

Oregon drops to 8-8

Drought in second half produces loss to Huskies

By Donald Coulter
Of the Emerald

After racing for 44 points in the first half, Oregon went stone cold in the second half — going for over 10 minutes in one stretch without scoring a point — as the Ducks lost a 76-70 decision to the Washington Huskies Monday night at Mac Court.

"I can't remember us going two minutes without scoring a point, let alone 10," Haney said after last night's loss. "We had open shots which we just didn't hit, or else they were knocking the ball out of hands before we could take the shots."

They were Washington's front line of Brad Watson (4 rebounds, 2 steals), Kenny Lyles (4 rebounds and a blocked shot), and Dan Caldwell (9 rebounds), who plugged up the middle in the second half and kept the Ducks off the scoreboard for what seemed like forever.

"In the second half, the boardwork of Lyles and Watson was very big for us," said Washington coach Marv Harshman.

Oregon had no trouble getting inside in the first half, or for that matter, scoring from the perimeter. Washington hit 7 of its first 8 shots — all of them from 12 feet or more — to take the early lead, but Oregon soon took command of the boards and the game's tempo. Behind the play of forwards Jerome Williams and John Greig, who combined for 19 points in the first half, the Ducks got the outlet pass churning and forced the Huskies to run with them.

And leading the way for Oregon was 6-4 guard Paul Bain, who should have been arrested in the first half for impersonating Jerry West. Bain was 5-5 from the field (most of them 20-footers), 4-4 from the free throw line, while adding 2 steals and a nifty bounce pass on the baseline to Jerome

Williams for an assist.

"I've seen Paul Bain play a lot of times," commented Harshman in disbelief, "but I've never seen him make that many from that far out."

The second half started out with the same breakneck pace of the first. The Huskies broke the halftime tie on a layup by Lyles to make the score 46-44, a lead they would never relinquish. Washington jumped to a 5-point lead after two minutes of play, but the Ducks pulled within 54-51 on a layup by Jerome Williams at 17:26.

And then came the drought. That score was to be Oregon's last for exactly 10 minutes and 26 seconds.

Although the Ducks couldn't buy a hoop, the Huskies weren't exactly burning out the scoreboard lights, either. During that ten-minute stretch, the Huskies increased their lead by only four points, with all of those coming at the free-throw line.

So, with seven minutes to go in the game, in a contest that seemed like it might go on forever without a field goal, the Ducks found themselves within five points.

But Oregon would never get closer than that margin. The Huskies increased their lead over the next few minutes from the foul line, where they made 16 of 25 shots in the half.

"Until the traveling call on Gary (Gatewood, with 15 seconds to go), we were still in the game," lamented Haney. "We had them. It's a frustrating one to lose."

WASHINGTON (76)

— Watson 2 6-7 10, Caldwell 8 2-3 18, Lyles 5 1-5 11, Jackson 3 0-0 6, Burks 7 4-5 18, Vaughn 2 6-8 10, Schrempf 1 1-2 3. Totals 28 20-30 76.

OREGON (70)

— Greig 5 3-4 13, Williams 6 3-4 15, Rasmussen 1 1-2 3, Bain 6 4-4 16, Walker 2 0-0 4, Taylor 1 1-2 3, Brantley 0 0-0 0, Cofield 4 1-2 9, Perry 0 0-0 0, Gatewood 3 1-2 7, Adams 0 0-0 0, Trendell 0 0-0 0. Totals 28 14-20 70.

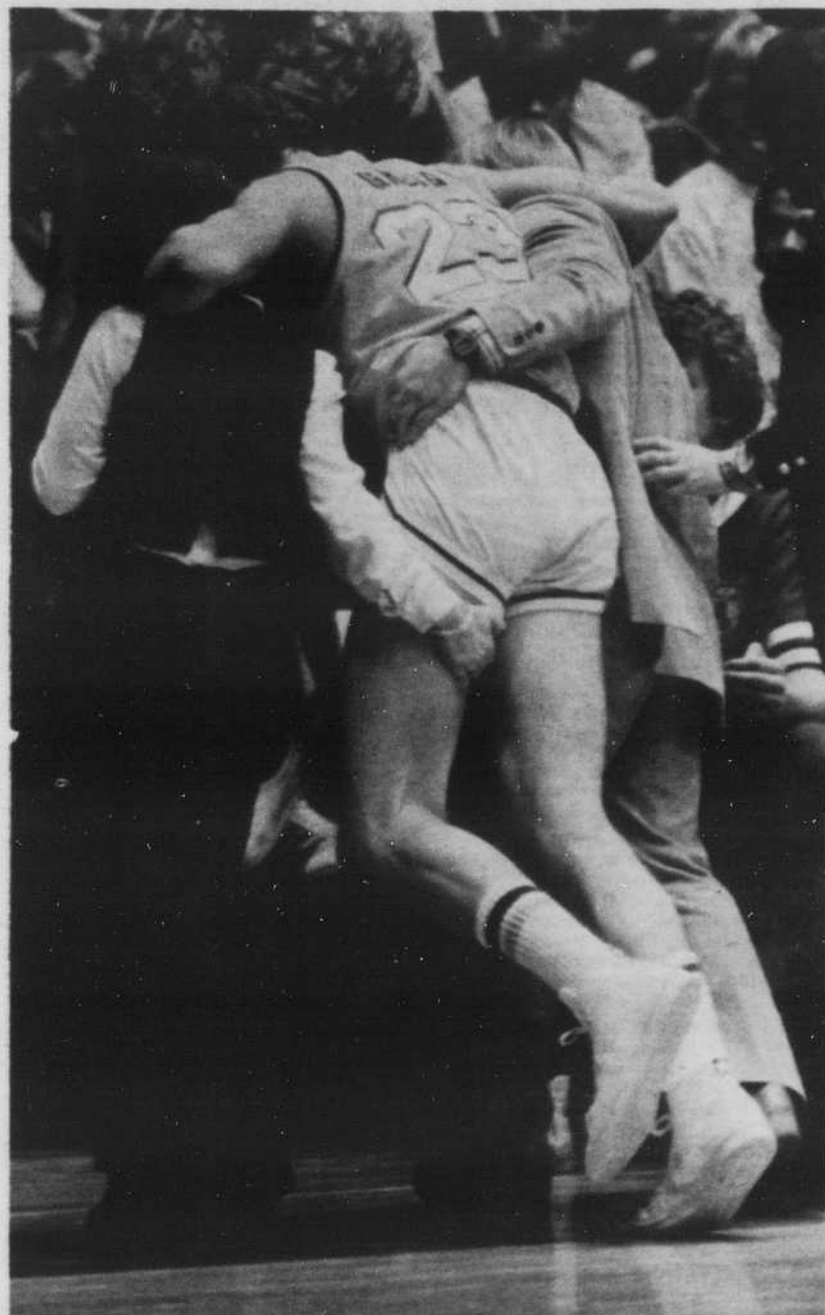


Photo by Bob Baker

Oregon forward John Greig was helped off the court with an injured ankle late in Oregon's 76-70 loss to Washington Monday night.

— sportfolio —

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Cincinnati Bengals' sagging spirits got a boost Monday in a heroes' welcome that set them thinking of Super Bowl XVII.

The Bengals, who lost 26-21 Sunday to the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XVI, flew back from their Troy, Mich., hotel with their families at midday Monday and were greeted by a cheering throng downtown.

Several players said the greeting in subfreezing temperatures by an estimated 3,500 people eased the sting of Sunday's loss.

"I can't picture the 49ers getting any better of a reception than this," guard Dave Lapham told the orange-and-black-decked crowd on Fountain Square. "I think everyone was worried about that (what kind of reception they would get).

"After a loss in a game like that, you people really brought us back up. I want to thank you."

Fans at the early-afternoon rally chanted, "Next year," and "Pasadena," referring to the site of next year's Super Bowl. Clusters of waving fans dotted Interstate 75, the route from Greater Cincinnati International Airport to downtown.

The University sailing team came away with third place at the University of British Columbia Team Race Regatta Saturday. Oregon defeated British Columbia (ranked 20th in North America), but lost to Victoria before beating Seattle University and Western Washington for third place in the 10-team tournament.

Club Sports is stepping out of its traditional role of supporting competitive sports and is providing services for recreational skiers.

The next trip will be a day trip on Jan. 31. Transportation will be provided from the University to Mt. Bachelor and back. Sign up and pay in the Club Sports office in EMU Room 5.

Higgs' career best leads Ducks in victory over Portland State

Portland — Helen Higgs had her best game ever as an Oregon Duck Monday night.

The Oregon sophomore contributed career bests in scoring (23) and rebounding (12) to lead the Ducks to an easy, 101-55 victory over the Portland State Vikings.

Oregon was able to handle the Vikings with relative ease. The Ducks played all 12 players making the trip to Portland, while the Vikings could only suit up seven players and played six. Oregon coach Elwin Heiny was able to make full use of his personnel on the bench.

"Injuries have really hurt Portland State," Heiny said. The Oregon coach called off his team's press early in the game and did not keep one player in the game for longer than 24 minutes.

"It mainly boiled down to a good chance for us to see everyone in action. Helen's stats were quite impressive, considering she only played 18 minutes," Heiny said. Higgs' statistics could have been even more impressive had she made some shots she should have made, the coach said.

The Ducks opened up a 52-32 halftime lead and extended it in the second half by outscoring the Vikings 49-23.

Five Oregon players finished in double figures on the night: Higgs, Alison Lang (20), Bev Smith (14), Tracy Beckes (11) and Alison Bernhardt (11).

The Ducks dominated the game in every category. They outrebounded the Vikings 72-32, shot .505 from the field to PSU's .297 and had 12 blocked shots to PSU's four.

Oregon, ranked ninth nationally with a 13-2 record, plays USC and UCLA in Southern California this weekend.

OREGON (101)

Higgs 1 11-20 23, Stoican 0 4-5 8, Gatchell 0 2-8 4, Lang 4 8-11 20, Harris 0 2-4 4, Christensen, Trask 2 0-3 2, Gienger 0 1-5 2, Vetter 0 1-1 2, Beckes 1 5-12 11, Smith 0 7-11 14, Bernhardt 1 5-9 11.

PORTLAND STATE (55)

Krumm 2 4-10 10, Jenkins 2 5-14 12, Dickerson 0 2-6 4, Johnson 5 4-14 13, Van Loo 2 4-16 10, Fitzhugh 0 3-14 6.
Halftime — Oregon 52, Portland State 32.

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