

■ In my opinion



CLAYTON JONES  
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

## Players, fans, can't we all just get along?

Banter between fans and players has been a staple of college basketball throughout the years.

Student sections get rowdy, and sure, things are said that might not be construed as appropriate to say to a guest.

Most of the time it is considered part of the atmosphere, and players take it with a grain of salt.

But Stanford's Chris Hernandez took exception to comments made by members of the Pit Crew and taunted them by pointing and jawing toward the sea of yellow after the Cardinal's victory against Oregon Saturday night at Mac Court.

"I just wanted to let them know, because they had been talking all game," Hernandez said. "That's just a friendly exchange between the crowd, and I've always liked playing here."

"This crowd, besides our own, is the best crowd in the Pac-10."

However, not all saw it in such a way.

When the teams were congratulating each other after the game, Oregon head coach Ernie Kent had a few choice words for Hernandez.

"The thing I told to Chris was, 'Chris I've never seen that from a Stanford team before,'" Kent, a former assistant at Stanford, said. "He got a little heated up about me saying that, but that's okay. I felt like that needed to be said and told him that we wouldn't ever do that at your place, and we haven't done it."

Hernandez disagreed with Kent.

"Coach Kent got a little upset about it, but his players have done that to our fans before," Hernandez said. "But he was upset about (the taunting) for a reason. I think he was upset about the loss as well."

I don't know, Chris, I would hope Oregon wasn't taunting the fans at Stanford when they were pounded earlier in the season. In fact, I hope they haven't taunted a Stanford crowd since 1986 — the last time a Duck team has won at Stanford.

According to Hernandez, before Saturday's game started, Oregon fans were making comments about the personal lives of Stanford players and were tossing things at them on the court.

"They were saying some derogatory (comments)," Hernandez said. "If they want to say something about us that's fine ... They said some stuff about people's girlfriends and researched and said things about some of our family members. Personally, I think that is going a little too far."

"I think the throwing stuff is what separates our fans from theirs."

While Hernandez may have dug his own grave by inferring that Stanford's fans are more classy than Oregon's, I do agree that personal attacks at players is going over the line.

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■ Men's basketball

## Another disappointing loss leaves Duck team deflated

*Oregon can't convert final shots and falls to Stanford 58-56 in final home game*

BY JON ROETMAN  
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent and Stanford's Chris Hernandez engaged in a heated exchange after Saturday's game at McArthur Court.

Hernandez responded to some verbal taunts from the Pit Crew by mocking fans after the game. Kent took exception to this and decided to voice his displeasure toward the Cardinal point guard.

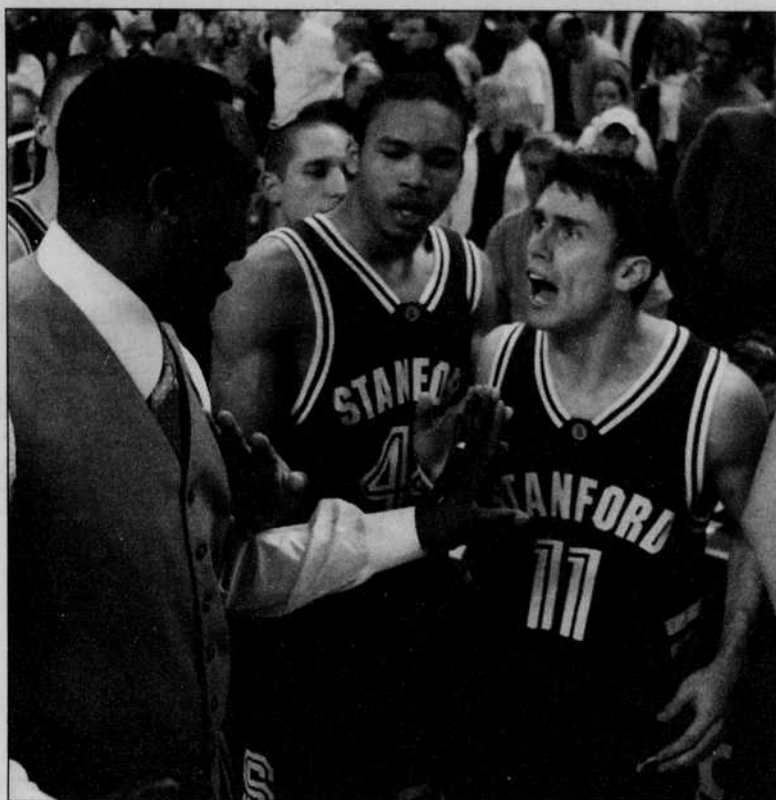
Other than that confrontation, it was a game full of more of the same for the Ducks.

Oregon (13-12 overall, 5-11 Pacific-10 Conference) choked away another potential victory amidst a cloud of missed free throws, 18 turnovers and a scoreless streak for the game's final three minutes and 39 seconds. These factors combined equaled a 58-56 loss to Stanford in front of 9,087 spectators for the Ducks' final home game of the season.

The Cardinal (16-10, 10-6) grabbed a two-point lead when forward Matt Haryasz dropped in an 8-foot floater with 14.1 seconds remaining. Oregon had three chances to tie or take the lead in the closing seconds but couldn't convert.

"We just ran one of our normal plays (called) five up," Haryasz said. "I took a couple dribbles, then (Oregon forward Maarty) Leunen stepped up, and I just let it go."

After a timeout, Aaron Brooks got the ball and launched a 25-foot three-pointer from the left wing that bounced high off the rim with about seven seconds remaining. Malik Hairston had a clear shot at the rebound but missed a tip-in attempt rather than coming down with the



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent, left, gets into a heated exchange with Stanford point guard Chris Hernandez (11) after the Cardinal's 58-56 win Saturday at McArthur Court.

ball and trying to go back up again. A scramble for the loose ball ensued, leading to a jump ball and one final possession for the Ducks with 1.9 seconds remaining.

However, Oregon failed to get a decent look as Brooks threw an off-balance inbound pass to Hairston, whose wild shot from the left corner drew nothing but the top of the backboard.

Brooks said he thought about bouncing the ball off Hernandez's back but changed his mind at the last moment, causing him to lose his balance.

"(Hernandez) wasn't paying attention at all," said Brooks, who was

noticeably distraught after the game. "It was wide open, I just didn't have the guts to do it. At the end of the game I kicked myself for it because Malik wasn't open."

"Maybe it would have worked, but I didn't want to chance it."

Brooks carried Oregon late in the second half, scoring seven of the Ducks' final eight points. The sophomore finished with a team-high 14 points but dished out only three assists, while committing six turnovers.

Brooks has a 3-to-2 turnover-to-assist ratio during Oregon's last four

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■ Women's basketball

## Oregon coasts by California with a 58-51 win in Berkeley

*With Saturday's victory, Ducks secure grasp on the No. 2 seed for the Pac-10 tournament next week*

BY STEPHEN MILLER  
SPORTS REPORTER

Seniors play a major role in helping teams win games. The Oregon women's basketball team can attest to that after defeating California, 58-51, at Haas Pavilion on Saturday.

The Golden Bears did not see the same success as the Ducks this season — even with five seniors on their roster who were honored as part of Senior Day following the loss.

"We have a special group of seniors that we really wanted to win this game for," Cal head coach Caren Horstmeyer said. "I thought the team as a whole came out and played with passion, fire and drive."

Despite being outrebounded and outshot by Cal, Oregon (19-8 overall,

12-6 Pacific-10 Conference) persevered to secure the No. 2 seed in next week's Pac-10 Tournament and finish tied for second place in the conference with Southern California and Arizona State.

"I'm very proud of this team, bouncing back from a loss to Stanford (on Thursday)," Oregon coach Bev Smith said. "We talked all along that this year we have set ourselves up to always have our destiny in our own hands."

Senior Brandi Davis drilled a three-pointer at 16:19 in the first half to give the Ducks an 8-5 advantage, and they retained that lead for the remaining 36 minutes of it regular season.

Davis, who finished with 10 points, sank a jump shot one minute into the second half to give the Ducks their largest lead of the game at 36-27.

With less than 10 minutes to play, the offensive production stalled for both teams.

Cal (10-17, 4-14) started a 5-2 scoring run at 9:46 and cut its deficit to three points when Cathrine Kraayeveld nailed a shot from beyond the arc with 2:32 on the clock to bump Oregon's lead to six, at 51-45. From then on, the Bears could not close within a single possession.

"We got the looks that we wanted," Smith said. "They really jammed our low-post players when we did get the ball (inside). That three-pointer Cathrine hit was a dagger to them."

Oregon converted 3 of 12 shots from three-point range in each half. Cal only made 3 of 14 from long range in the game but outrebounded the Ducks, 44-31, and shot 37.3 percent from the field compared with Oregon's 36.5 percent.

Kraayeveld notched a game-high 14 points along with five boards and four

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GAME TIME

Mon. Feb. 28 -  
Tues. Mar. 1

Men's golf

Oregon @ Cleveland Golf Classic, Westlake Village, Calif.

Thu. Mar. 3 -  
Sat. Mar. 5

Softball

Oregon @ UNLV Rebel Classic, Las Vegas

Thu. Mar. 3

Men's basketball

Oregon @ USC, 7:30 p.m.

Fri. Mar. 4 -  
Mon. Mar. 7

Women's basketball

Oregon @ Pac-10 Tournament

Sat. Mar. 5

Tack

Oregon @ UW Last Chance Qualifier

Women's tennis

Oregon vs. Boise State, 12 p.m.

Men's basketball

Oregon @ UCLA 5 p.m.

Sun. Mar. 6

Lacrosse

Oregon vs. UC Davis, 1 p.m.

GAME SCORES

Fri. Feb. 25

Lacrosse

Denver 17, Oregon 12

Softball

Alabama 3, Oregon 0

Creighton 4, Oregon 1

Sat. Feb. 26

Softball

Oregon 3, San Diego State 1

Oregon 5, Florida Atlantic 0

Women's basketball

Oregon 58, California 51

UO: Kraayeveld 14 pts, 5 reb, 4 ast, 3 stl, 2 blk

UO: Forristall 12 pts, 8 reb

Men's basketball

Stanford 58, Oregon 56

STAN: Haryasz 18 pts, 10 reb

UO: Hairston 12 pts, 12 reb

Men's tennis

Texas Tech 4, Oregon 3

Women's tennis

Arizona State 7, Oregon 0

Lacrosse

Northwestern 21, Oregon 2

Pac-10 Scores

Men

Washington 93, Arizona 85

Washington State 57, Arizona State 55

Oregon State 82, California 63

Women

Stanford 84, Oregon State 41

Washington 64, Arizona 60

UCLA 80, USC 77

Arizona State 59, Washington State 40