

Friday, February 20, 2004



Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Arizona senior Salim Stoudamire (20) scored a career-high 37 points against Oregon. The Portland native hit six three-pointers.

## Emotion leads to Arizona win

No. 14 Arizona now has three wins in a row after Oregon, scoring at least 100 points

By Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

Both teams felt it. It lingered in the air long before the game began.

It was evident for 40 minutes — from the opening tip to the final shot. Both coaches expressed it in their sideline display of emotion, eventually leading to a technical foul for both.

"I think all the guys were really emotional," Arizona guard Chris Rodgers said. "This was an intense game."

Intense doesn't begin to describe it.

Arizona head coach Lute Olson headed in Oregon head coach Ernie Kent's way at one point.

"He was just trying to make a statement," senior Luke Jackson said of Olson. "He's just trying to show emotion. It just shows how bad both teams wanted this game."

In the end, Arizona wanted it more. Emotion didn't get the best of the No. 14 team in the country that scored 100 points for the second straight game.

"We wanted to win this game," Arizona forward Hassan Adams said. "This game's getting us ready for the tournament."

Arizona (16-7 overall, 9-5 Pac-10) has won three straight as it finishes up its final road trip of the season. The Wildcats have struggled recently, at one point losing three of four in midseason.

But Adams is confident. Arizona has started to play its best basketball as the

season winds down. He's seen it in every one of his players.

"We're playing good, I know that," Adams said. "The last three games, we're playing together and we're getting better. Everyday in practice, everybody's getting better and more focused. Sky's the limit with us. We keep the intensity up, keep playing hard, we should be all right."

It was a huge win for an Arizona team that has lost four games on the road against Pacific-10 Conference opponents. But at McArthur Court, Arizona didn't play like a team that started two freshmen and two juniors.

Adams, a sophomore out of Los Angeles, scored 10 points above his average and doubled his rebounding average.

With Arizona's final road game against Oregon State Saturday, the Wildcats are readying for the Pac-10 Tournament and

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## Oregon looks for more victories on the road

The Duck tennis teams hit the road this weekend in hopes of continuing their early success

By Alex Tam  
Freelance Reporter

Challenging times lie ahead for the Oregon tennis teams.

While the women and men have combined for just one loss on the year, the schedule only gets tougher for both squads.

### DUCK TENNIS

The 42nd-ranked Oregon women (8-0 overall, 2-0 Pacific-10 Conference) take the road for the first time this dual match season

as they face Washington State today and fifth-ranked Washington on Saturday. The matches do not count toward the conference record, and the Ducks play each team again in Eugene next month.

Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said he wants to see his team bring their high level of play from home onto the road.

"We're very excited," he said. "We feel like we have a lot of momentum going in."

Singles play is proving crucial, with four Ducks holding undefeated dual singles records, led by senior Davina Mendiburu's eight wins. Junior Daria Panova has compiled a 6-0 record at the No. 1 position, with each coming against the opponent's best player.

Beginning Saturday, the Ducks see a

stretch during which they face five straight opponents on the road who are ranked in the top 15 in the nation, including No. 1 Stanford.

The biggest test this weekend, however, comes against Washington.

The Huskies (6-1) have three wins against top-25 schools. Their only loss came against Stanford. They also boast three players among the top 90 players in the country. Claire Carter, ranked 35th, heads up the field on a squad that Huskies head coach Patty McCain describes as having a "refuse-to-lose attitude" and demonstrating "mental toughness," which she said they will need against the Ducks.

"Oregon is a very tough squad," she said. "We knew they were going to be

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## Ducks struggle to find offense in loss to ASU

Oregon scores only 40 points in a 25-point loss to Arizona State at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe

By Jon Roetman  
Sports Reporter

Thursday's game against Arizona State marked yet another low point in a season of disappointment for the Oregon women's basketball team.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Sun Devils outscored the Ducks 36-14 during the game's final 16 minutes en route to a 65-40 victory in front of 1,754 fans at Wells Fargo Arena.

Oregon (12-13 overall, 4-11 Pacific-10 Conference) pulled to within two midway through the second half when a basket by guard Corrie Mizusawa cut the Arizona State lead to 34-32.

Sun Devil forward Emily Westerberg then nailed a jump shot from the foul line to spark a 31-8 Arizona State run to close the game.

The loss put Oregon below .500 for the first time all season and marked its lowest scoring output since November 2002 when the Ducks scored 40 in a loss to South Carolina.

"Certainly we have to take our hats off to Arizona State," Oregon head coach Bev Smith told KSCR (1320 AM) Radio after the game. "They're playing very well. The rotation of players that come in don't lose their intensity, they don't lose their focus, and above all, they don't lose their discipline."

"We just can't find a number of players that are going to play together with that kind of intensity for 40 minutes, and quite frankly, that's my responsibility."

Oregon experienced offensive troubles early and often. The Ducks had only 21 points at the half and didn't have a player reach double figures in scoring.

Guard Brandi Davis lead the Ducks with nine points on 4 of 11 shooting, while forwards Kedzie Gunderson and Eleanor Haring added eight points apiece.

Guard Chelsea Wagner, who torched the Sun Devils for 20 points and five three-pointers in the season's first meeting, was held scoreless in 14 minutes.

Oregon shot 35 percent for the game, connecting on 16 of 46 field goal attempts. When the Ducks missed, they rarely got a second chance. Arizona State (16-8, 10-5) outrebounded Oregon 40-26, holding the Ducks to only seven offensive rebounds.

Haring lead Oregon with seven rebounds, while Gunderson snatched six. Center Andrea Bills grabbed five boards, snapping a streak of 19 games in which the 6-foot-3 junior led, or tied for, the team lead in rebounding.

"You've got to compete," Smith said. "You've got to get out

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## Ducks head south to rainy California

The softball team opens its third preseason tournament with a trip to San Diego

By Mindi Rice  
Senior Sports Reporter

The No. 21 Oregon women's softball team makes its first trip of the season to California this weekend.

In the annual Campbell/Carter Classic, the Ducks face five teams, including three schools hailing from California.

Opening the weekend, Oregon (5-4) plays Hawaii (5-6) at 10 a.m., then has the afternoon free until 5:30 p.m. when the Ducks play No. 14 Fresno State (4-1).

### DUCK SOFTBALL

Oregon faces two more California schools Saturday — Sacramento State (2-5) and Long Beach State (7-3) — before closing the tournament against Ohio (0-0) on Sunday.

"This is going to be a real test for us as we try to find a way to be more consistent in our game," head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "Our pitching is getting better, our hitting is getting more consistent. We need to produce more runs; we're getting people on base."

After a day playing inside and out of the rain, the Ducks practiced on a mixed dirt and mud version of Howe Field on Wednesday before they left for the San Diego State-hosted tournament.

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