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## CBI tournament: Oregon 77, Duquesne 75: Ducks advance to play Boise State

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AP Photo/The Register-Guard, Chris Pietsch

Oregon's E.J. Singler, left, battles Duquesne's Andre Marhold for a rebound during the first half of their CBI tournament game in Eugene, Ore. March 21, 2011.

EUGENE - Oregon gets another shot at Boise State - on the basketball court, anyway.

**The Ducks overcame a tenacious and sharp-shooting Duquesne team Monday night, winning 77-75 and advancing to the semifinal round of the CBI Tournament.**

Oregon will play the Broncos at 7 p.m. Wednesday, again at Matthew Knight Arena, for the right to go the championship series - possibly against Creighton, coach Dana Altman's former team.

"It's not where we wanted to be, obviously," said Garrett Sim, who led all scorers with a season-high 20 points. "But this is a fun experience for all of us, and I think as we keep winning games, it becomes more fun."

It certainly was a fun ending Monday night, in front of a crowd of 5,369.

After it appeared Joevan Catron had bulled and whirled and spun his team to victory, with the Ducks leading 75-69, the Dukes roared back. Bill Clark, their leading scorer, hit a three-pointer from the top of the key and a fast-break layup to make it a one-point game, 75-74, with 8.4 seconds left.

### **The Ducks**

**Next up:** Boise State at Oregon,

**College  
Basketball  
Invitational**  
semifinal, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday

Clark had no choice but to foul E.J. Singler, an 87 percent foul shooter, in the double-bonus. Singler hit both free throws, and all Oregon had to do was protect a three-point lead.

But Malcolm Armstead fouled Sean Johnson on a three-point try with 1.5 seconds left, sending Johnson to the line with a chance to force overtime. But he missed the first free throw, made the second and intentionally missed the third. Catron snagged the rebound, extending his college career for yet another game.

It was fitting that Oregon's victory was decided at the stripe - the straight one, not the curved one.

In two CBI games, against Duquesne (19-13) and Weber State, Oregon scored 43 points (in 52 attempts) at the free-throw line to the opponents' 9 (in 19 attempts).

The Ducks (18-17) outscored the Dukes 20-4 at the line, overcoming Duquesne's 13-of-28 three-point shooting.

Early on, the Dukes, who lead the nation in steals and turnover margin, appeared to catch Oregon by surprise with their tenacity. Duquesne had four steals in the first 10 minutes and took a 19-15 lead - the bus ride from Missoula seemed to have no ill effect.

Then Oregon got up to speed, playing some equally tough defense and going on a tear at the other end. The Ducks made 8 of 10 shots to take a 12-point lead as Garrett Sim did most of the damage. In that five-minute stretch, Sim was 5 for 5 with two three-pointers - 12 quick points for Sim, whose Pac-10 scoring high is 15.

Oregon took a 43-34 lead into halftime, but the Dukes turned the defensive pressure up further in the second half. Relentless pressure forced the Ducks to miss 10 of their first 11 shots of the second half - the Dukes had two steals and five blocks in that stretch.

But Oregon righted the ship down the stretch, thanks in large part to Catron, who finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds - his 12th career double double.

In addition to the Oregon-Boise State game on Wednesday night, Creighton (a 102-92 winner over Davidson) will face Central Florida in the other semifinal.

For the Ducks, it will be the 22nd home game of the season. Only Texas-El Paso has had as many.

"I think it's good we give the city of Eugene something to do over spring break," Catron said.