

"I'm used to Big Ten officials, where they kind of let the kids decide the game."

Washington State men's basketball coach Dick Bennett
on his displeasure with Pac-10 officiating

■ Men's basketball

Ducks overcome slump, beat WSU 69-66

Oregon missed four of six free throws in the clutch, but held on for a much-needed victory

BY JON ROETMAN
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon men's basketball team ended its six-game losing streak with a 69-66 win against Washington State on Saturday at McArthur Court.

After a Malik Hairston free throw gave the Ducks a three-point lead with 5.9 seconds remaining, the Cougars had one final possession to tie the game, but freshman point guard Derrick Low was forced into an off-balanced three-pointer that fell well short.

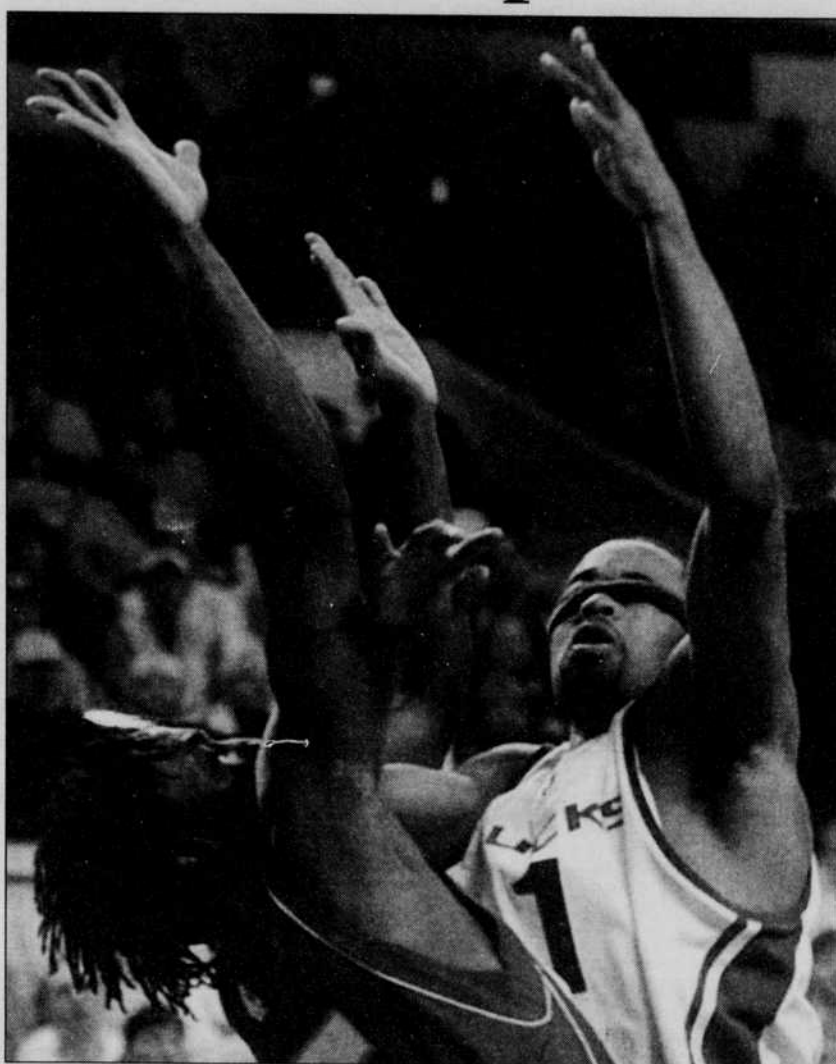
The win puts Oregon (12-9 overall, 4-8 Pacific-10 Conference) back into the hunt for a berth in the Pac-10 Tournament. The Ducks still own the conference's ninth spot but are now only a game behind three teams and own a potential tie-breaker over the Cougars (10-12, 5-8).

"We needed a win more than anything," Hairston said. "It still wasn't the most pretty basketball that we could have played, but a win is a win at this point in time."

The top eight finishers in the Pac-10 qualify for the conference tournament — held March 10-12 in Los Angeles — with the winner gaining an automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament.

Oregon led for 38 minutes of Saturday's contest but almost gave away the game late in the second half. After regaining a 67-66 lead on a Bryce Taylor layin with 61 seconds remaining, the Ducks once again froze up at the foul line. Oregon had six attempts to pad its lead during the game's final 25 seconds but connected on only two of its free throws.

However, the Ducks managed to



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Malik Hairston scores — with his headband pulled down over his eyes — during Saturday's 69-66 win against Washington State at McArthur Court.

survive and focused on the play of their four true freshmen instead. Chamberlain Oguchi, Maarty Leunen, Taylor and

Hairston all scored double figures and played key roles in the game. Oguchi, whose playing time has

increased as of late, came off the bench to score 12 points and knock down a trio of three-pointers in 15 minutes.

"I can contribute to this team's success, and everybody knew that all along," Oguchi said. "Now my time has come, and I have to show these people what I have."

Taylor also scored a team-high 12 points, while Leunen and Hairston added 11 points each.

While Hairston made some outstanding plays offensively — including a layin with his headband pulled over his eyes — his biggest play came on defense. With Oregon leading 68-66, Washington State forward Chris Schlatter flashed open for the tying basket with less than 10 seconds remaining. But when Low tried to get him the ball, Hairston knocked away the slow bounce pass and saved the game.

The freshman swingman said after the game that he made a "nice read."

Hairston also finished with a game-high eight rebounds as the Ducks out-rebounded the undersized Cougars, 31-22.

Low played well for Washington State and kept the Cougars in the ball game with his perimeter shooting. The Honolulu, Hawaii, native scored a game-high 19 points on 7 of 12 shooting. Senior Thomas Kelati added 14 points for the Cougars on 5 of 9 shooting.

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said Saturday's win was an important confidence builder for a young team fighting to make the Pac-10 Tournament.

"I'm extremely happy for this team," Kent said. "The game actually became a miniature version of our season. We played well and looked good early on and then we started to struggle. The good thing was they found a way to win down the stretch."

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■ Duck wrestling

Oregon falls in closing seconds to rival Oregon State, 21-18

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Oregon (5-9 overall, 2-5 Pacific-10 Conference) was 15 seconds away from sending Oregon State (10-8-1, 5-2-1) back home with a loss before the Beavers' Jamie Rakevich recorded a late takedown of Duck sophomore Cody Parker, giving him a 4-3 win in the heavyweight division and Oregon State a 21-18 win in the second Civil War dual this season. The dual marked a Beaver sweep against the Ducks this season and closed Oregon's Pac-10 home schedule.

Going into the heavyweight match, both teams were tied at 18 after the Ducks clawed their way out of a nine-point deficit. Oregon did not score a point in the dual until the sixth match of the afternoon, with the exception of six charity points gained by way of forfeit in the 133-pound weight class.

"I'm very disappointed with the loss," Oregon junior Joey Bracamonte said. "The win was in the bag, and it was a good dual coming down to the wire. The team and I are very upset about it."

The dual began in traditional manner with the 125-pound wrestlers taking the mat first. Eric

Stevenson of Oregon State battled Joey Lucas early and pulled away to a 14-4 win. Following Oregon State's ensuing forfeit, the Beavers' Tim Norman (141) and Tony Hook (157) recorded wins to increase Oregon State's lead to 15-6 going into the match between No. 17 Bracamonte's (165) and No. 18 Matt Ellis.

The match lived up to its hype as both wrestlers fought until the final seconds of the third round to break a 1-1 tie. Bracamonte finally got a takedown with less than five seconds left, giving him a 3-1 win and putting some wind back in Oregon's sails.

Oregon State kept the pressure on Oregon in the 174-pound match as the Beavers' Jeremy Larson surrendered only one point to junior Chet McBee en route to a 6-1 win.

With matches becoming scarce, the Ducks turned to junior Shane Webster (184) for hope. Webster, nursing a shoulder injury suffered in practice, cautiously wrestled Dan Pitsch but managed to earn a 7-1 victory, closing the team deficit to six points once more. Webster is ranked No. 11 at the 174 weight-class this season but will wrestle at 184 for the remainder of the year, head coach Chuck Kearney said.

McBee will take over at 174.

No. 5 senior Scott Barker (197) held the game in his hands as he took on freshman Travis Gardner. A pin by Barker would tie the team scores, making the heavyweight match a winner-takes-all bout. Barker didn't disappoint fans at McArthur Court, as he needed only 53 seconds to put Gardner's back to the mat.

Barker's first-round pin placed the outcome of the dual for both teams on the shoulders of Parker (Hwt.) and Rakevich. Parker recorded a takedown in the first round of the match, but a pair of escapes by Rakevich tied the score at 2-2 going into the third round. Parker recorded an escape for a one-point lead, but he could not hold on for the win. Rakevich unleashed a relentless barrage of takedown attempts, the last of which landed him on top of Parker with 14 seconds remaining. Rakevich earned a 4-3 win and sealed a 21-18 Oregon State victory.

Before the dual started, Kearney and all in attendance honored Oregon seniors Barker and Luke Larwin for their final dual at McArthur Court. The Ducks will compete against Portland State on Wednesday to close out their Pac-10 dual season.

■ Women's lacrosse

Ducks stay positive after slaughter by the Cardinal

BY BEAU EASTES
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Among chaos in the press box, inexperienced fans and media and even a home announcer still learning the sport, Oregon's first ever lacrosse game against Stanford was often exciting — and at times confusing — on and off the field.

The Ducks fell to the Cardinal 19-6 in their inaugural match Saturday at Papé Field. In front of more than 800 fans who braved the rain, Oregon shocked Stanford early by taking a 2-0 lead off goals from freshmen Jen May and Lindsay Killian in the first four minutes of play. The Cardinal answered with two quick scores of its own before Killian and fellow freshman Theresa Waldron found the back of freshman goalie Laura Shane's net, making the score 4-2 in Oregon's favor with 17:43 left in the first half.

"They're tough," Stanford head coach Michele Uhlfelder said. "I see unbelievable potential for this program ... They're gonna improve at a very quick rate."

But Stanford's experienced players soon took over the game. The Cardinal, returning 13 players from last year's 9-9 squad, went on an 8-0 run

LACROSSE, page 12

GAME TIME

Wed. Feb. 16

Wrestling

Oregon vs. Portland State @ Salem, 7 p.m.

Thu. Feb. 17

Women's basketball

Oregon vs. Arizona State, 7 p.m.

Men's basketball

Oregon @ Arizona, 5:30 p.m.

Fri. Feb. 18-Sun. Feb. 20

Softball

Oregon @ UC-Riverside Invitational

Fri. Feb. 18

Men's tennis

Oregon @ Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.

Sat. Feb. 19

Women's basketball

Oregon vs. Arizona, 2 p.m.

Men's basketball

Oregon @ Arizona State, 4 p.m.

Men's tennis

Oregon @ Northwestern, 6 p.m.

GAME SCORES

Fri. Feb. 11

Men's tennis

Boise State 6, Oregon 1

Women's tennis

Oregon 6, Washington State 1

Sat. Feb. 12

Men's basketball

Oregon 69, Washington State 66

UO: Oguchi, Taylor 12 pts

Women's basketball

Washington 81, Oregon 57

UO: Forristall 19 pts

Softball

Oregon 11, UC-Riverside 3

Oregon 7, Texas State 1

Lacrosse

Stanford 19, Oregon 6

Sun. Feb. 13

Softball

Michigan 9, Oregon 0

Oklahoma State 3, Oregon 2

NBA

Miami 96, San Antonio 92

MIA: Wade 28 pts

Cleveland 103,

Los Angeles Lakers 89

CLE: Ilgauskas 30 pts

Chicago 87, Minnesota 83

MIN: Sprewell 26 pts

Indiana 76, Memphis 73

IND: Jackson 19 pts

Orlando 97, New Orleans 94

NO: Dickau 28 pts

New Jersey 94, Denver 79

NJ: Carter 23 pts