

"I let my teammates and my coaches down, and I wasn't able to look them in the eye when I came back in the lockerroom."

NATE KAEDING | San Diego kicker on missing a potential playoff game-winning field goal.

In my opinion



CLAYTON JONES
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

Ducks had everything clicking in Civil War

Everything seemed to be just right for the Ducks Saturday night.

The Pit Crew was in full force for the first time since school returned to session.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said it had been the team's best week of practice.

Heck, even Oregon alumni Joey Harrington and Phil Knight donned Pit Crew shirts.

Oregon State didn't stand a chance.

This Ducks came out hyped up and ready to play, and they let everyone within shouting distance know it. The 73-64 final score doesn't begin to show the dominance Oregon had over its orange-and-black rival to the north.

Right away the game took on a physical tone as Mitch Platt dove on Croatian freshman Sasa Cuic, fighting hard for a loose ball.

Ian Crosswhite showed fire and determination throughout the game, with dives to the floor and nine rebounds.

Maarty Leunen, Malik Hairston and Jordan Kent killed the Beavers on the boards with their never-ending energy.

This is just what Oregon needed.

They finally took advantage of their size and strength. Added to that was something that had been missing in the Ducks' first two Pacific-10 Conference games — toughness.

The pure effort and tenacity that was on Mac Court Saturday night was big for this young Duck team.

For one, Oregon outrebounded Oregon State 44-20.

Oregon fought for every loose or tipped ball, creating a ton of second chances.

And it wasn't only rebounding.

The Duck big men rejected six shots and altered a lot more.

Leading the way was the tireless effort of Ray Schafer. The 7-foot redshirt freshman blocked two Beaver shots and got his long arms in front of many others.

He rushed to help up any teammate that fell to the floor.

What else do you expect from a guy who goes old-school Vanilla Ice-style with shaved lines in his head and has his own fan club?

Then there is the heart and soul of this team, Aaron Brooks.

Brooks controls the game with his guard play. The Ducks won't have to worry about a man-to-man press all year as Brooks' ball-handling skills will carve up any defense.

Oregon State's point guard Jason Fontenet tried to talk trash, but to quote the Pit Crew, "You can't guard him." Brooks said he didn't respond much, but you know with every nod or smile after another shot dropped, he had said enough.

And Dante Rosario: watch out, because Brooks gave a great lead block for Bryce Taylor on a break-away layin. For some reason, I don't think Ernie Kent would be too excited about that prospect.

It was a great night for Duck basketball. The Pit Crew was even chanting toward football recruits in the stands to encourage them to attend Oregon.

This game could be a great springboard for

JONES, page 9

Men's basketball

Oregon uses home advantage to outdo Oregon State 73-64

With a sold-out Mac Court crowd in support, the Ducks dominated their Pac-10 foe Saturday night

BY ALEX TAM
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Back in October, Oregon head coach Ernie Kent told his young team at a retreat that there would be some bumps in the road throughout the season.

Oregon needed to focus on moving beyond difficult losses.

After a home loss to UCLA last Sunday, the Ducks proved they took talk to heart with Saturday's 73-64 Civil War victory against Oregon State in front of 9,087 fans at McArthur Court.

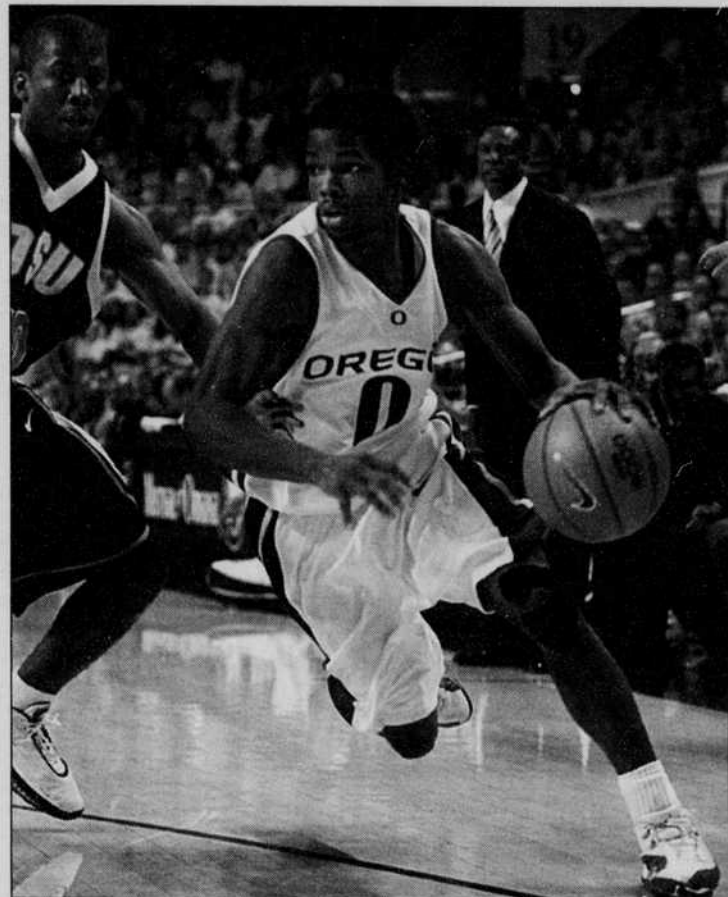
"We had one last week that got away from us," Kent said. "But I'm really, really proud of this team and the way they bounced back and went to work."

Oregon (10-2 overall, 2-1 Pacific-10 Conference) used an effective zone defense during the game that forced the Beavers' guards to shoot poorly from the perimeter. Oregon State's J.S. Nash, Jason Fontenet and Chris Stephens combined to shoot just 5 of 24 from the field, including 2 of 14 from three-point range.

"The zone, in my opinion, is our best defense," Kent said. "We can play with it and pick and choose when we want it. The reason it's so good is because we are long and athletic."

The zone has now become a staple for the

MEN, page 9



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon guard Aaron Brooks drives past Oregon State's Jason Fontenet in the Ducks' 73-64 Civil War victory Saturday. Brooks was the game's leading scorer with 24 points.

Women's basketball

Ducks slap Beavers with an 82-58 Civil War defeat on Corvallis turf

En route to improving its record to 10-4, Oregon led by as many as 31 points

BY BRIAN SMITH
SPORTS REPORTER

CORVALLIS — The Oregon women's basketball team was in search of a complete game on both the offensive and defensive ends.

Saturday's Civil War was a great time for that to happen.

Oregon captured its first Pacific-10 Conference road victory of the season with an 82-58 drubbing of Oregon State in front of 3,752 fans at Gill Coliseum.

The Ducks improved their record to 10-4 overall and 3-2 in the Pac-10, while the Beavers (4-10, 0-5) suffered their worst home Civil War defeat since a 72-47 loss in 1986.

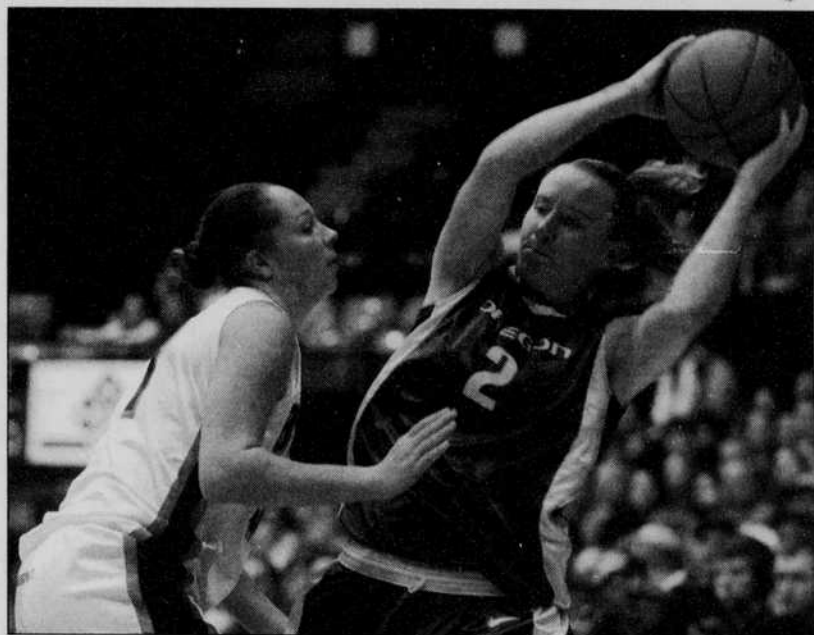
"It was great," Oregon guard Chelsea Wagner said of the team's all-around game. "We feed off our defense, and we know offensively it will come."

The Ducks' offense showed up early and stayed for the entire game as Oregon shot 55 percent in the contest — including 58 percent in the second half.

Oregon's 82 points was the highest output of the season.

Oregon senior Andrea Bills — coming off a four-point performance against UCLA last week — led the Ducks in scoring with 17 on 7 of 10 shooting. Bills missed her first three shots of the game before connecting on her last seven.

Her second field goal, a layin with 14



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon shooting guard Chelsea Wagner moved into ninth place on the school's career list for three-pointers made (70) in Saturday's game at Gill Coliseum.

minutes and 57 seconds left to play in the first half, gave her 1,001 career point. She became the 17th Oregon player to reach the 1,000 point mark.

Three other players for the Ducks recorded double-digits in points.

Wagner, after tying a career-high in points (21) against UCLA last game, added 14 points on 4 of 9 shooting from behind the arc, moving her into ninth place on Oregon's career three-point list with 70.

The junior also held Oregon State's leading scorer, Shannon Howell to 6 of 19 shooting for the game.

"I think we really stayed true to our defensive game plan," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "(Shannon) Howell is certainly someone who is in your attention, and I thought that Chelsea did a really good job of getting her under wraps."

Oregon senior Cathrine Kraayeveld

WOMEN, page 9

GAME TIME

Thurs., Jan. 13

Men's basketball:

Oregon @ Washington
7 p.m.

Women's basketball:

Oregon vs. Washington
7 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 14

Wrestling:

Oregon vs. Boise State,
7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 15

Women's basketball:

Oregon vs. Washington
State, 7 p.m.

Men's basketball:

Oregon @ Washington
State, 2 p.m.

OREGON SCORES

Tues., Jan. 4

Women's basketball:

UCLA 70, Oregon 54
UO: Wagner 21 pts.

UCLA: Blue 16 pts.

Fri., Jan. 7

Wrestling:

Oregon 28, Southern
Oregon 11

Oregon 34, South Dakota
State 12

Sat., Jan. 8

Women's basketball:

Oregon 82, Oregon
State 58

UO: Bills 14 pts, 7 rebs

Men's basketball:

Oregon 73, Oregon
State 64

UO: Brooks 24 pts, 3 assts

REGIONAL & NATIONAL SCORES

Sat., Jan. 8

NFC wildcard:

St. Louis 27, Seattle 20

STL: Holt 6 rec,
108 yds, 1 TD

SEA: Hasselbeck 27/43,
341 yds, 2 TD, 1 INT

AFC wildcard:

N.Y. Jets 20,
San Diego 17, (OT)

NYJ: Pennington 23/33,
279 yds, 2 TD

SD: Brees 31/42, 319 yds,
2 TD, 1 INT

Sun., Jan. 9

NEC wildcard:

Minnesota 31, Green
Bay 17

MIN: Culpepper 19/29,
284 yds, 4 TD

GB: Favre 216 yds, 4 INT

AFC wildcard:

Indianapolis 49, Denver 24

IND: Manning 4 TD