless'

win put the Ducks only three points back, 12-9, with four matches left.

But the meet began to unravel when the Ducks had to use Johnny Lugo at the 141-pound class. Lugo, who typically wrestles in the 133-pound class, was out-sized against Kyle Larson. Lugo was pinned, beginning a stretch where Oregon State scored 12 straight points.

Oregon had to forfeit the 149-pound class, giving the Beavers five free points.

The Ducks were put in a tough situation the rest of the afternoon trying to play catch-up with only three matches remaining.

Joey Bracamonte rounded out the Ducks scoring, when he defeated Brian Duhrkoop 14-7.

With only two matches remaining the Ducks were facing a 12-point deficit at 24-12. The Beavers went on to win the match 30-12.

"Oregon State wrestled tough," Kearney said. "They are quietly having a real good season."

"We need to continue to get better. We Turn to **BIG**, page 10