

■ Men's basketball

# Oregon to play host to New Mexico, its potent offense

*The Lobos hit 20 three-pointers against Santa Clara Nov. 13 and are averaging nearly 86 points per game*

BY JON ROETMAN  
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon men's basketball team will play its second regular season game tonight against New Mexico at McArthur Court at 7 p.m.

After a win Friday against Idaho State, Oregon (1-0) will face its toughest challenge of the young season. The Lobos (4-0) are a potent offensive team averaging nearly 86 points per game and knocking down perimeter jump shots with ease. New Mexico showed off its outside shooting capabilities against Santa Clara on Nov. 13, when the Lobos connected on 20 three-pointers during a 93-59 victory.

"It's going to be a great, great ball game," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "They shoot the lights out

with the basketball. Any time you hit 20 three-pointers in a game, that tells you something right there. Our defensive effort will have to be up to par."

The Lobos' head coach is Ritchie McKay, who was the head man at Oregon State from 2000-02. Their leading scorer is forward Danny Granger, who is averaging 14.8 points and 8.5 rebounds per game. The 6-foot-8 senior transferred from Bradley after his sophomore season and immediately made an impact for New Mexico last season, when he received first team All-Mountain West Conference honors.

The Lobos also feature three other players averaging double figures in scoring. Guard Mark Walters is averaging 12.5 points per game,

while shooting 71 percent from the floor (20 of 28). Guard Kris Collins is averaging 10.8 points per contest, while forward David Chiotti contributes 10.5 per game.

While New Mexico poses a threat, Oregon is confident that its defense can get the job done. The Ducks are quick and athletic and like to play a pressure style of defense. If they hope to slow down the Lobos, they will need to contest every three-point attempt.

"We are tall and athletic and we are going to be able to lock up some teams," sophomore point guard Aaron Brooks said. "Even though we lost a lot of scoring from last year, I think we picked up more defensive players."

After tonight, the Ducks take on Marshall on Saturday in Charleston, W. Va. The Ducks' next home game is Dec. 14 against Bethune-Cookman.

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## Jones: Point finger at Oregon players, not Bellotti

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second half.

But when you fall behind so much, it is pretty much useless to keep pounding the ball on the ground.

The most ridiculous thing I've heard since the loss is that people actually think Mike Bellotti should be fired.

It's one season people. He has brought this program to levels it has never seen and if you want to point

fingers at anybody, point them at the players.

They didn't make the crucial catches (i.e. California).

They fell behind 23-0 to Indiana to jump-start the Hoosiers to a great 3-8 season.

To put this Oregon squad's season in perspective, it beat the four worst teams in the conference and Idaho.

Most of these players will be back,

but will they realize they have to make plays? Players can't rely on just showing up and beating teams because they have the "O" on their helmets.

Talent gets a team nowhere without playmakers.

And you can't lose to the Beavers.

At least they can't sit me outside during basketball games.

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## Men: Ducks hit 48.5 percent from field in second half

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"We wanted to get (the games) started and basketball is basketball," Hairston said. "I understand it is a higher level, but we came to play and that's why we are here."

The Ducks jumped out in the first half and never relinquished the lead the entire game.

They used a 10-0 run to close out the first half, capped off by sophomore Aaron Brooks' assist to freshman Chamberlain Oguchi for a lay in and a 34-15 lead at the break.

The run started when junior Brandon Lincoln followed a Hairston miss with a two-handed slam dunk to give the Ducks a

10-point lead. Lincoln finished with seven points.

While the second half wasn't as good defensively for the Ducks, offensively they played better and shot 48.5 percent from the field, compared with 39.4 percent in the first half.

Brooks — who scored 13 points, dished out a career-high eight assists and didn't commit a turnover — said a lot of their first-half troubles were attributed to first-game jitters.

"In the beginning of the game everyone was so hyped to play and making careless passes," Brooks said. "We settled down and got into a rhythm and started to go."

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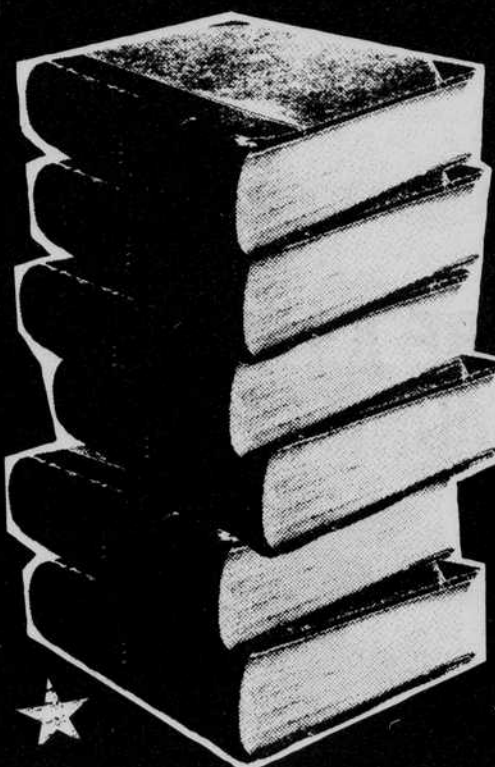
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