

Adam Amato Senior Photographer

The defense of Kedzie Gunderson (left) and Kayla Steen helped limit Stanford to a 39 percent shooting clip Thursday.

STANFORD

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Oregon head coach Bev Smith didn't forget about the start, at least her squad's start. The Ducks worked the 4,167 in attendance into a frenzy early, taking a 15-5 lead four minutes into the game.

Even after Oregon gave a little ground and entered the locker room tied at 33 at halftime, Smith had confidence in her team. The Ducks are now 4-0 when tied at halftime.

"We've struggled with (the starts) all year," Smith said. "That was our focus this week in terms of trying to do things that need to be done at the beginning of the game, to build our confidence to feel good about what we're doing."

Freshman forward Eleanor Haring scored a career-high 18 points and led the Ducks with seven rebounds. Mizusawa added nine assists to her 13 points, giving her 170 assists this season to put her one behind the No. 2 spot on Oregon's all-time, single-season assists list. Mizusawa played her first game without a brace on her left knee after partially tearing the lateral meniscus in her knee Feb. 12.

Guard Chelsea Wagner, who has made the second-most three-point shots for Oregon this season, didn't play Thursday. She suffered the same injury as Mizusawa on Jan. 15 and had played with a brace on her knee. Smith said Wagner's knee was the reason she didn't play.

"We haven't had the season we wanted to (due to injuries and losses)," Mizusawa said. "Coming out

and beating the No. 10 team in America and just getting a rhythm to get to the Pac-10 tournament, and (now we'll) see how we do in the Pac-10 tournament."

Smith wants her players to carry the momentum of the upset into Saturday's 1 p.m. game against California and beyond. The Ducks and Golden Bears will play for a third time this season March 5 in the opening round of the Pac-10 Tournament, but Saturday's game is the final tipoff at Mac Court.

"Tonight's game gave us a big, huge flame that we can now go with," said Steen, the team's backup point guard and lone graduating senior. "Not just for Saturday's game, but into the Pac-10 tournament."

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POWELL

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points off driving lay-ins. Gunderson quickly turned the heat back up and didn't allow the Cardinal's leading scorer another point.

Near the end of the game, Powell looked rattled by Gunderson's pressure as the National Player of the Year candidate started complaining to officials.

"She was getting frustrated," Gunderson said. "I was pushing on her and trying to get her frustrated, and by

the end I think she was. She was complaining to the refs and it got into her head a bit."

Powell was visibly upset and fought back tears during postgame interviews.

"They did a good job," Powell said of Oregon's defense. "They try to stay in front of you."

Oregon head coach Bev Smith said she was happy that Gunderson got the chance to redeem herself after last year's loss to Stanford.

"Kedzie took a little bit of a breather before we walked (to the

locker room) after the game," Smith said. "I think a young woman like that, who was in the mix of it last year, she'll sleep a little bit better for the next year knowing that (she got her payback)."

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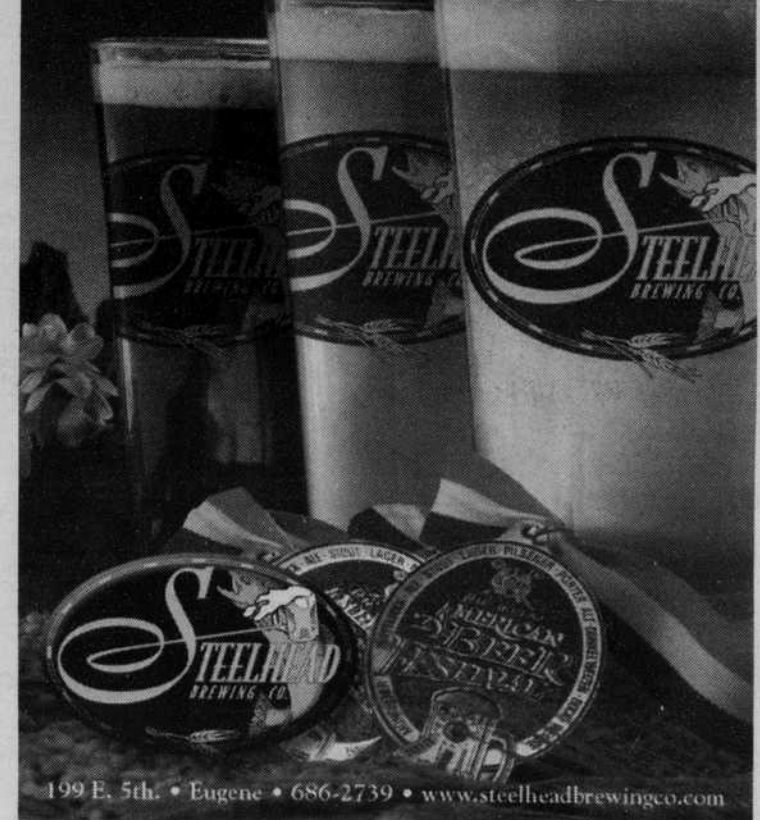
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