



BASKETBALL EXTRA



Sports

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"This game was a microcosm of our season except we hit our free throws and didn't turn the ball over."

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent on the Ducks' victory over California on Thursday

Men's basketball

Ducks beat Cal, remain in race for postseason

BY CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

With Oregon holding a 13-point lead early in the second half against California on Thursday night at McArthur Court, things started looking eerily similar to the loss to Arizona State last week.

The Golden Bears crept back in the game and tied it, just like the Sun Devils.

But this time the Ducks fended off the challenge with clutch free-throw shooting to stave off the Bears, 63-58.

"This game mirrored our season," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "The difference was we made our free throws, we didn't turn the ball over as much and we did a gutsy job on defense to get a much needed win."

Oregon's Aaron Brooks scored seven of his nine points during the last three minutes of the game, including 4 for 4 from the free-throw line, to help the Ducks, who had been struggling from the line all year, to shoot 9 of 10 from the foul line in the second half.

"Once you knock one down in a pressure situation, I think it kind of trickles down to the rest of the team," Brooks said.

With the win, combined with a Washington State loss to Arizona,

the Ducks (13-11 overall, 5-10 Pacific-10 Conference) are now tied with Cal (12-13, 5-10) and the Cougars for seventh in the Pac-10, with the Ducks having the tie-breaker over Washington State for the final spot in the Pac-10 Tournament.

"That's our goal right now, because I feel like if we can get there we'll be rejuvenated, and call it a re-birth if you want, because the pressure will be off of them," Kent said. "They are a good enough team if we get there; I just think the Pac-10 Tournament is up for grabs, and it's just a matter of who is confident and playing well."

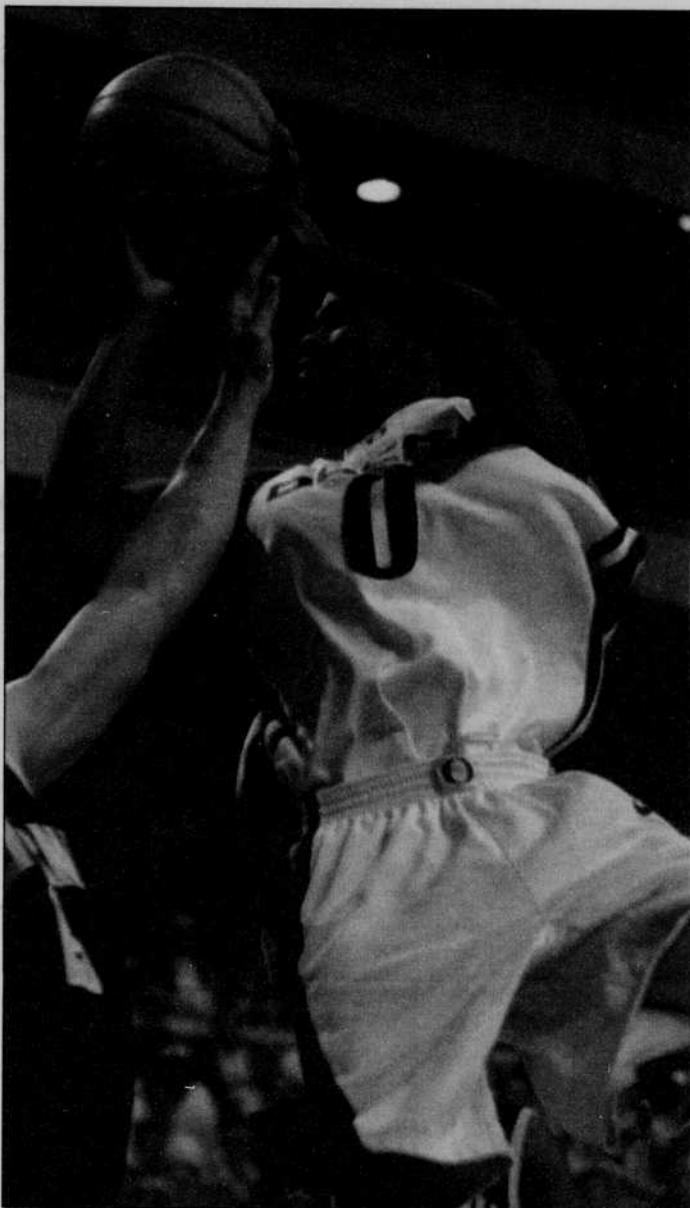
The Ducks were led by their true freshman. The four — Bryce Taylor, Malik Hairston, Maarty Leunen and Chamberlain Oguchi — scored 44 of the Ducks' 63 points led by Taylor's game-high 15 points.

"I started getting going later in the first half, and that got my confidence going," Taylor said. "I just tried to have fun out there and be intense."

Kent believed it was the 27th consecutive Pac-10 sell-out at Mac Court that got the 6-foot-5 freshman going.

"Bryce needed this crowd," Kent said. "He did a nice job for us in the game."

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LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Aaron Brooks drives to the basket during the Ducks' 63-58 victory over California on Thursday at McArthur Court. The sophomore point guard scored seven of his nine points in the game down the stretch to help seal the victory.

In my opinion



JON ROETMAN
ROUGHING THE PASSER

Ducks earn 2 thumbs up in silver screen performance

Oregon fans entered McArthur Court on Thursday night expecting to see the premiere of "Getting Over the Hump," the most recent movie released by the men's basketball team.

It was hyped as the glorious tale of a team full of young players who have struggled through adversity all season, only to capture a huge win against California, while fighting for a spot in the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament. Oregon head coach Ernie Kent, who has been directing exciting basketball flicks in Eugene for the past eight years, was said to have constructed a masterpiece.

But after 38 minutes, Thursday's movie reeked of a bad sequel in which the Ducks would once again snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Oregon had blown a 13-point second-half lead. Its offense had grown stagnant. And with 1:14 remaining, the Ducks sent sophomore point guard Aaron Brooks to the free-throw line with the game tied at 56.

Anyone who had taken the time to watch Oregon's other movies knows free throws are like kryptonite to the Ducks. They struggle to knock down freebies during the opening minute of a game and become downright awful during crunch time. And when Brooks toed the foul line in front of a sellout crowd at Mac Court, the show's ending seemed all too predictable.

What happened next, however, was anything but expected.

After Brooks calmly knocked down his two free throws, Oregon rushed back on defense and caused Cal center Rod Benson to turn the ball over on a traveling violation.

Sixteen seconds and three team fouls later, Cal sent Brooks back to the charity stripe where he once again knocked down a pair of free throws to give Oregon a 60-56 lead.

Just when things couldn't get any better for the Ducks, a pair of true freshmen — Bryce Taylor and Chamberlain Oguchi — knocked down 3 of 4 pressure-packed free throws during the game's final 11 seconds to ice a 63-58 win.

Oregon knocking down 9 of 10 free throws in the second half? The Ducks committing only 11 turnovers? Such plot twists left Oregon fans roaring by movie's end.

With three contests remaining on its regular-season schedule, Oregon sits in a three-way tie for seventh place in the conference. With the top eight teams advancing to the Pac-10 Tournament, the Ducks know each game is of the utmost importance.

The only question remaining is what Kent's next movie will be titled.

"Viva Los Angeles: The Story of a Pac-10 Tournament Participant," or "The 100th Season of Oregon Basketball: The One that Got Away?"

jonroetman@dailyemerald.com

Women's basketball

Stanford avenges single Pac-10 loss

The Cardinal uses a devastating 50-7 run to dismantle the Ducks in a 76-45 drubbing at Maples Pavilion in Palo Alto, Calif.

BY BRIAN SMITH
SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon women's basketball team knew a win against No. 3 Stanford would take a monumental effort.

And now the Ducks understand why.

Stanford (25-2 overall, 16-1 Pacific-10 Conference) shot 63 percent (30 of 48) from the floor Thursday and put Oregon (18-8 overall, 11-6 Pac-10) away early, en route to a 76-45 victory in front of 4,208 fans at Maples Pavilion in Palo Alto, Calif.

Looking to avenge its only Pac-10 loss this season, the Cardinal came out on fire offensively, connecting on about 75 percent of its field goals in the first 13 minutes of the game.

"Stanford played an outstanding game," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "They talked a little revenge for the last time (Oregon's 62-58 victory in Eugene), and they played outstanding. Their defense played very well in the post."

Oregon dropped its all-time record at Maples Pavilion to 1-18. This season, Stanford has defeated three different Pac-10 teams — Washington State, California, and Southern California — by more than 30 points.

Stanford used a 50-7 run that covered the

end of the first and the beginning of the second half to put the Ducks away, who had pulled to within three at the 11:34 mark in the first half, 16-13.

The Ducks shot 29 percent from the field in the first half, while the Cardinal shot 68 percent, including 5 of 7 from the three-point range.

During the 50-7 run, the Cardinal went on a 37-2 streak that started after Oregon freshman Gabrielle Richards hit a three-pointer to pull the Ducks within 11 points, 29-18.

Oregon senior Andrea Bills, the only Duck to post double figures with 13 points on 6-of-10 shooting, snapped a streak of 22 straight Cardinal points with a bucket with 16 minutes left in the second half. The Cardinal then added 15 more points, with junior center Brooke Smith adding eight of them during that stretch, to push the Stanford lead to 66-20 with just under 12 minutes to play in the second half.

Stanford's dominance came from balanced scoring from the Cardinal's deep and experienced team. During the run, Stanford senior Kelley Suminski connected on her 195th career three-pointer, which puts her seventh on the all-time Pac-10 list.

Oregon senior Cathrine Kraayeveld was

held scoreless for the first time in her career at Oregon as a starter. The 6-foot-4 forward went 0 of 4 from the field and added only two rebounds, three turnovers and one personal foul in 23 minutes of play.

"She is a team person and she wants to contribute (to the team)," Smith said of Kraayeveld. "As a player you have to find a way to help the team when you're not scoring. Stanford knew she was an important player, and we didn't have a player step up for us."

In the Ducks' victory in Eugene, the duo of Kraayeveld and Bills combined for 34 points and 30 rebounds. Last night, they combined for 13 points and seven rebounds.

The Cardinal outrebounded the Ducks 38-21 for the game, collecting 15 more defensive rebounds.

Oregon senior Brandi Davis was the Ducks' second-leading scorer with nine points on 3-of-10 shooting from the three-point line. Oregon sophomore Jessica Shettlers added six points in 16 minutes of play.

For Stanford, Smith and freshman Candice Wiggins led the Cardinal with 13 points. Wiggins also added five rebounds and three assists.

Oregon travels to Berkeley, Calif., for their final Pac-10 game of the season when they take on Cal at 2 p.m. on Saturday. A win for the Ducks would clinch second place in the Pac-10.

briansmith@dailyemerald.com