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IN BRIEF

Ducks fail to qualify for Pac-10 Tournament

The Oregon men's basketball team let another opportunity to qualify for the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament slip away.

Except this time, there won't be anymore second chances.

Oregon's 73-61 loss to UCLA on Saturday at Pauley Pavilion in Los Angeles, combined with California's 63-57 overtime win against Washington State, pushed the Ducks down into ninth place and out of the Pac-10 Tournament.

Oregon (14-13 overall, 6-12 Pac-10) now places its hopes on the slim chance it will receive an invite to the National Invitation Tournament. Head coach Ernie Kent said the Ducks would gladly accept a chance to keep playing and continue with the maturation process that comes with having 11 freshmen and sophomores on the roster.

"We are a young team, and we're going through a lot of growth," Kent told The Associated Press after the game. "At times, it's going to be hard. There is a lot of development to still come to this team. For the continued growth of this program, there is no rest."

With the Golden Bears winning earlier in the day, the Ducks entered Saturday's game facing a must-win scenario to reach the conference tournament. UCLA proved too much for Oregon, however, as the Bruins (18-9, 11-7) received big games from freshman swingman Josh Shipp and junior center Michael Fey.

Shipp, the younger brother of former Cal standout Joe Shipp, matched a career-high with 20 points on 8 of 10 shooting, while Fey scored 15 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked four shots.

The win gives UCLA 11 conference wins and a solid chance to earn a berth in the NCAA Tournament. Sixty of the last 61 Pac-10 teams with 11 league wins have qualified.

— Jon Roetman

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Women: Ducks finish with 19 turnovers, shoot 37 percent

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baseline and put up a floater with 45 seconds left to give Arizona State a 49-47 lead, its first since the 6:50 mark of the first half.

"We handled it well until there were five minutes left," Bills said. "Then we started making mental mistakes — a few turnovers that really hurt us."

Oregon finished with 19 turnovers. Johnson, a sophomore, started and ended the game well. In addition to scoring the first points of the game, the 6-foot-2 guard finished with a team-high 14 points on 6-of-10 shooting and grabbed four rebounds in 32 minutes.

The Ducks were held to their second-lowest point total of the season and shot 37 percent (18 of 49) for the

game. Oregon made only one three-pointer in eight attempts, the fewest this season.

Kraayeveld went 6 of 15 from the floor for 14 points in 34 minutes. Bills made her first five field goals and finished with 11 points on 5-of-6 shooting.

The Ducks were outrebounded 39-32, including 14-7 on the offensive glass. No Oregon player had more than five rebounds, and its bench contributed only two points.

Senior point guard Corrie Mizusawa finished with eight points and pulled down a season-high five rebounds.

Kraayeveld and Mizusawa shared the team-high in assists with three.

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Smith: Great defense, inside play give Ducks something to build on

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selection committee puts them.

"We still have to stay in it at the end of the game and stay aggressive," Kraayeveld said.

Although the Ducks did not shoot the ball well this weekend, they did play great defense in both games.

Oregon also got great play from their posts, including Kraayeveld and

Bills, and did a great job rebounding the ball.

All of them are solid points to think about while gearing up for the NAAs.

Sunday's loss wasn't the end of a great season for the Ducks; instead it was just another lesson for later on this March.

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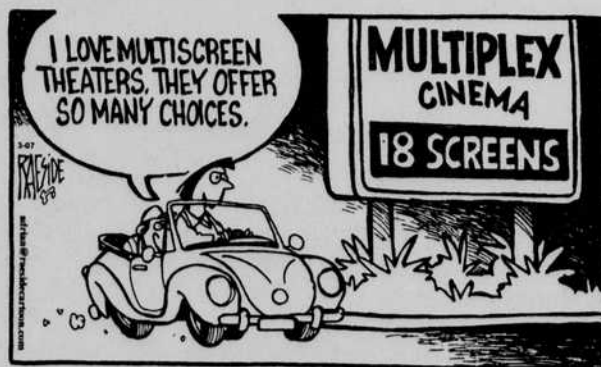
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by Adrian Raeside