



SPORTS / METRO

Oregon Trio Shine at NCAA Tournament

(AP) — Just how tremendous is Oregon's high-scoring trio of Luke Jackson, Luke Ridnour and Frederick Jones? Good enough to beat hot-shooting Wake Forest in what seemed like a game of 5-on-3 — and maybe good enough to go a whole lot further in the NCAA tournament. Jackson matched his career high with 29 points, Ridnour scored a career-high 28, and Jones had 24 as second-seeded Oregon survived a strong challenge from the Demon Deacons, winning 92-87 Saturday to advance to the Midwest Regional semifinals.

Jackson, Jones and Ridnour, who carried Oregon (25-8) to its first Pac-10 Conference title since 1939, accounted for all but 11 of the Ducks' points as they held off the Demon Deacons (21-13) in a thrilling, end-to-end game with little defense but plenty of fireworks.

"We all expect this out of each one of us," Jones said afterward while looking at his two teammates. "We have a lot of confidence in each other. We don't think it's anything new." Oregon's three stars scored all of the Ducks' points in the second half until three free throws by their teammates in the final 17 seconds.

"It was a great rhythm to the game," Oregon coach Ernie Kent



Oregon's Frederick Jones (left) and Luke Ridnour celebrate an NCAA tournament victory. (AP Photo)

said. "That's the exact way we've played in 30 or 31 other games — running up and down the floor. Those three guys have stepped up the entire year."

The Ducks, just two days removed from their first tournament victory since 1960, advanced to Friday's regional final in Madison, Wis. against Texas.

Wake Forest coach Skip

Prosser, who said his team lost one of its more satisfying games, compared Oregon's trio to the high-flying NBA team that usually holds court at Sacramento's Arco Arena.

"Those three kids — we couldn't find a way to even slow them down, much less stop them," Prosser said. "Today, they probably could have played for the

Kings."

Wake Forest shot 55 percent for most of the game and made 11-of-19 3-pointers, but its chances evaporated when Craig Dawson, who scored 20 points, left with a dislocated shoulder with 7:45 to play.

Fans in the decidedly pro-Ducks crowd chanted, "Sweet Sixteen!" in the final seconds.

Woods Heads Into Big Tournaments

(AP) — Tiger Woods is not ready to declare his game in perfect shape heading into two of the biggest tournaments in golf. At least he knows what to expect should he wind up in the lead late in the final round.



Tiger Woods

No mistakes. Woods only added to his reputation as being the best closer in golf by winning the Bay Hill Invitational for the third straight year. Of 20 players within five shots of the lead going into the final round, Woods was the only one who didn't make a bogey on the back nine.

"His biggest strength is something you can't see — his mind and his heart," swing coach Butch Harmon said Monday at The Players Championship, where Woods will defend his title against the toughest field in golf. "He's mentally stronger than any other player."

That could be his greatest weapon during his run to the Masters.

It starts this week at the Stadium Course on the TPC at Sawgrass, which features two of

the toughest finishing holes in golf — the famous island green on the par-3 17th, followed by the 447-yard 18th, which was the hardest hole on tour last year.

Two weeks later is the Masters, which has been renovated to put a premium on driving.

Instead of a back-nine barrage of birdies at Augusta National, several players are expecting part to be just as valuable because of all the changes.

Bay Hill was Wood's 30th victory of his career, and it was like so many others: Get in the lead late Sunday afternoon, watch everyone else trip while trying to chase him.

"If you just try and make pars and don't make any bogeys on the back nine, you're going to have a chance," Woods said after his four-shot victory. "Anything could happen on the last few holes. There's water out there, the pins are tucked. You just need to play smart."

Woods will try to become the first back-to-back winner at The Players Championship.

Blazers Beat Boston; Win 15 of Last 16



Trail Blazer Bonzi Wells scores with a slam dunk against the Boston Celtics in Boston (AP Photo)

Shawn Kemp had 12 points and 11 rebounds in his second game subbing for the suspended Dale Davis and Portland beat Boston 100-91 Monday night to win for the 15th time in 16 games.

Bonzi Wells scored 20 for the Trail Blazers, including a 3-pointer with 11 seconds left to make it 98-91. Rasheed Wallace scored 18 as Portland beat Boston for the first time in three tries this season.

Paul Pierce had 28 points and eight rebounds, Antoine

Walker had 19 and nine and Kenny Anderson had 14 points with nine rebounds and nine assists — just missing his first triple-double in eight years. Boston had won seven in a row before losing to San Antonio on Saturday.

Kemp was starting for the second game in a row and just his second game of the season. On Saturday, when Davis began serving a two-game suspension for throwing a punch at Shawn Bradley, Kemp had a season-high 21 points and 14 rebounds.

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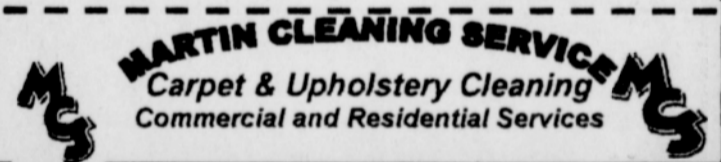
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The group is Portland's only youth team sanctioned by both USA Track and Field and the Amateur Athletic Union.

Call 503-735-0290 for more information.

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