

■ In my opinion



JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
THREE TO WIN

Journalists need to ask appropriate questions

This just in: Lumps in Barry Bonds' oatmeal are causing his mean disposition. Wait, it's also being reported that extra doses of Flintstones multivitamins are causing his massive growth, not steroids.

Whoa, now doesn't everyone feel better? I know I don't. The trend of reporters sticking close to superstar athletes raises the question of bias.

ESPN's Pedro Gomez reported on San Francisco Giants' slugger Bonds throughout all of last season as BALCO news and a knee injury dominated headlines.

NBC field reporter Jim Gray tagged behind Kobe Bryant two years ago and continues to on Los Angeles Lakers' national broadcasts. Gray played a large role in the squabbles between Bryant and All-Star center Shaquille O'Neal.

The goal of journalism is to be unbiased and produce fair and balanced content. This ideal collides with Gray and Gomez's approach. From this viewer's standpoint, the pair plays nice or goes overboard. Balanced reporting requires asking hard questions in difficult situations as well as being understanding.

Bonds and Bryant are difficult subjects for the media to cover as it is. Maybe this is a new approach to reporting: Be friendly and you can get the scoop.

Then again, how newsworthy is the information if it's coming from the athlete's point of view?

Gray has already found himself on questionable ground with his interview of Pete Rose at the World Series in 1999. Rose, in Atlanta as part of baseball's All-Century team, made his first sanctioned appearance since being banned in 1989 for betting on America's pastime.

Known for his tough questions, Gray hammered Rose about the ban. After answering the first question, it was apparent Rose didn't want to address the subject.

"I'm surprised you're bombarding me like this," Rose said at one point. "I'm doing an interview with you on a great night, a great occasion, a great ovation. Everybody seems to be in a good mood, and you're bringing up something that happened 10 years ago. ... This is a prosecutor's brief. It's not an interview."

Gray has covered both ends of the spectrum from too nice to not nice enough. Gomez provided every inane Bonds detail until everyone was gasping. 'Enough already!'

Prospective journalists need quality, hard-working examples in today's society of tabloid journalism and public skepticism. I've had the opportunity through a newspaper internship to see countless examples of fair, unbiased reporting.

Impressionable students who constantly see reporters focus too much on high-profile athletes feed this cycle of headline-focused reporting.

It's time for reporters to provide the full story and leave out the useless details. Give me a balanced story and relevant information and then move on.

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■ Men's basketball

Ducks surge past Pacific Tigers 84-62

Malik Hairston scores 17 points as the Ducks record their third straight game scoring 80 or more points

BY SHAWN MILLER
SPORTS EDITOR

The game wasn't nearly as close as the score indicated Tuesday night at McArthur Court, where a crowd of 8,331 watched Oregon (3-0) defeat Pacific (3-1) 84-62.

It quickly turned into a rout, surprising not only the crowd but both teams. Oregon players said coach Ernie Kent hyped them up beforehand, while Kent said he was solely challenging the team.

"We kind of thought we were playing against Illinois tonight," said Oregon's Malik Hairston, who scored a game-high 17 points.

Hustle on defense led to an edge in rebounds, turnovers and overall shooting — the Ducks shot better than 55 percent from the floor and the Tigers struggled to make barely more than 36 percent. The hustle, intensity and victory against a quality opponent pleased Kent.

"The thing I did was challenge them," Kent said. "In terms of hyping it, it was a challenge for us to up our mental, to play a tougher opponent, and I thought they did a great job of doing that."

Pacific, which won the Big West Conference with an 18-0 record, advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament last season. The Tigers also posted a 27-4 overall record, numbers that caught the Ducks' eyes.

Meanwhile, Oregon's first two opponents were unable to score more than 80 combined points, something Oregon has done in every game this season. So it was set up as the marquee game,

but that only lasted for the first minute and a half — the only time Oregon trailed as a three-pointer by Mike Webb gave Pacific a 5-3 lead. The Ducks then went on an 18-3 run over the next six minutes to build a double-digit lead that they never relinquished.

"The biggest thing is, I think transition-wise we were able to get going," Kent said. "When we can get out and run, it just puts us into such a great rhythm because we have so many weapons on this team."

Perhaps the most impact of the game was on the defensive end, where the Ducks' held Christian Maraker, Pacific's leading scorer and rebounder, to 16 points and two rebounds.

Oregon's Maarty Leunen, who was named tournament MVP after recording his first career double-double (14 points, 10 rebounds), had the job of guarding Maraker early.

"We just had to play physical with him, full-front, make it tough for him to get the ball," Leunen said. "Most of their offense is run to get him the ball, or through him ... so coach put it upon me to shut him down."

Maraker didn't score for the first 11 minutes of the game and shot only 10 times from the field. He was perfect from the free-throw line in eight attempts.

"I don't think they did a lot to stop Christian," Pacific coach Bob Thomason said. "I think Christian did a lot to stop himself. I mean he could have went out and got 24, 25 (points), but he wasn't aggressive tonight. That's something that we've



NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Ivan Johnson scored 14 points Tuesday night as the Ducks defeated Pacific 84-62. Johnson made six of 10 shots and was perfect on both free throws.

constantly worked on with him."

Bryce Taylor scored 16 points and Ivan Johnson added 14 for the Ducks.

Taylor and Hairston joined Leunen on the All-tournament team. Pacific's Johnny Gray and Maraker were also voted to the

team along with Bowie State's Derick Payne.

The Ducks host Rice on Saturday at 2 p.m. before Oregon's first road game of the season at Vanderbilt on Nov. 30.

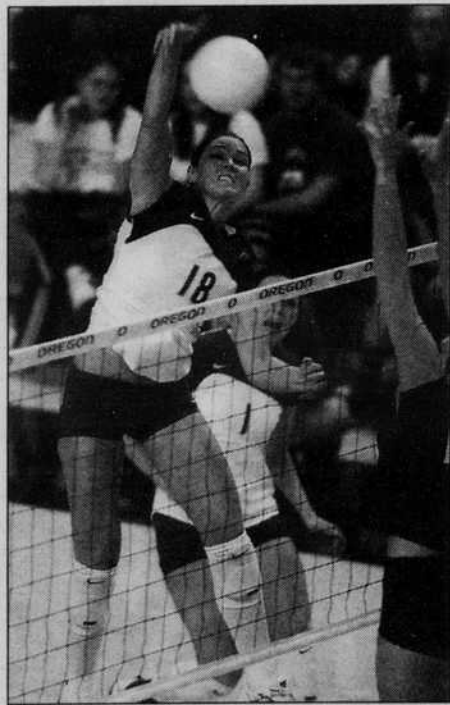
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■ Duck volleyball

Duck seniors end careers this weekend

Oregon tries for its second Pac-10 win over the weekend against either the Arizona Wildcats or the Arizona State Sun Devils

BY JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
SPORTS REPORTER



NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Kelly Russell slams a kill against the block of Oregon State. Russell had 18 kills and Oregon's other senior Jaclyn Jones had 14 in the Ducks five-game loss to Washington State last week.

The final chance to earn a second conference win for the Oregon volleyball team comes this weekend as seniors Kelly Russell and Jaclyn Jones' Oregon careers come to a close.

"It hasn't hit," Jones said. "It'll hit the very last game for sure."

With Arizona visiting Friday at 8 p.m. and Arizona State on Saturday at 7 p.m., Oregon (12-16 overall, 1-15 Pacific-10 Conference) faces its first two opponents from the start of conference play. Friday's match is the second Duck game in Mac Court that night, with the women's basketball team playing Arkansas at 5 p.m.

Every sport has its senior finales — the last time athletes appear in an Oregon uniform and try for a winning finish. Jones and Russell spent four seasons with an Oregon volleyball program that has struggled in conference play.

Oregon coach Jim Moore, who joined in January, has spent his first year on staff striving to turn the Ducks into contenders, and the seniors helped jump start Oregon's progress, Moore said.

"We got going in the right direction,"

Moore said. "We think we're doing some good things, but we got a lot more work to do." Jones agrees and is proud of her time as a Duck athlete.

"I'm glad I got to be a part of the beginning of the change," Jones said. "It's going to be neat to watch in the future."

For Russell, progress came with the little things, such as Oregon's competitiveness and three straight five-game matches.

"There is improvements being made it's just not on paper yet," Russell said.

The pair remained when others left the program in recent seasons, including Sarah Mason (Hawaii) and Dariam Acevedo (Texas). Jones and Russell also dealt with a new coach after working with Carl Ferreira for three years.

"I really love Oregon. ... I have a very good life outside volleyball," Russell said. "So even when volleyball was not going as I wanted I had other things to lean on."

This season, Oregon started 10-1 before Jones suffered a stress fracture in her leg prior to a tournament at Portland State. Oregon went 3-1 in the five-team field, but lost in sweeps when it faced Arizona State and

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