

"The water and the chlorine taste the same no matter where you are."

George Slavich on the Club water polo team's need to adapt to Notre Dame's 45,000-square-foot swimming facility

■ In my opinion



BRIAN SMITH
LEFTY SPECIALIST

To NBA fans: Stop attending the games

Before I begin, has anyone not seen the Pistons-Pacers brawl from the other night?

Well, if you haven't, Indiana's Ron Artest and Co. took on the fans at The Palace of Auburn Hills in an NBA-UFC championship-style matchup.

Imagine the cross-promotional possibilities.

Anyway, late in the fourth quarter with Indiana leading comfortably, Detroit's Ben Wallace shoved Artest after a hard foul. Artest backed off and lay down on the scorer's table. A cup of water was thrown at Artest by a fan in the arena, and a heated lovers' quarrel/soccer match riot/street fight erupted in the stands and spilled out onto the court.

So, is everyone uncomfortable with what transpired?

Yes? No?

I'm not.

I thought it was funny.

Dennis Rodman's pupil (complete with matching jersey number 91) did everything he could to take the "infamous" title away from his mentor (sans a wedding dress, but hey, you never know...).

Is it me or does the NBA have the craziest players?

After I first saw the highlights, I was tempted to defend Artest, but now after cameras have shown the person whom Artest attacked was not the person who threw the cup, I think Artest is nucking futs.

Not to mention teammate Stephen Jackson. The man started throwing out-of-control haymakers at empty seats (and a fan) in a "defense of a teammate" plea.

Or teammate Jermaine O' Neal, who got a crow-hop-I'm-going-to-throw-you-out-from-centerfield head start before he dropped a Pistons fan, who had come out on the floor.

Imagine the reality show possibilities of putting Rodman and Artest, Bob Knight, Vernon Maxwell, the entire Texas Rangers bullpen, Latrell Sprewell and old-school John McEnroe in a house for three months.

Fans and players have such a huge monetary divide between them that I'm surprised more people haven't thrown things in disgust for this reason.

Hey fans, if that is the case, here's a novel idea: Stop going to the games. Ticket revenue makes up part of their salaries, so stop going.

Before I get too philosophical, maybe it was just as simple as someone who didn't like Artest and decided to — sober or drunk — chuck a cup at him.

And if that is the case, I don't know what to say, except that I'll just send Artest into your section and maybe he gets to you eventually.

Fans throw coins at players because after \$200 for tickets, \$13 for parking, \$60 for an official practice sweatshirt and \$42 for a replica jersey, that's the only thing they have in their pockets.

Furthermore, if I paid \$7 for a beer or a cup of water, I sure as hell wouldn't waste it throwing it at a player. I would savor that Miller Lite/Coors Light/Budweiser as if it were the nectar of the gods. It would be the best beer I ever tasted.

Ever.

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■ Women's basketball

Oregon survives late Southern rally

The Ducks led by 19 with 8:17 remaining and escaped the Jaguars' late run to win 65-52

BY BRIAN SMITH
SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon women's basketball team almost let one slip away against Southern University on Tuesday.

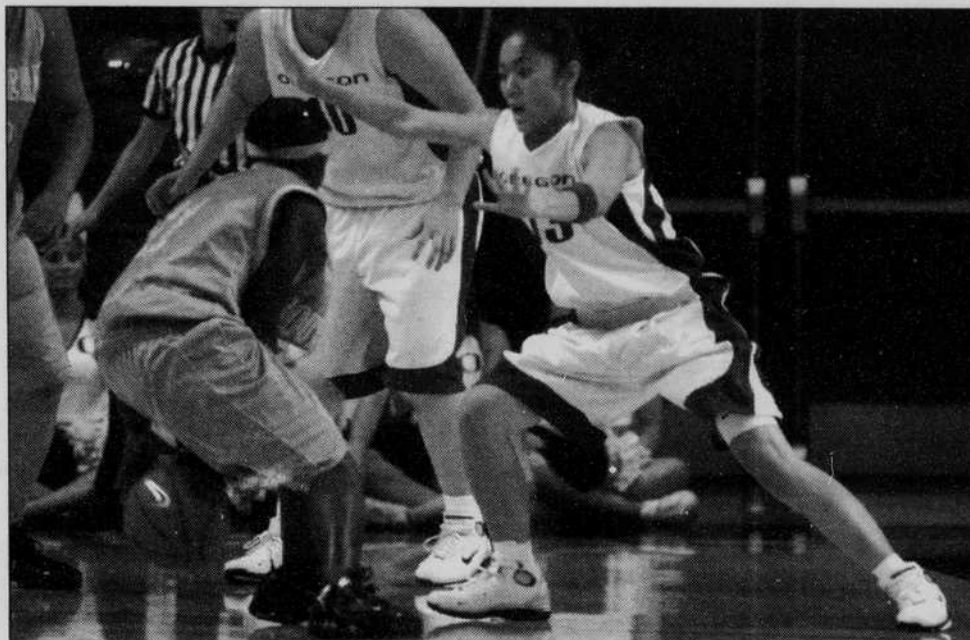
Up by as much as 19 in the second half, the Ducks went on a seven-and-a-half-minute scoreless stretch, allowing the Baton Rouge school to get within eight before Oregon salted away the last minute and a half to hold on to a 65-52 victory.

"We sort of thought the game was over and we played a little bit to entertain, rather than to put the knife in and turn even harder," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "And you have to give credit to Southern (for playing well in the second half)."

Oregon's Cathrine Kraayeveld hit a turnaround jumper from the right side of the floor at the 8:17 mark in the second half to push the lead to 59-40.

"I think we played really well at times and went on strings where we were playing awesome defense and hitting our shots and being aggressive," Kraayeveld said. "But we kind of let down toward the end."

The Jaguars then scored ten in a row, behind eight points by Ashley Blake, to close the gap to 59-50 before Kraayeveld sank two free throws and got the Ducks'



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon point guard Corrie Mizusawa defends against Southern's Rolanda Monroe Tuesday at Mac Court.

lead back above ten.

"I think it was a lack of focus and we were satisfied with what we had," Oregon senior Corrie Mizusawa. "And we let them get back in the game."

Freshman Gabrielle Richards ended Oregon's field goal drought with a layup with six seconds left to play.

"I think the big factor tonight was Richards,"

Southern head coach Sandy Pugh said. "I was like, 'Where did this kid come from?'"

Richards contributed 19 points off the bench and was the team's leading scorer. She went 7 of 8 from the floor and added three rebounds.

"I think Gabe was a real focal point for us," Smith said. "I think she got better in the second

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■ Men's basketball

Ducks to make first-ever road trip to West Virginia

After slipping by New Mexico, Oregon takes on Marshall for its initial away game this season

BY CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

The Oregon men's basketball team travels to West Virginia during Thanksgiving break for its first road game of the season to face Marshall Saturday at 4 p.m. PST.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said the team now must prove itself on the road after a victory over a good New Mexico team Monday night.

"I think it is important for us to take this show on the road," Kent said. "I'm hoping that the character of this team allows itself to step up and come together on the road."

The Ducks defeated the Thundering Herd last season at the Papé Jam easily, 90-61. That game was with a different Oregon cast. This year's version is looking forward to matching up with Marshall.

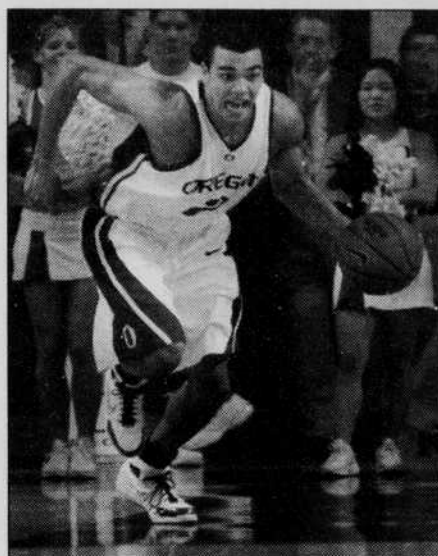
"We get a chance to bond on the road," sophomore Jordan Kent said. "This is where the young guys get the experience because these road games are brutal."

Marshall lost its first game of the season by one point to UNC Wilmington, 58-57. Much like the Ducks this season, the Herd has had a freshman infusion including Joe Miles at the point guard position. He led the team with 18 points in his first-career college game.

The Herd played late Tuesday night and defeated East Tennessee State 80-76 in its home opener.

The Ducks have been an impressive defensive team thus far in the season and hope to continue that trend against Marshall.

It will be the first road trip for a young team and Ernie Kent said it will be key to



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon sophomore Jordan Kent helped lead the Ducks past New Mexico Monday night with 14 points. He and the rest of the Oregon squad face Marshall Saturday in Huntington, W. Va.

the team's development.

"Next thing for us is to go on the road and face the adversity," Kent said. "It's going to do two things. It's going to force you to grow up and it's going to help you deal with that adversity."

"You can't simulate that here (McArthur Court)."

One thing Oregon does hope to improve is its road record from last season. The Ducks were 5-6 away from Mac Court compared to 11-3 at home last season.

"Hopefully we can get a lot more mature and better on the road," Jordan Kent said.

Unfortunately for the Ducks, their road trip begins early Thanksgiving morning

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■ Club Sports

Men's water polo finishes nationals at Notre Dame

Meanwhile, the Club hockey team split a two-game matchup with UCLA during the weekend

BY BEAU EASTES
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon Club men's water polo team finalized its jump from mediocre conference contender to a national top-10 program this weekend, placing eighth at the National Collegiate Club Water Polo Championship at Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

The Ducks opened the tournament with a 14-5 win Friday night over Middlebury College of central Vermont. The win put Oregon in the winners' bracket against No. 1 Cal Poly.

Oregon lost to the Mustangs 17-4, forcing them into the consolation bracket and out of title contention. Cal Poly went on to win the 16-team tournament.

"It was a good experience," coordinator George Slavich said. "We played on an entirely new level."

The Ducks lost their next two games, 15-11 to Miami (Ohio) and 10-9 to Villanova.

"We started out a little flat-footed," Slavich said of the Villanova match.

Exhaustion may have been a factor in the Ducks final contests. Oregon was forced to play its last three games in less than 24 hours, and the tournament was in a regulation size 30-meter pool. The Ducks, lacking proper facilities, had spent the year training in a complex five meters shorter.

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