

Friday, February 27, 2004

## Oregon unseats No. 10 Stanford

Point guard Corrie Mizusawa scored the Ducks' final six points in the last 22 seconds Thursday for the surprise victory, 67-66, at McArthur Court

By Mindi Rice  
Senior Sports Reporter

Corrie Mizusawa tied her Oregon career high Thursday with 13 points in the most dramatic way possible.

After a teammate grabbed the rebound when Stanford's Nicole Powell missed a free throw with 21.8 seconds remaining, Mizusawa — in classic point-guard mode — took the pass from her teammate and dribbled down the court.

And for the second time in 12 seconds, the passing phenom drove to the basket to do the job herself. A few steps, a double pump and a couple heart-wrenching seconds later, the Ducks were ahead of No. 10 Stanford, 67-66, with 8.2 seconds remaining.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

"I think I had a step on (Stanford's Susan Borchardt)," Mizusawa said. "I had a pretty wide-open lane. I just drove past her and threw it up there."

The Cardinal (20-6 overall, 13-4 Pacific-10 Conference) called a 30-second timeout, but Powell's final-second attempt was short of the basket and left Oregon (13-14, 5-12) in a screaming huddle at the middle of a joyous McArthur Court.

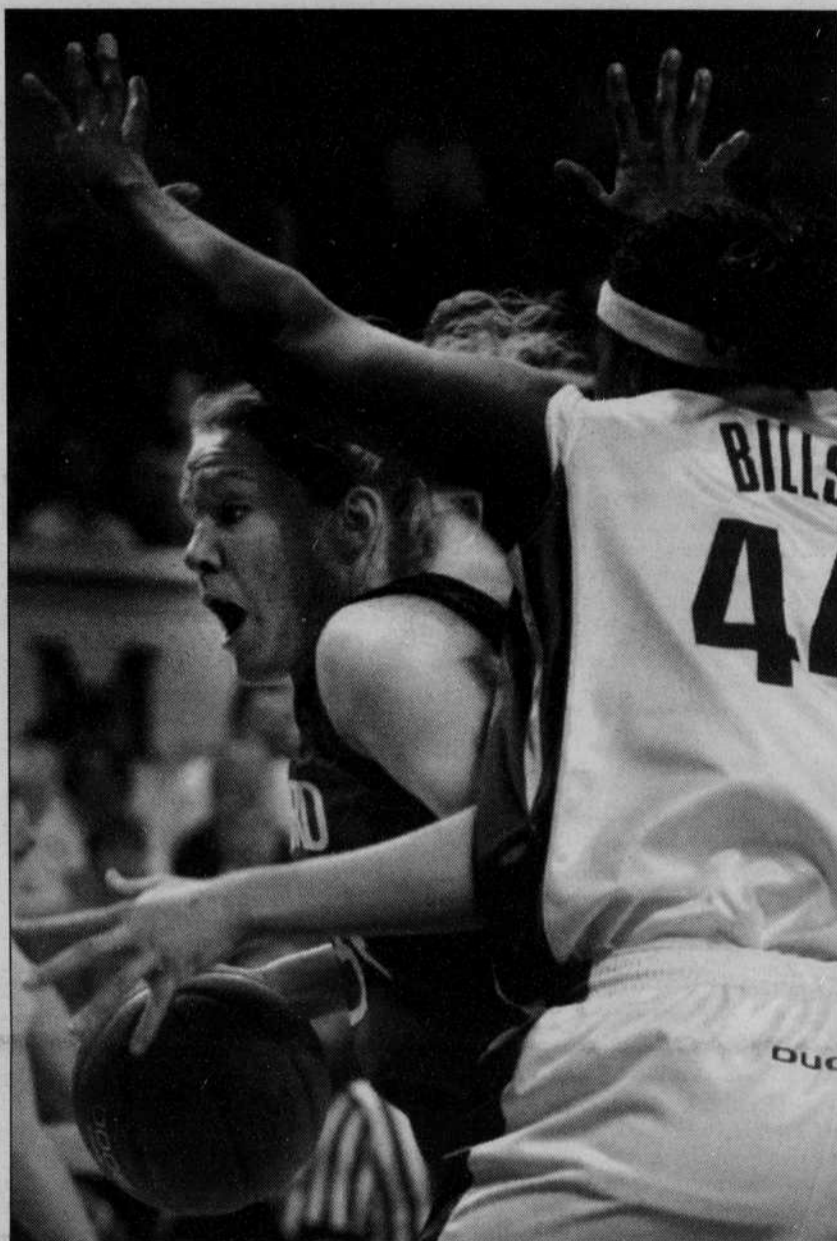
"As soon as that shot went up, I was screaming," forward Kedzie Gunderson said. "It was just one of those things. (Powell) was off-balance, (Andrea Bills) was right up there challenging with me, you could see it on (Powell's) face that she knew that wasn't going in. There were tears of joy practically coming down my face."

In a way, the win was therapeutic for the Ducks. After starting the season 5-0, Oregon slowly succumbed to injury after injury, loss after loss. Now struggling for a .500 finish, the Ducks' upset of the nation's 10th-ranked team gives members of the team confidence.

The game marked the first start of the season for guard Kayla Steen. The Ducks' lone senior to use up her eligibility, Steen's start and the Ducks' win was an emotional way for the Portland native to begin her final homestand.

"Surprisingly, I was nervous (starting)," Steen said. "But it was the good kind of nervous. I definitely wanted these last two games to be memorable. Not only did I get the start, which was exciting for me, but we got the win, which was, I think, even more exciting. You kind of forget about the start."

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Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Andrea Bills scored six points and grabbed six rebounds in Thursday's upset of Stanford.

## Gunderson's defense frustrates Powell

Kedzie Gunderson helps Oregon pull off a huge upset against No. 10 Stanford

By Jon Roetman  
Sports Reporter

Nicole Powell is one of the best players in the country.

But the defense of Kedzie Gunderson Thursday night made Powell look like an average athlete.

Gunderson applied relentless, physical pressure on Powell for the majority of Thursday's game against Stanford, limiting her to 13 points — Powell averages 20.3 per game — on 4 of 14 shooting in 32 minutes.

The lack of offensive production by the two-time Kodak First-Team All-American helped Oregon to a 67-66 upset against No. 10 Stanford at

McArthur Court.

"Nicole Powell is an All-American," Oregon point guard Corrie Mizusawa said. "Kedzie did a phenomenal job on her. She definitely came out ready to 'D' her up."

The battle between Gunderson and Powell lasted through the game's final possession. The Stanford forward received an in-bounds pass in the backcourt with 8.2 seconds remaining and started to drive. Gunderson stayed in front of Powell the entire way, eventually forcing her into an off-balance shot that came up short at the buzzer.

The defensive stop was a moment of revenge for Gunderson, who fouled Powell in a similar situation at McArthur Court in 2003.

With 3.3 seconds remaining and Oregon leading Stanford 74-73 last season, Powell caught a long

in-bounds pass and was fouled on her way to the basket by Gunderson. The Stanford forward sank both free throws to give the Cardinal a 75-74 win.

Gunderson said last year's defeat was still fresh in her mind.

"Seeing (we were) up by one with 8 seconds to go was complete déjà vu for me," Gunderson said. "Last year it was really hard for me, being up by one and giving them that long pass and fouling (Powell)."

"(Tonight) was complete payback. I needed to stop her. That was my goal and I did everything I could to stay in front of her."

Powell — who was held without a field goal until the 12:27 mark of the second half — showed signs of life during a two-minute stretch late in the game, when she scored six consecutive

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## Oregon stumbles at Haas

The Ducks scored five points to California's nine in overtime for their third-straight loss

By Hank Hager  
Sports Editor

BERKELEY, Calif. — Through all of the missed opportunities and disappointments, Oregon had yet to lose three straight games this season.

That became reality Thursday night.

California needed overtime to outlast the Ducks, 85-81, in front of 11,347 at Haas Pavilion. The loss is Oregon's third in a row and fourth straight in Berkeley.

"We fought hard to come back, and (we) washed it away in overtime," Oregon guard Aaron Brooks said.

The Golden Bears outscored Oregon, 9-5, in the extra frame. They grabbed the momentum Oregon ended the second half with and held the Ducks to a three-pointer and two Luke Jackson free throws.

Of course, the overtime session wouldn't have been necessary if the Ducks played a little defense. At least that's what they thought.

"It's defense," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "The whole tone of the season comes down to us being able to defend people."

Much like it has been for most of the season for the Ducks, it was a tale of two halves. In the first, Oregon allowed California to score 44 points on the strength of 55.9 percent shooting.

The Golden Bears (12-12 overall, 8-7 Pacific-10 Conference) knocked down three three-pointers and were led by Richard Midgley's 13 points.

The second half was a tad bit better for Oregon (12-10, 7-8). The Ducks held the Golden Bears to 32 points, allowing Oregon to pull even at 74 with 1:22 left to play. That came after the Ducks had made one field goal during a 10-minute span midway through the half that allowed California to jump ahead by eight points.

"If we had that sense of urgency in the first half, we wouldn't have been in that hole," Kent said.

If nothing else, the game was symbolic of Oregon's season. A few missed shots here, a few more there. A missed opportunity here, yet another there.

As the game wound down in regulation, the Ducks connected on their shots. They defended, they grabbed rebounds. They just couldn't connect on that last drive down the floor, an opportunity to put the game away with seconds remaining.

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## No. 24 Oregon women travel south for Pac-10 action

Duck tennis looks for two upset victories over top-20 schools for both the men and women starting today

By Alex Tam  
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon tennis teams meet their toughest challenges for the season this weekend.

The women will travel to the Bay Area to take on a pair of top-10 schools. The Ducks (9-1 overall, 2-0

Pacific-10 Conference) face first-ranked Stanford today and No. 9 California on Saturday. It is the first time since October that Oregon will compete outdoors.

### DUCK TENNIS

Despite losing their first dual match against fourth-ranked Washington last weekend, the women are slowly being recognized as one of the top teams in the country after their terrific start. For the second time in the history of the

women's tennis program, the Ducks moved into the top 25 and now sit at No. 24.

Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said his squad is looking at these upcoming matches as another chance to showcase the team on a national level and hopefully pull off an upset.

"We feel like we got nothing to lose and are going to embrace this opportunity to grow as a team," Schyllander said. "If we play hard, anything can happen."

That growth process has already

begun as the women currently have two players among the top-50 singles players in the country. Junior Daria Panova jumped up one spot to No. 7, while freshman Dominika Dieskova entered the rankings for the first time in her career at No. 46. Right now, Panova holds a 21-4 singles record and Dieskova has compiled a 12-6 singles record.

However, Stanford (9-0) boasts an all-star squad with a total of seven players rated among the top 75. The Cardinal is led by 24th-ranked senior Lauren Barnikow, who has a

16-4 record, and its own star freshman, No. 26 Theresa Logar, who is 17-2 on the season.

Stanford head coach Lele Forood said she is well aware of the up-and-coming Ducks and realizes her team will be tested.

"Oregon is certainly a very tough opponent and we are looking forward to the match," Forood said.

Revenge will be on the minds of the Ducks after they were defeated by Stanford, 7-0, and California,

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