

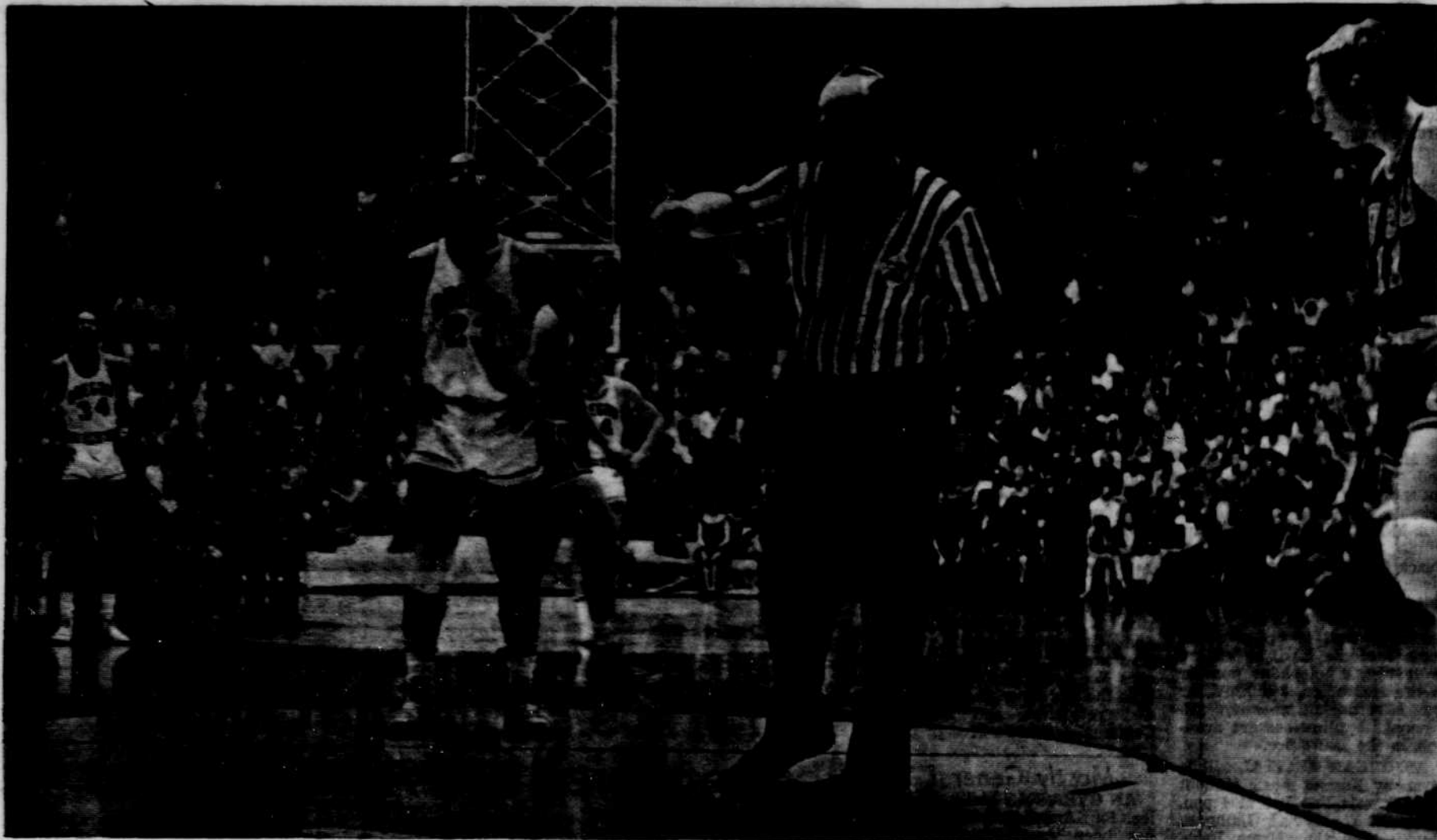


Photo by Mike Russell

Second Half Turns Tide

Ducks Lose, 60-49

By BEN KALB
Of the Emerald

Oregon reached the halfway point of its basketball season Saturday night, but it wasn't quite a milestone to be remembered in positive terms.

By virtue of a 60-49 loss to Oregon State, the Ducks:

- Moved deeper into the AAUW cellar.
- Are well on the way to their worst season since 1956.
- Are one notch down in the battle for the Chancellor's Cup, emblematic of basketball supremacy in the state of Oregon.
- Are on a five game losing streak.
- Have a 3-11 record this season.

The confrontation unfolded initially at a dull, sluggish tempo which increased gradually until the Webfoots, playing catch-up ball, turned the affair into a running, scrambling hectic thing at the game's end.

'SUPRISE' MOVE

Valenti pulled a minor "surprise" by starting three guards and thereby forcing Oregon coach Steve Belko to deviate from his game plan. "We were going to man-to-man them," Belko remarked, "but we went into a zone when they switched their line-up."

Employing their usual deliberate, ball-control game, the Beavers encountered some difficulty in edging away from Oregon in the first half (it was 21-20 for OSU at the half), but in the second half, with all the effectiveness of the wind eroding a sandstone cliff, their tactics won out and the Ducks were vanquished.

Belko, figuring to increase his team's strength on the boards against 7-foot Vic Bartolome, opened with John Pinkstaff at center and Glen Campbell at forward. This did improve rebounding, but did nothing for Oregon's shooting percentage.

"Our shooting percentage (.327) lost the game," Belko said, "But our rebounding was excellent."

THE LAST SUPPER

Perhaps signalling the trend of things to come,

the Beavers hit the scoreboard first. Flu-ridden Bartolome, who didn't become a definite starter until Oregon State's pre-game supper, scored on a lay-in.

With the Ducks always guttily fighting back, the lead changed hands four times in the first half. Sophomore transfer Billy Gaskins, playing no small role in keeping Oregon in the game, had seven points in that period, nearly one-third of the Ducks' total.

"He's going to fit real well into our future plans," said Belko after the game.

A GAME FIGHT

The two teams fought gamely to determine which one would have the lead at intermission. With less than four minutes to go in the first half, Gaskins drove past his defender for a lay-up to give Oregon an 18-17 edge.

After a trade of baskets, Gary Freeman, OSU's hot hand all night with 22 points, put the Beavers ahead 21-20 on a jumper from the right corner with 1:23 left. After getting the ball back, the Beavers stalled for one shot. Loy Petersen missed that shot with three seconds left.

In the second half, the Ducks met their fate—doom. Still using a zone defense to good advantage, their shooting was still a problem. As Belko said, "We were getting the good shots, but we just couldn't hit."

TEN POINT LEAD

Behind Freeman and hotshot guard Vinny Fritz, OSU moved out to a ten point lead with less than seven minutes left before the end-all buzzer. Oregon narrowed this to eight on Gaskin's score at 3:47, but Gaskin's effort was only one rose in a garden of cactuses.

In taking game scoring honors, Freeman hit nine of 11 shots from the floor. Fritz, the wonder-boy from Central Catholic, added 16, and Petersen 12. Oregon State, as a team, hit the loop at a 43 percent clip.

Gaskins led Oregon with 16. Abrahamson had 12.

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