

Olden Times

no.203.078

THE WORLDS OLDEST NEWSPAPER

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Bruins Travel to 1997, Return Victorious



Traveling Faster Than Light, The UCLA Team Bus Heads to 1997

CHICAGO - In a 2K8 college basketball matchup for the ages, the reeling UCLA Bruins defeated the 1-2 Oregon Ducks Saturday in a game that, undermining all conventions of modern science, traversed the fabric of time to be played in the year 1997.

1997, referred to by many historians as "The Year of the Tapestry," proved to be every bit as electric an atmosphere as it was in 1997. "Heck, 1997 was a tough environment in 1997! We are thrilled to return to 2008 with a 'W'," said Bruins Coach Ryan Dardis, who coached his team to a 13 point victory following the arduous road trip to 1997

"We felt we came prepared. All week during practice the guys were like, 'was this really what it was like in 1997?' Some of the stuff coach brought out at practice; the processions of random dudes through practice, the trance inducing guitar solos, it all paid off. Have you ever tried to make free throws from one of those old couches you sink into? Try boxing out while some dude in a skull cap is asking if you've got his lighter," said Kevin Love, who shot 67% from the field in the Bruins win.

Dardis echoed many of Love's statements in a press conference during which he stressed the importance of preparing for unique environments.

"This was a tough game for us," Dardis said. "I was fortunate enough to have experienced league play in 1997. I don't care who you are, 1997 is a tough place, I guess time, to play. I know Coach Cullen and his staff, or roommates, are committed to preserving that environment. We were able to prepare and execute through the distractions."

Dardis continued to credit his players' perseverance and focus throughout the stretch.

"I thought we got a bit soft on D at the start of the second half. Some of our guys were in foul trouble, not to mention the rousing rendition of Rocky Top Tennessee," said Dardis, referring to the improvisational 3 piece bluegrass jam that broke out early in the second half.

"I felt we did a great job dominating the offensive boards while maintaining proper bowl passing protocol. At one point, we were caught with the bowl in the middle of a 3 man couch set. Anyone with 1997 league experience will tell you, that can mean lights out."

On the subject league games requiring time travel, Dardis made his thoughts clear.

"I love spirit of the Tapestry, and I'd love to play here every week. But the reality is, to get your guys ready to play across the barriers of time and space is tough. Playing in 1997 is an injury risk, not to mention the threat of disrupting the time-space continuum. Heck, between the stares from Chia Garcia, the cocktails without ice, and bowl matching, I couldn't even find my car after the game."

Barring a major upset, the bruins won't have to travel to 1997 again during league playoffs. Coach Dardis and his Bruins will play the balance of their season in their 2008 nicely appointed 2 bedroom/2 bath Bucktown duplex. More importantly, the Bruins have shown they can win in the Year of the Tapestry, as well as the Year of the Coaster