

■ In my opinion



BRIAN SMITH
LEFTY SPECIALIST

UO couldn't hang on, but learned its lesson

SAN JOSE, Calif. — When the momentum swung against the Oregon women's basketball team Sunday, everything it had done so well in the first 35 minutes of the game suddenly went out the window.

The fact that Arizona State missed 15 of its first 16 shots in the second half became irrelevant.

The eight-point lead the Ducks held with 13:19 left in the second half was just a happy memory.

Oregon's continued presence in the Pacific-10 Conference Women's Tournament became a five-minute game of "hang on."

So when Arizona State's Aubree Johnson hit a right-handed, eight-foot floater from behind the backboard to give the Sun Devils a 49-47 lead with 47 seconds left in the game, "hang on" was no longer good enough.

Oregon knew it. Arizona State knew it. Actually, Arizona State knew it before Johnson's floater. The Sun Devils had called a 30-second timeout with just over a minute to go and, according to Arizona State forward Emily Westerberg, that's when they knew.

"We came out of our timeout and (head coach Charli Turner Thorne) said, 'We're going to win,'" Westerberg said. "It's that confidence that she has in us, and at that moment, we realized we weren't going to let this slip out of our hands."

Unfortunately, Oregon senior Cathrine Kraayeveld's jumper with 5:07 left marked the final field goal the Ducks would make. In the last five minutes, the Ducks committed five turnovers and scored only two points on a pair of free throws by freshman Kristen Forristall.

"They're really aggressive," Oregon senior Andrea Bills said. "We handled it well until there was five minutes left, and then we started making mental mistakes. We had a few turnovers that really hurt us, and we have to play up to and past their intensity throughout the whole game."

There were many reasons why Oregon lost. It wasn't the Ducks' 17-1 record (until Sunday) when leading at halftime.

It wasn't the karma of being undefeated in their white uniforms.

Part of it was the fact that Oregon connected on a season low 1 of 8 from three-point range.

Another part was the fact that the Ducks were outrebounded 39-32 and gave up seven more offensive rebounds.

Mainly, it was one of those games where no matter what you try and do to get momentum back, the shots that were falling start missing, the turnovers that weren't happening start happening, and a "victory" could still occur if a team breaks out the books and an abacus and learns.

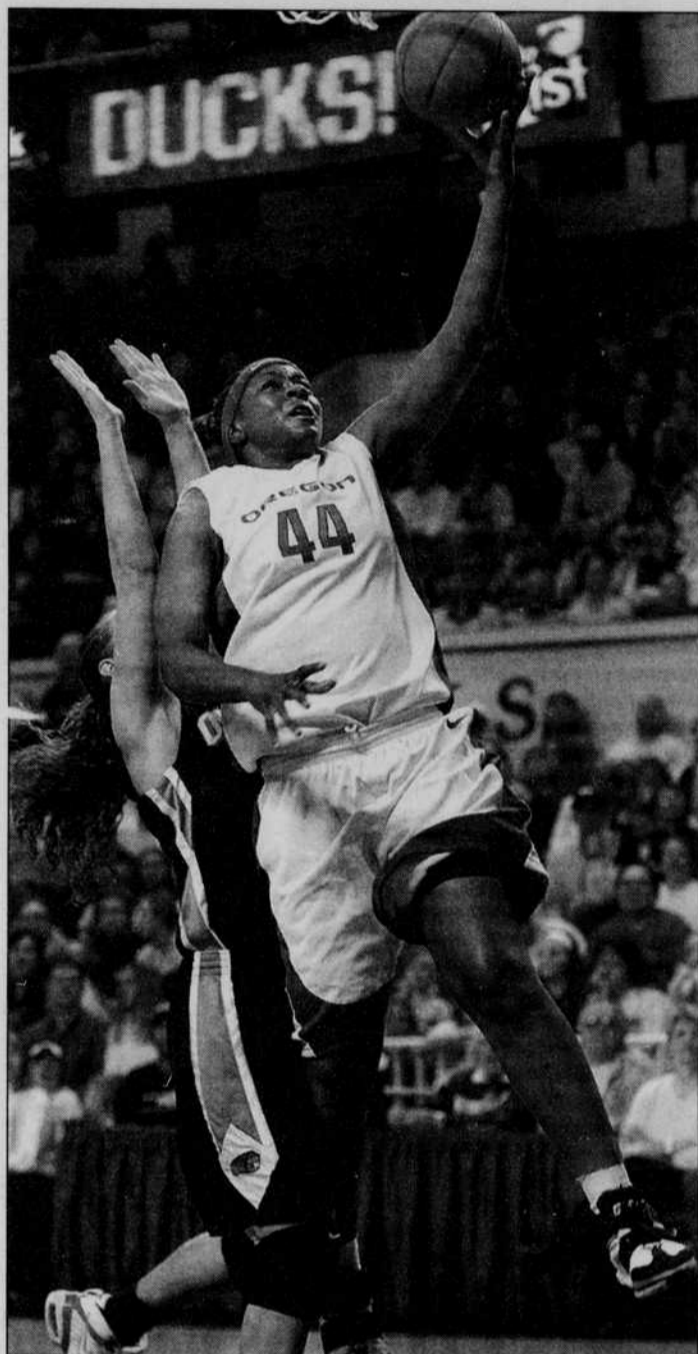
"That's what tournament basketball is all about," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "It's staying tight, staying focused and looking after the ball at the end of the game. It's a tough loss because our team really competed well. I think we learned a lot from this game and it will help us in the postseason."

The good news is the Ducks are likely to be in the NCAA Tournament, and what they learn from this loss, they can apply to wherever the

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■ Women's basketball

Sun Devils deny Ducks again



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrea Bills, shown earlier this year, scored 11 points during Oregon's 54-47 loss to Arizona State on Sunday during the Pac-10 Women's Tournament in San Jose, Calif.

For the second time in four years, ASU beats Oregon in the Pac-10 Tournament semifinals

BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Senior forward Cathrine Kraayeveld made Oregon's final field goal of the Pacific-10 Conference Women's Tournament with 5:07 left in the second half.

With 20 seconds left and the Ducks down by four points, Kraayeveld then made the mistake of passing the ball to Arizona State's Aubree Johnson instead of to her own teammate.

That costly turnover allowed the Sun Devils to finish with a 54-47 victory Sunday at HP Pavilion in front of 3,521 fans. With the semifinal win, Arizona State advances to today's championship game to face Stanford.

"I cannot be more proud of our team's toughness," Arizona State head coach Charli Turner Thorne said. "We scored when we needed to score ... and as usual we're getting it from different people on different days."

The Sun Devils (22-8) denied Oregon's entry into the Pac-10 Tournament championship for the second time in four years.

The Ducks (20-9) reached the end of the road after committing five turnovers and missing their last five shots during the final five minutes of play.

"It was a disappointing loss," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "Particularly the way we battled, both in the first half and deep in the second half."

Despite the loss, the Ducks will likely receive an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

Arizona State's Emily Westerberg made two consecutive layups to tie the game at 47 with 1:29 remaining.

"When we let our defense work instead of our offense, we're great," said Westerberg, who finished with 12 points and a game-high eight boards. "We got a few stops and became clutch with some buckets and I think that's what turned the momentum around."

After one of Oregon's several turnovers in the closing minutes, Johnson hopped over the leg of Oregon's Andrea Bills near the left

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■ Women's lacrosse

UC Davis inches past Oregon

The Aggies used a 7-0 run to build an early lead, then held off a late Duck surge to seal an 11-9 victory

BY BEAU EASTES
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon women's lacrosse team was literally inches away from its first victory.

In Sunday's 11-9 home loss to Mountain Pacific Sports Federation rival UC Davis (2-1 overall, 2-1 MPSF), the Ducks (0-4, 0-3) twice hit the crossbar on shot attempts and had one potential score stopped centimeters short.

"We battled and clawed for every second of (the game)," head coach Jen Larsen said. "I wish we had five more minutes, it probably would have made a difference."

The Ducks trailed 7-3 at the half before starting a furious rally late in the second. Behind 10-5 with 13:39 left in the game, freshman attacker Lindsay Pittard scored, igniting the Ducks' run. Twelve seconds later, reserve midfielder Kate Fleming struck again for Oregon, shrinking the Aggie lead to three.

Fleming, playing with a broken

nose, shot once at Aggie goalkeeper Kristen Braasch, got the rebound and put in her second chance. But the freshman from Cardiff, Calif., wasn't done: The 5-foot-5 spark plug lit up the scoreboard again at the 8:57 mark, shrinking the UC Davis lead to two.

The Aggies, who finished third last year in the MPSF, killed the Ducks' momentum, however, and put the game away when sophomore All-American Katie McMahon scored her fourth goal of the game with just 5:08 left to play, giving UC Davis an 11-8 lead. Oregon freshman midfielder Jen May added a late goal in the 28th minute for the final score of the game.

May and Fleming led Oregon with two goals apiece, while McMahon led all players with four goals.

"We put everything out there, it just didn't quite work out," a visibly upset Fleming said.

A source of contention for Oregon throughout the game was penalties.



KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman midfielder Theresa Waldron chases UC Davis goalkeeper Kristen Braasch in the closing minutes of the Ducks' 11-9 loss Sunday.

Larsen's squad committed 32 fouls and drew three yellow cards and one red card in the game. The coach spent several minutes after the contest conferring with officials about the amount of defensive fouls called.

"We are an energetic and feisty group, so we want to make sure we contain ourselves to the point where (the officials are) thinking it's good defense," Larsen said.

GAME TIME

Sun. Mar. 6
Tues. Mar. 8

Women's golf

Oregon @ Pinehurst Challenge, Pinehurst, N.C.

Wed. Mar. 9

Softball

Oregon vs. Portland State, 3 p.m.

Fri. Mar. 11
Sat. Mar. 12

Indoor Track

NCAA Indoor Championship, Fayetteville, Ark.

Sat. Mar. 12

Men's tennis

Oregon @ Pacific, noon

Lacrosse

Oregon vs. Colgate, 4 p.m.

Sun. Mar. 13

Men's tennis

Oregon @ Santa Clara, noon

Women's tennis

Oregon vs. Princeton, noon

GAME SCORES

Fri. Mar. 4

Softball

Long Beach State 4, Oregon 0

Sat. Mar. 5

Men's basketball

UCLA 73, Oregon 61

UO: Brooks 18 pts, 5 ast

UCLA: Shipp 20 pts, 6 reb

UCLA: Fey, 15 pts, 11 reb

Women's basketball

Pac-10 Tournament

Oregon 64, Washington 50

UO: Kraayeveld 20 pts, 10 reb,

UO: Bills 18 pts, 10 reb

UW: Hicks 17 pts, 6 reb

Softball

Oregon 4, Drake 3

Women's tennis

Oregon 5, Boise State 2

Sun. Mar. 6

Lacrosse

UC Davis 11, Oregon 9

UO: May 2 goals

UCD: McMahon 4 goals

Women's basketball

Arizona State 54, Oregon 47

UO: Kraayeveld 14 pts

ASU: Westerburg 12 pts, 8 reb

PAC-10 SCORES

Men

USC 78, Oregon State 68

Arizona 70, Arizona State 68

Stanford 77, Washington 67

California 63, Washington 57

Women's Pac-10 Tournament

Sunday

Stanford 73, USC 69

Saturday

USC 74, Arizona 66

Stanford 80, California 41

Arizona State 73, UCLA 71