

■ Women's basketball

Oregon unhinges in 24-point defeat to foe Washington

BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

Oregon's bus broke down en route to Seattle, but it was when the Ducks reached Bank of America Arena that their wheels came off.

Without senior Cathrine Kraayeveld, sidelined for the first time this season with an inflamed left elbow, Oregon (16-7 overall, 9-5 Pacific-10 Conference) fell to Washington 81-57. The 24-point loss was the Ducks' worst all season.

The loss re-established the importance of Kraayeveld in Oregon's starting lineup, as she is the team's leading scorer and rebounder with 15 points and nine boards per game.

"We would have liked to play Oregon with her there, but it wasn't meant to be," Washington head coach June Daugherty said. "It didn't change anything that we were going to do."

Washington trashed Oregon's hopes of a Northwest-school sweep and snapped its four-game winning streak. The Huskies improved to 11-14 overall and 7-8 in the Pac-10 without the services of its best offensive player, junior forward Kayla Burt, for most of the game. Burt suffered a broken nose 12 minutes into the first half during a physical rebounding play with Oregon center Andrea Bills.

Sophomore guard Cameo Hicks picked up the slack for the Huskies by scoring nine of her 14 points in the second half. She shot 6 of 12 from the floor and recorded game-highs with

eight rebounds and four steals. Freshman guard Dominique Banks contributed 13 points.

Taking the place of Kraayeveld, freshman Kristen Forristall made her eighth start this season and was Oregon's only bright spot, converting her first seven field goals to notch a career-high 19 points on 7 of 10 shooting — 3 of 5 from three-point range.

The score was tied on four occasions in the first half, and Oregon grabbed its only lead of the game, 16-14, at the 13:44 mark on a three-pointer and a jumpshot from Brandi Davis. The senior guard scored seven points — all in the first half — on 3 of 14 shooting.

The Huskies started with a 12-0 run in the second half to put the game away on 5 of 5 shooting. Forristall ended Oregon's drought with a three-pointer and two layups.

Washington then started a 14-0 scoring spree with 12:33 remaining that spanned nearly eight minutes, during which Oregon coughed up three turnovers and missed 11 field goal attempts, allowing the Huskies to build a 30-point lead at 75-45 with 4:48 left.

Both teams shot around 38 percent, but the Ducks didn't box out and got clobbered on the glass. Oregon center Jessica Shetters grabbed a team-high 7 of 36 total rebounds. Washington hauled in 49 total and won the battle on the offensive glass, 24-11.

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Lacrosse: Ducks started 11 freshmen in loss

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before the half, scoring its last goal of the period with 39 seconds left on the clock to make the score 10-4.

Scoring in steady bursts, Stanford went on another eight-goal run in the second period to push the score to 18-4 with 10:51 remaining. Following Stanford's fourth goal of the half at the 17:29 mark, officials kept the game clock running due to lacrosse's 10-point "mercy rule."

The Ducks added two late scores — one by freshman Jana Bradley and another by midfielder May — bringing the final score to 19-6 as Stanford also found the net again in the closing minutes.

Despite the lopsided score, the Ducks saw the contest as a stepping stone to future success.

"It was awesome," Killian said. "This is just gonna make us better."

"It's a growing process, and we've got to take some steps," Oregon head coach Jen Larsen said. "I'm glad we took a step forward today."

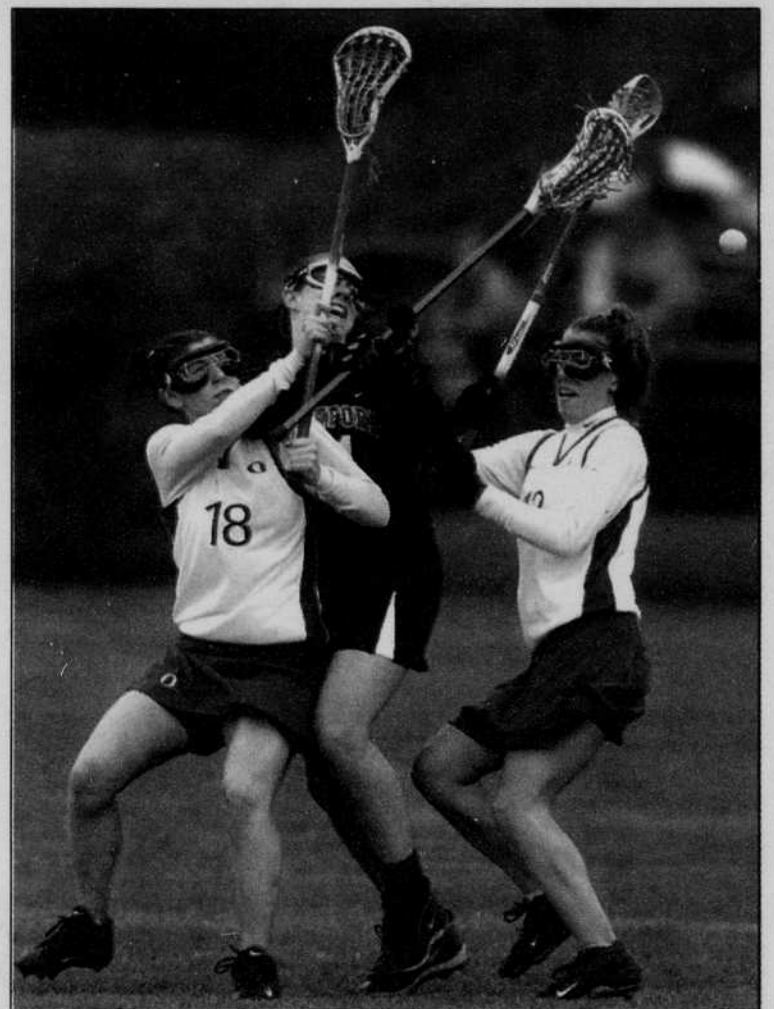
Oregon started 11 freshmen along with senior goalkeeper Louisa Dorsch. No player on the Duck roster had any varsity collegiate experience before Saturday's battle.

"I wish we would have played a little bit better, but there was some good, positive stuff. We'll go up from here," said Dorsch, a former Oregon club player. "We were strong in some areas, and others we need to work on."

Several Ducks noted the breakdown in the defense's "second slide," or second rotation, near the goal as an area that needs improvement.

"They were getting easy dump downs and shots on goal," May said.

More important than finding out weaknesses and strengths for the Ducks was obtaining actual game experience.



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman defender Cara Mead (18) and freshman midfielder Jen May (12) collide with a Stanford attacker during the Ducks' inaugural game Saturday.

"We gained confidence, knowing we can play with a team like this," May said.

May, who scored the first point in Oregon lacrosse history, and Killian led the Ducks with two goals each. Stanford sophomore Elizabeth Piselli

led all players with five goals.

Oregon (0-1 overall, 0-1 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) has a two-week break before flying to Denver for a pair of games. The Ducks will face the host Pioneers on Feb. 25, followed by Northwestern on Feb. 26.

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There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday February 16th in the football theater located on the 2nd floor of the Casanova Center (next to Autzen Stadium). Meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

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