

Ducks run circles around Fullerton, 69-61



Photo by Pat Sullivan

Cal State-Fullerton's Don Bunch found the defense of Dan Hartshorne (52) and Kelvin Small too tough to penetrate as the All-American candidate was limited to 14 points in Oregon's 69-61 victory Saturday.

By RICH SEVEN
Of the Emerald

Oregon used clockwork execution late in the game and some rugged play inside to outlast Cal State-Fullerton in the season opener Saturday, 69-61.

"It was played more like a mid-season than an early season one," said Coach Dick Harter. "I like to win a well-played game like that."

The game was particularly well-played by the Ducks in the last four minutes of the game. Oregon took the lead for good 60-58 on a Dan Hartshorne basket with 4:25 to go in the game. After Mike Drummond connected on two free throws to put Oregon on top by four, Cal State's Mike Linden hit one of two free throws to slice the Duck lead to three at 62-59.

With 3:38 remaining, Harter called a timeout and ordered the circle offense. And that was it for Fullerton.

After passing around the perimeter for a lengthy period, Drummond found Kelvin Small all alone under the basket to put Oregon up by five, 64-59.

After turnovers by both sides, Don Bunch concluded the Titans' scoring by hitting both ends of a one-and-one with two and a half minutes left.

It was back to the circle for Oregon. After freezing the ball for about a minute and a half, Drummond broke through the tiring Cal State defense and once again found Small under the basket to push the lead to 66-61. Drummond, then, hit a free throw and Joe Moreck hit a ten foot jump shot with just a few seconds remaining to close out the scoring.

"We weren't going into it (circle offense) as early as we did," said Harter. "But after we took timeout we decided to get into it."

The circle offense involves all five men continually passing and breaking towards the basket and perimeter in a spread-out forma-

tion. It is designed not only to wind the clock down, but also free men from the over-playing defense, as was the case with Small.

"I thought we played well," said Titan coach, Bob Dye. "We lost because Oregon executed for the solid 40 minutes and we didn't. It's as simple as that."

Hartshorne, the 6-10 sophomore, scored a game-high 21 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Seventeen of his points came in the first half, including Oregon's last eight points of the half to bring the Ducks from a 29-23 deficit to a 31-31 tie at the intermission.

Dye gave Hartshorne the ultimate compliment after the game.

"Hartshorne, I thought, made a big difference," Dye said. "He killed us in the first half. Hartshorne could be this year's Ballard."

"We were looking to the low post more tonight," explained

Hartshorne. "We knew if we could get inside we could score."

Small had perhaps the finest all-around game for the Ducks. The 6-8 junior from Chicago scored 13 points, snared nine rebounds and helped hold Fullerton's All-American candidate, Bunch, to 14 points and only four rebounds for the night.

"Kelvin made a few mistakes, but he played a very strong game," said Harter. "He played well offensively and gave us good rebounding and defense inside."

Harter said he was pleased with his young squad's progress in all phases of their play from the 25-point loss to Athletes in Action last Tuesday night, but acknowledges that a lot of work is still needed.

"Everything was improved," said Harter, "but everything still needs work."

Few thanks coming

Thanksgiving vacation didn't bring a whole lot to be thankful for as far as Oregon's field hockey and volleyball teams were concerned.

Coach Karla Rice's volleyball squad, competing in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women regional qualifying tournament in Cheney, WA., failed to earn a berth in nationals for the first time in eight years. Meanwhile in Denver, Col., the Duck field hockey team absorbed three losses in as many games during their performance at the national tournament.

The field hockey squad lost 6-0 to West Chester St., 5-0 to Madison College and lost in overtime to Arizona to be eliminated from the 16 team tournament. West Chester St. later played Ursinus in the finals.

More surprising were the volleyballers who won't be going to nationals after being eliminated by Portland State 15-11, 15-4 in a

match Saturday.

Washington State won the tournament as it snapped Portland State's strangle-hold on north-west volleyball. The Vikings qualified for nationals as the number two team.

The Ducks were crippled by the loss of Lynette Zuercher who broke her finger during a practice session Friday.



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