



DEFEAT

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After California's Marquise Kately nailed a jumper with 16.7 seconds remaining, Brooks brought the ball up the floor on an isolation play.

Brooks, who scored a career-high 16 points and netted four three-pointers in the second half, couldn't make anything happen.

He attempted to drive through the lane, but was blocked by California defenders. The ball was tapped away and fell helplessly to the ground.

"I pump faked and he kind of slapped me," Brooks said, not completely sure if California's Ayinde Ubaka was the player who made contact. "It's the end of the game and the refs won't call that. I wish I would have done something else, obviously."

Jackson appeared to be open on the play, as did forward Ian Crosswhite. It was, as Oregon's season has gone, a missed opportunity.

"We put the ball into Aaron's hands because he had bothered them with his quickness," Kent said.

Oregon's offense on the night was solid. The Ducks shot 42.9 percent from the field and connected on 11 three-pointers.

There were, however, two stretches where Oregon went cold and kept California in control.

At the 13:43 mark in the second half, Oregon scored from the field — a Brooks' three-pointer — but didn't score again for a little more than 10 minutes.

"Shots weren't falling," Oregon guard Andre Joseph said. "Sometimes they just don't go in."

The loss leaves the Ducks reeling, having lost three straight and facing undefeated Stanford at Maples Pavilion on Saturday in Palo Alto.

Oregon has not won at Maples since 1986.

"We've got to get at least (one) win on this trip," Joseph said.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

Adam Amato Senior Photographer
Ian Crosswhite scored 17 points for Oregon Thursday in the Ducks' third consecutive loss, 85-81, at California. It is also the third year in a row that the Ducks have lost in Berkeley.

SPORTS BRIEF

Oregon women head into first spring tournament

The Oregon women's golf team opens its 2004 spring season Friday at the Pinehurst Challenge in Pinehurst, N.C. The Ducks will look for some carryover from their solid fall season, during which they finished with top 10's in each of their four tournaments, including their first team title since 2000 with their win at the Lady Vandal Invitational in September.

The Ducks, who finished the fall season ranked 24th in the nation and currently sit in 30th according to Golfweek, will compete against a 17-team field on the 5,926-yard, par-72 Pinehurst No. 8. The competition includes Appalachian State, College of Charleston, Charleston Southern,

Coastal Carolina, East Carolina, Georgia State, Jacksonville State, James Madison, Maryland, Memphis, UNC Greensboro, UNC Wilmington, Penn State, Richmond, South Florida and Virginia. Washington State and Oregon are the only two teams in the tournament from west of the Mississippi River.

"Over the last few years, I've tried to find one tournament that is different from the schedule that we usually play," Oregon coach Shannon Rouillard said. "It gives us a chance to compete against some teams from the East we usually don't see and show how strong the Oregon program is."

The Ducks will send juniors Jess Carlyon and Johnna Nealy, sophomores Erin Andrews and Michelle Timpani and freshman Kim McCreedy to the team's first visit to Pinehurst.

"The golf course may be somewhat

different than what we're used to and this will be the first time that any of us have seen it," Rouillard said. "But when you're competing against teams you're not familiar with, you just need to focus on what you're doing. We need to focus on us."

So far in the 2003-04 season the Ducks have done just that. They will look to recapture the momentum from the fall behind sophomore Erin Andrews, who is ranked 57th individually in Golfweek and will be vying for her second individual title of the year, her first coming at the Lady Vandal Invitational.

The Ducks will also look to capture their second team title of the year Friday, when they play 18. The Ducks will conclude the 54-hole tournament Sunday.

— Brian Smith

SPORTS BRIEF

Ducks search for Pac-10 championship success

It has come down to this for the Oregon wrestling team.

All the practices, hard work, frustrating losses, cutting weight, and injuries are about to come to a climax.

The Ducks enter the 2004 version of the Pacific-10 Conference tournament, and not a moment too soon.

Oregon will be competing with its conference rivals for a shot at the NCAA Tournament on March 18-20 in St. Louis.

While it is unlikely the team will qualify for an NCAA bid, individuals representing the Ducks have a shot at making the field and continuing their season.

"I'd say if we don't qualify five guys, then it will be disappointing," Chet McBee said.

It has been a frustrating season for the Ducks, but unlike other sports, the season will depend on how the team and its individuals participate in this tournament alone. Past failures and successes mean nothing now.

In fact, one could make an argument that the season was one big practice before this weekend.

"We want wrestlers to look at the most important match of the year as the one in front of them," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "And have everything they have worked for, not just this season, but your lifetime to come to fruition."

Oregon is coming off its only Pac-10 victory of the season after beating Portland State a week ago.

"(In that match) some guys hadn't opened up all of their technique and haven't put it all together, up to that point," McBee said. "So, it was important we got that win."

"Whenever you win you feel better," Kearney said. "You wrestle better in practice. Hopefully it gives them a shot of confidence going into the tournament."

Each wrestler competes in four matches with the top four finishers from each weight class earning a bid to the NCAA tournament in St. Louis.

Oregon finished fifth a year ago, qualifying three wrestlers for the tournament, including senior Jason Harless.

But despite a down year, Oregon wants and expects a little something special in the Pac-10 tournament.

"(The wrestlers) have grown up being involved in big tournaments their whole life," Kearney said. "The challenge is to get yourself up each time."

"If there is a guy (on the team) that doesn't have aspirations to be a National Champion, or an All-American, they are in the wrong place. We are going to go hard, and let the chips fall where they may."

The tournament runs Sunday and Monday beginning at 11 a.m. in Tempe, Ariz.

— Scott Archer

TENNIS

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4-3, last season.

Back at home

The 60th-ranked Oregon men (6-1 overall) return home after two consecutive weeks on the road to compete against No. 8 Rice today at 4 p.m. and 18th-ranked Washington on Saturday at the Student Tennis Center.

Oregon head coach Chris Russell said playing at home will be key this season and believes it will help his team pull off some surprises against top-ranked visiting squads.

"I do feel like the guys have a belief that playing on our home courts that anything can happen," Russell said. "We have to play well, there's no doubt about it. We wouldn't schedule them if we didn't think we could beat them." Rice assistant coach Shaheen Ladhani said he is expecting a tough matchup on the road.

"Oregon has a very good team and they are more than capable of causing big upsets," Ladhani said. "We have our work cut out for us. It should be a great match."

Alex Tam is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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