

# Jackson, Stepp headline barnstorming tour

Most of the proceeds from the tour are expected to go to Creswell and South Eugene high schools

By Hank Hager  
Sports Editor

Had to be a mirage. Couldn't be real.

No way Lake Oswego High School freshman Kevin Love was getting points in the paint while being guarded by former Gonzaga star Corey Violette.

It couldn't be possible that a team consisting of high schoolers would be up by 10 points four minutes into the game.

Yes, all of it was reality Friday night at South Eugene High School.

To think, it was just an exhibition game with all the right players in all the right places.

"It was fun not to have any coaches yelling at you from the bench, and to play with all the guys again," said former Oregon guard James Davis, who finished with 21 points to help lead the college stars to a 123-96 victory.

Joining Davis was former Duck and new legend Luke Jackson, who, with some help, organized the affair at South Eugene and another one Saturday night at Creswell High School.

Former Gonzaga star Blake Stepp was the other big attraction at South Eugene, having played there before his days in Spokane.

Former Ducks Andre Joseph and Robert Johnson also played, as did Jeff

Potter, who played for Oregon from 1992-95.

"I thought it was just a success," Jackson said. "It was something the fans enjoyed. It's great to have the support of the community."

Word in the gym was that about 2,200 people had shown up to watch the high schoolers try to prove themselves. The organizers of the Barnstorming Basketball Exhibition expect to be able to donate some of the proceeds they raised at the game to the two high schools.

"It was a great deal for everybody," Jackson said.

With that said, the game had a tinge of seriousness early on. The high schoolers had a bigger spring to their step. At one point, they held a 20-10 lead.

Love, who was a 4A 2nd Team All-Oregon State member, scored 11 of those points and even had a block off a Jackson shot attempt three minutes in the game.

"We could tell in their eyes they were too serious," Davis said. "We were just trying to have fun but we had to step it up."

The college stars did, going on a 20-6 run en route to a 50-45 halftime lead.

The second half was much of the same. Joseph knocked down three-pointer after three-pointer — so many that it seemed as if his playing days at Oregon had yet to end — on his way to 22 points.

He finished with six three-pointers, all scored in the second half. Stepp ended with eight points.

Jackson finished with a game-high

29 points. He mixed in two three-pointers and a few dunks — two of which were back-to-back in the first half — as well as a few missed slams.

Love ended the night with 28 points, 16 in the first half.

"He's good," Stepp said. "That's the first time I've seen him. He's very mature for his age."

Now that the two games in two nights tour is over, Stepp and Jackson will continue to prepare for the June NBA Draft.

NBADraft.net has Jackson going 28th overall to San Antonio while Stepp is expected to be taken in the second round, projected at 48th overall, to Miami.

Contact the sports editor at [hankhager@dailyemerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailyemerald.com).

## DEFENSE

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attack to 103 yards on 39 attempts — an average of 2.6 yards per rush.

Capping all that off, the Oregon defense made nine tackles for loss, amounting to 39 yards.

All of those statistics factored into the final score, which is tallied by what Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti called a "creative" scoring system.

"I thought it was a dominating performance by our defense," Bellotti said. "I thought they did a great job of really playing the possession downs. On third and fourth down, they came up with a lot of key plays. They came up with some turnovers and takeaways and not just the result of offensive miscues, but actually had some tackles and created fumbles."

Offensive miscues? They were there and combined with a flat approach to the workout — intended or not — created a

slow day on the supposed fast Autzen turf.

"We didn't make plays when we needed to," junior quarterback Kellen Clemens said.

An easy enough answer, and one that's backed up when looking at the game's play-by-play.

Not until the 16th drive of the afternoon did the Ducks cross the scoring plain. Johnny DuRocher led a drive that began at the green team's 37-yard line and culminated with him scoring on a four-yard option keeper to the left side of the line.

DuRocher led the team's next drive, the 17th and final one of the scrimmage, and fumbled on the second play, which linebacker Justin Andrews pounced on to put a defensive exclamation point on the game.

Before all of that, the offense had gotten into the red zone just twice, once when it started on the green team's 31.

"It starts at the line of scrimmage," Bellotti said. "Again, we didn't have a lot of linemen on either side of the ball and

I don't know if the heat today got to the offensive line. We didn't seem to have the protection ability to move people, but that's no excuse."

Clemens finished the game 4 of 10 for 50 yards and one interception. DuRocher, who was sacked three times, connected with tight end Dan Kause for a 46-yarder in the second quarter, the game's biggest play. Otherwise, DuRocher was not as effective, finishing the day 8 of 14 for 68 yards.

Ryan Shaw, whom Bellotti singled out positively after the game, rushed eight times for 53 yards, not once getting caught behind the line of scrimmage.

Kause and Demetrius Williams both had three catches to lead the team, with the former leading in yardage with 78.

"Offensively, it was a very poor showing today," Clemens said. Indeed.

Contact the sports editor at [hankhager@dailyemerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailyemerald.com).



Erik R. Bishoff Photographer

Ryan Shaw (with ball) gained 53 yards in Oregon's spring game Saturday.

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For more information, please email [anthro@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:anthro@darkwing.uoregon.edu) or call 346-5102