

## SPORTS

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Best bet  
NHL:  
New Jersey vs. N.Y. Rangers  
4 p.m., ESPN2

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## Stanford swats Oregon's upset bid

The Ducks came close Friday, but couldn't upset Stanford in the Pac-10 Tournament

By Hank Hager  
Sports Editor

LOS ANGELES — Slouched in the Los Angeles Clippers' locker room, Luke Jackson sat stunned in near disbelief at what Oregon had gone through just 15 minutes before.

The Ducks had Stanford where they wanted them all game. Oregon was in prime position to upset the No. 2 team in the country and top seed in the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament.

Then a shot — or lack thereof — signaled the end.

With 2:19 left, Jackson went up for a three-pointer that would have put the Ducks up by three.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Stanford's Matt Lottich came from Jackson's right, blocked the senior's shot and went running.

Josh Childress grabbed the blocked shot, sent it up court to Lottich, who went up for a layup and was fouled by Andre Joseph. Lottich sank his only free throw, putting Stanford up by three, 64-61.

That proved to be it. The dagger that went through Oregon's heart in a 70-63 defeat at Staples Center.

"I didn't even see him," Jackson said of Lottich. "I don't know. He came up from my blind side. I wish I had that one over."

"Everyone was scrambling on the play and I saw Luke with the ball," Lottich said. "He is so clutch and I knew if he got it up, he would make it."

Maybe Lottich got a piece of Jackson in addition to the ball, maybe he didn't. Jackson didn't think so.

"It was a clean block, I thought," Jackson said. "I didn't see him coming. I thought I was wide open. I even kind of took my time. He just came screaming from the other side. But that's not an excuse."

Oregon shouldn't have even been that close. Jackson scored three points in the first half; Oregon had 24.

The Ducks shot 31 percent from the field in the first half, created just three assists and was 3 of 12 from beyond the three-point line.

Stanford, however, couldn't piece together any kind of attack. The Cardinal looked flat, sluggish and seemingly in awe of the fact that a team it had beat by 21 points less than three weeks ago was hanging in there. Stanford (29-1 overall) had 23 points in the first half, the sixth opponent this season that Oregon (15-12) has held to less than 25 to start the game. The Cardinal didn't earn an offensive rebound until the second half.

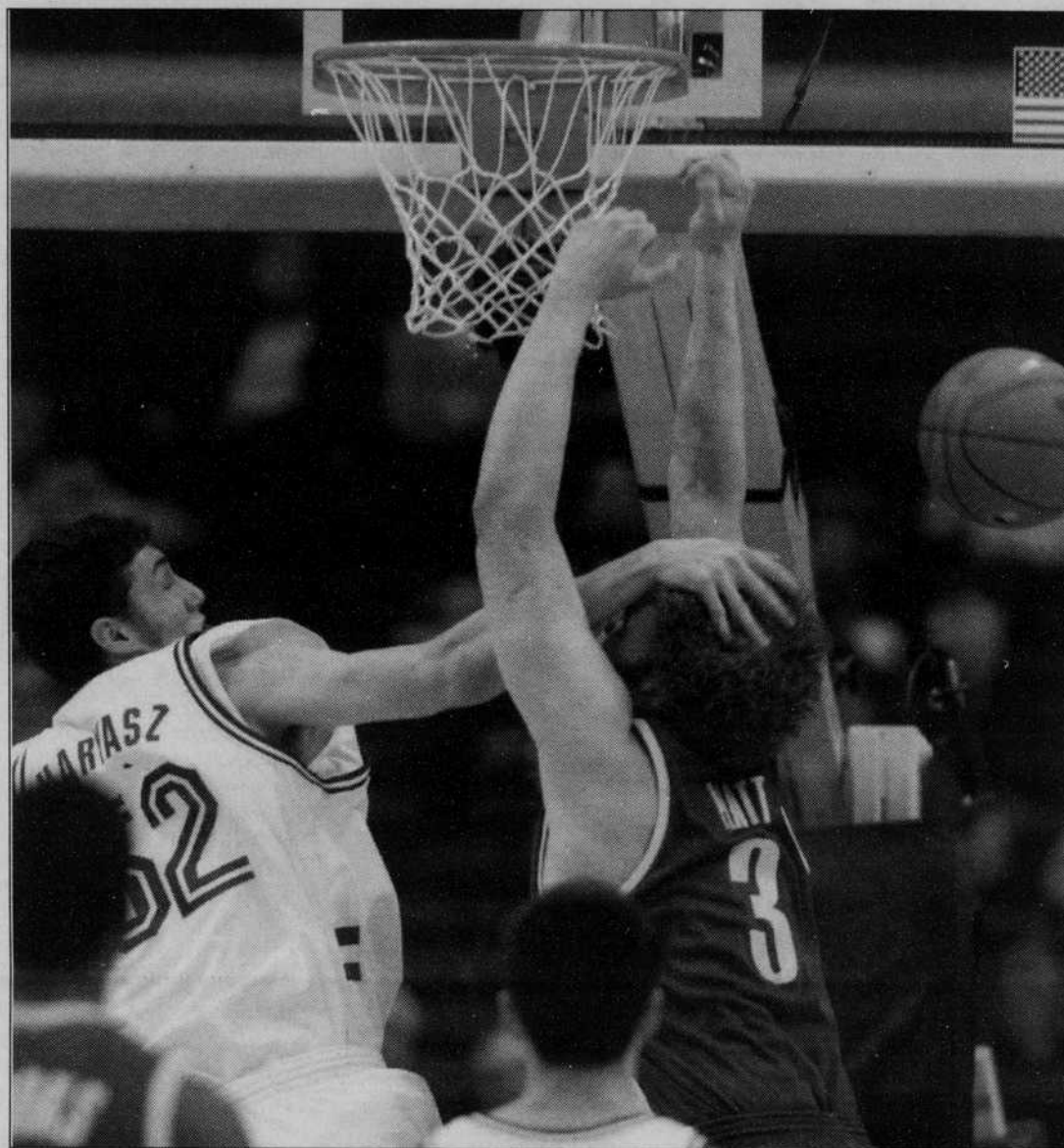
"I think we were the aggressor for most of the game," Oregon forward Mitch Platt said. "Their backs were against the ropes most of the time. We battled, but there were a couple key moments where if you have a mental lapse, they're all over it."

Maybe that was the difference between the Ducks and the Cardinal. Stanford didn't physically overwhelm Oregon. The Cardinal was out-rebounded by four, and by six on the offensive glass.

Stanford shot 4 of 11 from beyond the three-point line; the Ducks were 8 for 25.

"You can't tell me that Stanford is that much more athletic or bigger than we are," Jackson said, still stunned, hanging his head at times. "A lot of that is leadership and understanding their roles on the team. When you have seniors and juniors that have played a lot of minutes, which they do have, you're able to dig out wins where it's a little bit tougher with younger guys."

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Karl Mondon Contra Costa Times

Matt Haryasz kept Mitch Platt from getting to the basket on this play. Stanford eventually won the Pac-10 Tournament.

## Cal can't come through, misses postseason

Amit Tamir scored 24 points in his final game in a California uniform

By Hank Hager  
Sports Editor

LOS ANGELES — California needed to get to the Pacific-10 Conference

### PAC 10

Championship game just to be eligible for the NIT.

But it didn't happen. The Golden Bears left the Ducks as the only Pac-10 team eligible for the less-than-desired postseason tournament.

"You always hope for them as seniors that this won't be their last game,"

California head coach Ben Braun said. "I think (A.J. Diggs) came out with a lot of intensity in the first half. He single-handedly kept our team in the game in the first half."

Diggs had 11 points in his final game for California, shooting 3 for 3 from the field and 4 for 4 from the free-throw line.

That, however, isn't nearly enough to overshadow the lack of postseason for the Golden Bears. It's the first time since the 1997-98 season, Braun's second in Berkeley, that California will miss the postseason altogether.

Better yet, it's the first time since 2000 that the Golden Bears won't go to the NCAA Tournament.

"Talent-wise, the sky is the limit for (California)," third-year senior Amit Tamir said. "This year was a

learning experience for them. We learned to bring consistent energy. They can do great things next year. They can make an even better year."

The Golden Bears lose Tamir, Diggs, Conor Famulener and Gabriel Hughes. Hughes didn't participate in California's game against Oregon due to what was reportedly unhappiness with the playing time he was being given.

### Last-second surprise

Shot of the Pac-10 Tournament? It goes to Arizona's Mustafa Shakur. The guard scored 16 points in the Wildcats' first game of the tournament, connecting on one three-pointer in the win over Southern California.

That three-pointer may have kept Arizona's tournament alive. With four seconds left and the game tied at 76, the Wildcats inbounded the

ball and got it to Shakur, who sank the team's fifth three-pointer of the game with one second left.

"We feel very fortunate to get this one," Arizona head coach Lute Olson said.

The win, quite honestly, comes as a surprise. No other coach has been as opposed to the Pac-10 Tournament as Olson.

Before the game, Fox Sports Net cameras caught Arizona forward Andre Iguodala talking on a cell phone as the Wildcats were watching Washington wrap up a victory over UCLA.

That prompted Los Angeles Times' reporter Paul Gutierrez to write, "Any questions about how uninterested Arizona was in playing in the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament were

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## Duck women continue solid play in tourney

Oregon picked up win No. 20 Saturday with a 9-1 victory against Long Island

By Mindi Rice  
Senior Sports Reporter

The Ducks started another winning streak during the weekend.

### DUCK SOFTBALL

The No. 16 Oregon women's softball team lost its first game of

the UNLV Tournament, 4-3, to Southern Utah on Friday before bouncing back to win its next three games.

The Ducks ended their preseason tournaments at 20-7, with four non-conference home games remaining before Pacific-10 Conference play begins March 26 with a game against Oregon State at Howe Field.

"We are starting to rebuild some of the momentum we had earlier," Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "I'm very pleased with how we played this weekend."

Oregon split Friday's action with an 8-1 win against Jacksonville following the loss to Southern Utah.

Ashley Richards, who split time between third base and catcher in the tournament, hit three home runs Friday — one in the losing effort to Southern Utah and two against Jacksonville. Outfielder Kayleen Hudson also hit two home runs in the Jacksonville win.

Pitcher Ani Nyhus threw five innings and gave up one hit for the win against Jacksonville. She also took the loss to Southern Utah.

Against Jacksonville, the Ducks took the lead in the top of the fourth inning when Richards hit a one-out home run. Beth Boskovich followed with a triple then scored when Hudson hit her first home run of the game.

The three hits were the first hits Oregon had against Jacksonville's Stacey Bell. After Hudson's home run, freshman Katie Buell relieved Bell.

The Ducks added three runs in the sixth and two in the seventh for the 8-1 final.

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Hank Hager  
Behind the dish

## Cardinal too much for Jackson

LOS ANGELES — Entering Oregon's game with Stanford on Friday at Staples Center, Oregon forward Luke Jackson needed a quiet 20 points.

He absolutely needed to allow the Ducks' offense a chance to spread out, which would have given James Davis, Andre Joseph and whoever wanted to step in the post area looks at the basket.

Jackson had a quiet 12 points against the Cardinal, the second-lowest scoring output of the season. His worst output?

Eleven in Oregon's loss to Washington in Seattle, a game the Ducks had led by as much as 13.

That's beside the point. For all the issues the Ducks faced against Stanford, Jackson's inability to get any kind of decent looks at the basket was the most pressing.

Time after time, the Cardinal made sure to get a hand in the senior's face. Whether that was Matt Lottich, Josh Childress, or even at times Nick Robinson, it didn't matter.

Jackson had three points in the first half. Surprisingly, the Ducks managed to take a one-point lead at halftime.