

Men: Zone defense works well for Ducks

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Ducks in holding opponents to just 42 percent shooting this season.

"We are not afraid to use it," Kent said. "This is like the fifth or sixth game the zone has won for us, and we will continue to tinker with it and work on it."

The defense allowed the Ducks to jump out to a 44-29 lead to begin the second half. The Beavers got no closer than seven points the rest of the way en route to shooting a woeful 39.6 percent for the game.

Whenever the Beavers appeared to make a comeback, Oregon guard Aaron Brooks continued to hit key shots down the stretch. Brooks tallied 15 points in the second half, including two back-breaking three-pointers. Brooks finished the game with 24 points on 9 of 15 shooting along with three rebounds and three assists.

"He made things happen," Oregon State head coach Jay John said of Brooks. "He's a marquee player in the league, so you kind of expect that."

Brooks credited his team's defense, which allowed the Ducks to gain an advantage from their athleticism.

"We got out and ran and it all started with defense," Brooks said. "We had some big stops and boxed out and we got out. We kept running."

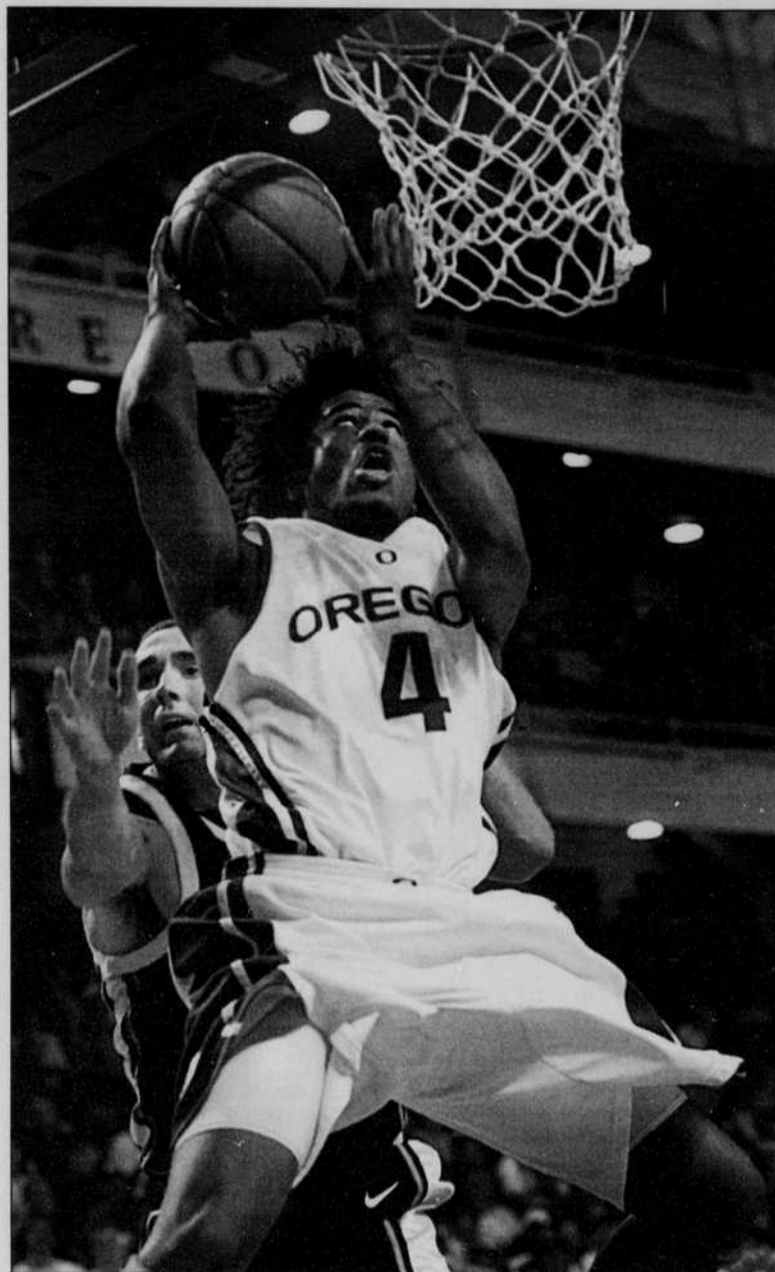
The only other Duck to score in double figures was center Ian Crosswhite who had 11 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Guard Malik Hairston added nine points and six rebounds, and Bryce Taylor scored eight points in 20 minutes.

Oregon State (10-4, 2-1) managed to keep the score within two points through the first 15 minutes of the game. However, the Ducks then went on a 10-2 run in the latter stages of the first half, which included a Jordan Kent breakaway dunk and three-pointers from Maarty Leunen and Brooks.

The Beavers were led by David Lucas, who scored 15 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Though Saturday's game was the 321st Civil War match-up, it was the first in-state rivalry game for five of the Ducks who saw action, including sophomore Brooks. The Seattle native missed both Civil War games last season due to injury.

"Everybody wants to talk about the rivalry," Brooks said. "I just wanted a taste of it. Finally getting out there and playing, I got to know what



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon guard Bryce Taylor goes for a layup as he avoids Oregon State's Nick DeWitz during the Ducks' win against the Beavers Saturday night. Taylor scored eight points in 20 minutes.

it was like, and I enjoyed it. Since we won, I really enjoyed it and hopefully we bring more."

Oregon State still leads the all-time series against Oregon with a 177-143 record. However, the Ducks have now won 21 of the last 23 meetings between the two teams.

"It was just important to get back on track and start to play good basketball and back to where we're defending people," Kent said.

Kent added that all of the fans did a great job of creating an atmosphere to help the Ducks to victory. It was the fifth capacity crowd of the season and the 13th consecutive sell-out at Mac Court for a conference game.

"It was so intense," Kent said. "The crowd, the environment; it was like an NCAA playoff game in there."

Next up for Oregon is a trip to Seattle to face No. 12 Washington on Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.

Women: Turnovers limited to six against OSU Beavers

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tallied her ninth-straight game scoring in double-digits with 13 on 5 of 11 shooting. Kraayeveld also added six rebounds, two blocks and three steals.

After giving up 151 points to UCLA and USC in their last two games, the Ducks used the short week of practice to re-focus their defense efforts.

As a result, the Ducks held Oregon State to 39 percent shooting for the game and forced 15 turnovers, resulting in 17 points.

Bills also tied a career-high with four blocked shots and also grabbed seven rebounds.

As a team, Oregon held the Beavers to 13 rebounds the entire second half.

"(Defense is a focus) in all of our games," Bills said. "Especially after our last two games where we slacked off a bit."

Oregon sophomore Cicely Oaks came off the bench and recorded three steals to spark a 16-2 run by the Ducks early in the second half, putting the game out of reach for good. The Ducks pushed the lead to as many as 31 by outscoring the Beavers 34-9 during a 10 minute

stretch in the second half.

"We can't let our opponents score 82 points per game," Howell said. "Our main goal is to keep our opponents under 70."

This season, Oregon State is 0-9 when they allow more than 70 points.

One of the biggest improvements for the Ducks was the number of turnovers committed. Against UCLA and USC, Oregon committed 40 turnovers.

On Saturday, the Ducks committed only six.

"We were just doing a lot better job of just sweeping the ball through (defenders) and not letting the pressure affect us," Wagner said. "We've been focusing on that in practice, and we've been getting it done."

For the Beavers, Howell led all scorers with 19, but also committed five turnovers. Howell also matched Oregon senior Corrie Mizusawa with a game-high seven assists.

"I think the number one thing we talked about was playing hard," Smith said. "And we had it 100 percent tonight from all of our players."

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Jones: Brooks leads Ducks

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the Ducks.

The conference no longer boasts an undefeated team — Washington and Arizona lost Saturday.

Now the Ducks will go and face the Huskies next week in Seattle. It will be their toughest test on the road yet — probably magnified even more as Washington will be looking to bounce back after their choke job at UCLA.

But that's still a few days away. For now the Ducks can enjoy their Civil War victory.

Oregon fans can hold their heads a little higher now (and put the beating the football team took against Oregon State behind them).

While Saturday's game seemed to be in the cards for Oregon, that won't be the case when they travel to Washington or any other Pac-10 school.

They won't have the energy of a Mac Court crowd and must find the intestinal fortitude to win on the road against good teams.

And most important, they must play hard, be physical and let teams know that they are a force in this conference.

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