

■ In my opinion



JON ROETMAN
ROUGHING THE PASSER

Dear Ian Crosswhite: Relax and have fun

CORVALLIS — Dear Ian Crosswhite: It appears you have yet to play your way out of a conference-season-long slump.

For that reason, I have something to remind you: The Oregon basketball team needs you.

While I'm sure you're already aware of this, it was never more evident than during Saturday's 76-72 loss to Oregon State. Your Ducks haven't played well in a month but showed signs of life against the Beavers. Malik Hairston continued his strong play of late with a 20-point, six-rebound performance. Jordan Kent got his first career start, scoring nine points and grabbing eight rebounds while Aaron Brooks finally broke out of a recent slump, scoring 21 points.

But as Oregon's guards excelled Saturday, you and the rest of the Duck big men gave the team next to nothing inside. While your block on Sasa Cuić and reverse layin late in the game were impressive, they weren't enough to overcome the botched rebounds and lack of offensive output.

Ernie Kent was practically begging for you and the rest of the bigs to produce at least something on either end of the floor during postgame interviews.

I know you're tired of hearing everyone bad mouth your game, but you need to understand that expectations have been set very high. Oregon fans and the media have seen what you're capable of on the court. You garnered Pacific-10 Conference All-Freshman honorable mention status in 2003 and were an Honorable Mention All-Pac-10 player during your sophomore campaign. You're a 7-footer who can shoot the three-ball and has the quickness to beat opponents off the dribble. And to top it all off, you entered this season in the best shape of your life.

This was supposed to be the year in which you established yourself as one of the best post players in the conference. Not the year in which you turned into a bench player who would be lucky to contribute in spurts.

It seems as though all the pressure of being a leader has bogged you down. Well, here are a few words of advice from Duck fans who have voiced their collective opinions to me:

HAVE SOME FUN!

I know you've had to cut back to get in shape, but if guzzling beers and eating fast food is what you enjoy, start doing it again because avoiding the duo hasn't exactly improved your game.

In case you haven't noticed, you have a huge fan base. People adore your fun-loving off-court demeanor. Start letting that attitude back onto the court, and start having fun again, playing the game you love.

RELAX!

If leadership and shouting at your teammates isn't your cup of tea, let your play on the court do the talking for you.

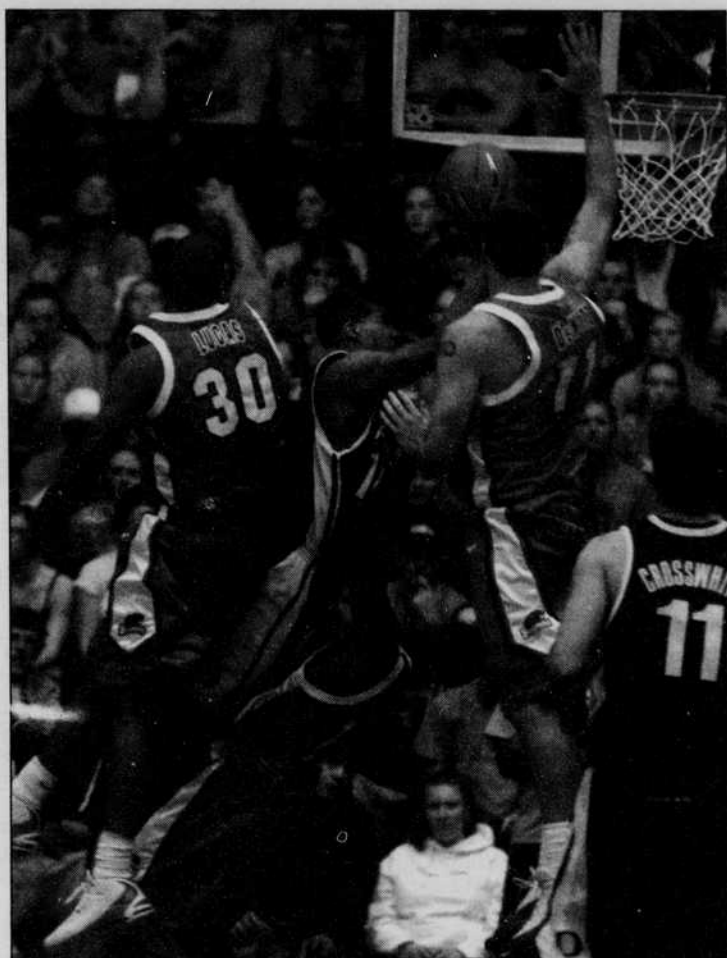
This team is close to busting out. Your head coach knows it. Your teammates know it.

They need you to step up and play like everyone knows you're capable of.

jonroetman@dailyemerald.com

■ Men's basketball

Turnovers bog down Ducks



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Brandon Lincoln is swarmed by three Oregon State players as he commits an offensive foul and one of Oregon's 21 turnovers in its 76-72 loss to the Beavers on Saturday at Gill Coliseum.

Oregon outshoots and outrebounds OSU, but its 21 turnovers prove costly

BY CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

CORVALLIS — A turnover-plagued game hampered a good shooting night for the Oregon men's basketball team in a 76-72 loss to Oregon State on Saturday.

Despite outshooting and outrebounding the Beavers, the Ducks (11-8 overall, 3-7 Pacific-10 Conference) made too many careless mistakes — resulting in 21 turnovers — leading to their fifth consecutive loss which drops them to ninth place in the Pac-10.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent attributed the turnovers to playing too fast and ball-handling trouble.

"We were playing pretty fast and had a couple of great transition opportunities to score and we turned the ball over," Kent said. "Our big guys for some reason had balls in their hands and lost them or threw them away a couple times on inbound plays."

"Just mistakes we don't normally make."

Oregon State (12-9, 4-6) shot only 40.3 percent from the field — compared to Oregon's 50.0 percent — but took 17 more shots and scored 27 points off Oregon's turnovers to lead them to victory.

The Beavers were led by 22 points and nine rebounds each from forwards Nick DeWitz and David Lucas. DeWitz added four assists, two steals and a block.

MEN, page 12

■ Women's basketball

Ducks hold off late Beaver surge

Oregon's three-game home sweep is nearly spoiled by Oregon State's 17-3 run

BY BRIAN SMITH
SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon women's basketball team almost let a 23-point lead slip away against Oregon State on Saturday night.

A McArthur Court crowd of 5,245 — the largest since Senior Night of 2003 against Washington — watched the Beavers (6-16 overall, 1-11 Pacific-10 Conference) go on a 17-3 run over the last six minutes of the game to make the 64-55 final of the 74th Civil War seem a lot closer than it was.

In the end, however, Oregon (15-6, 8-4) completed the sweep of its two-week, three-game homestand and solidified its position in the upper half of the Pac-10.

The Ducks improved their home record to 10-1 overall — the only loss to now-No. 3 Ohio State — and 7-0 in conference play.

"It feels good to get a win," Oregon senior Cathrine Kraayeveld said. "We're not too happy about the whole game in general, though. We didn't play as good as we did last weekend."

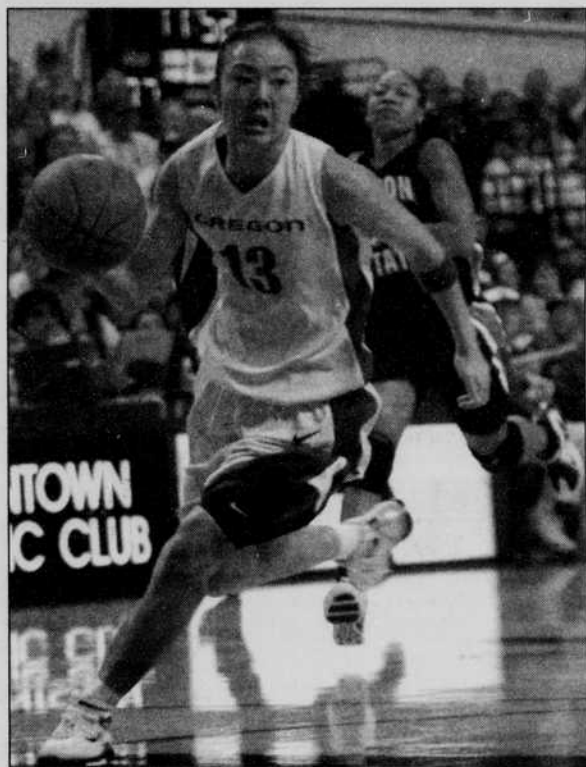
A 10-2 run at the end of the first half gave the Ducks control of what was a tied game with 4:23 to go until half-time. That run, in combination with Oregon State's six-and-a-half-minute scoreless stretch at the beginning of the second half helped erase any thoughts of an upset.

At least until the last six minutes of the game.

Leading 61-38 after two free throws by Kraayeveld, Oregon relaxed on both the offensive and defensive ends, allowing the Beavers to entertain the thought of a comeback after a three-pointer by senior Shannon Howell cut the lead to 13 with 1:47 left in the second half.

"In the first few minutes (of tonight's game) we got aggressive and down and dirty," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "Once we had a lead, we relaxed. We have to mentally focus and notice that when the lead is 20 we have to get to 22, and when it's 22 we have to get 24."

Kraayeveld, playing in her 100th game as a Duck, led all Oregon scorers with 17 on 6-of-12 shooting. She also added five rebounds and hit a pair of critical three-pointers — including one that gave the Ducks a 33-25 lead with 1:31 left in the first half.



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon senior Corrie Mizusawa dished out 10 assists and added seven points against Oregon State on Saturday. Her 148 assists this season ranks sixth all-time on the Oregon single-season list.

Oregon senior point guard Corrie Mizusawa had an equally impressive performance, handing out 10 assists — nine in the first half — and committing only one turnover. She also added seven points in 32 minutes of play.

Mizusawa tallied her third double-digit assist game of the year, and during the last three games, she totaled 28 assists compared to seven turnovers. She is now sixth all-time at Oregon for assists in a single season with 148. The record is held by Jacquie Semeniuk (190).

WOMEN, page 10

GAME TIME

Wed. Feb. 9-
Fri. Feb. 11

Men's golf

Oregon at TaylorMade
Waikoloa Intercollegiate

Thu. Feb. 10

Women's
basketball

Oregon at
Washington State, 7 p.m.

Men's basketball

Oregon vs. Washington,
7:30 p.m.

Fri. Feb. 11-
Sat. Feb. 12

Track

Oregon at Iowa State
Classic and Holiday Inn
Team Invitational in Boise,
Idaho

Fri. Feb. 11-Sun.
Feb. 13

Softball

Oregon at UNLV Desert
Classic

Fri. Feb. 11

Women's tennis

Oregon vs. Washington
State, 1:30 p.m.

Men's tennis

Oregon vs. Boise State,
6:30 p.m.

Sat. Feb. 12

Women's
basketball

Oregon at Washington,
1 p.m.

Men's basketball

Oregon vs.
Washington State, 3 p.m.

Women's tennis

Oregon vs. Washington,
12 p.m.

Lacrosse

Oregon vs. Stanford (First
varsity game ever for the
program), 12 p.m.

Sat. Feb. 12

Men's tennis

Oregon vs. UC Santa
Barbara, 11 a.m.

Wrestling

Oregon at Washington,
2 p.m.

GAME
SCORES

Fri. Feb. 4

Wrestling

Oklahoma 30, Oregon 22

Sat. Feb. 5

Men's basketball

Oregon State 76,
Oregon 72

UO: Hairston 20 pts

Women's basketball

Oregon 64,
Oregon State 55

UO: Kraayeveld 17 pts

Softball

Oregon 10, Hawaii 2
Oregon 5, Jacksonville 0

Sun. Jan. 30

Super Bowl

New England 24,
Philadelphia 21