

Sports

Dawgs do it to Ducks, 73-67

By Robert Collias

Of the Emerald

The Oregon basketball team must feel a bit like the indestructible object going up against the immovable force as they lost two tough road games in Washington this weekend to fall to 8-15 for the season and 3-10 in the Pac-10 Conference.

The Ducks lost to the Washington State University Cougars 75-71 on Friday night and then came back Sunday to play the league-leading Washington Huskies tough all the way before finally falling 73-67. Oregon is playing perhaps the best basketball it has all season in the last four games.

Besides the two close losses in Washington, the Ducks had put together two-conference wins in a row, over California and Oregon State, for the first time this season.

That thought is of little solace to Oregon coach Don Monson, however.

"We played well, but that is not to say that losing is OK," Monson said after the loss to Washington. He was pleased with the effort displayed by his team, however.

"We played them hard the whole way," Monson said of the Washington loss. "I can't say enough about the way the kids played, it was just a couple of little things that cost us in the end."

Those little things were not the same ones that cost Oregon so many games in the early part of the season. Oregon made their free throws (23-30 for the game), they made the key shot, and they didn't lose composure when the going looked like it was going to get rough.

In Seattle on Sunday the Ducks charged out of the blocks like they were going to run away and hide from the Huskies as they opened up a 20-12 lead eight minutes into the game.

Then the difference between the best team in the conference (Washington) and the one that is struggling in the conference cellar (Oregon) became apparent.

Washington coach Andy Russo looked down his bench and flagged in guard Al Moscatel to revive his dogged troops. Monson did not have the luxury of bringing such talent off his bench, as Moscatel came in to score 19 points on eight of 10 from the floor, mostly from long range.

Behind Moscatel, the Huskies came right back at the Ducks, as the gritty 6-foot-3 guard from Mercer Island, Wash., threw in four straight long-range jumpers to bring the Dawgs to within 23-20 with eight minutes left in the first half.

Moscatel's springers started Washington on a 20-5 run that eventually brought them the lead at 32-25 with four minutes left before halftime.

Then it was the Ducks turn to play catch-up and they did it very well as Oregon caught the Huskies at 36-36 on David Girley's running jumper in the lane at the buzzer before halftime.

In the second half there was more well played basketball on the part of both teams, and the game was relatively close the rest of the way. The Duck's biggest lead in the second half was five points at 57-52 with 9:17 left in the game.

Oregon used the inside play of center Jerry Adams to build the lead. Adams scored a career-high 21 points to go along with 11 rebounds for the game. Adams' offensive statistics may not have been the most important aspect of his game as he held Washington's high-scoring Christian Welp to 12 points on four of 11 from the field and nine rebounds.

"Jerry really had that many points?" Monson asked after the game. "He gives us so much on the defensive and rebounding end that people tend to overlook his contributions on the offen-

sive end."

Adams may tend to be overlooked on the offensive end of the floor, but that will not be the lasting remembrances that the Huskies will take home from this one as they barely escaped with their league-leading lives.

Moscatel started a 6-0 run that regained the lead for Washington at 58-57 with 7:30 left in the game.

The game see-sawed from there until Washington's Paul Fortier was fouled by Oregon's Thomas Deuster with 4:21 left in the contest.

Fortier drained both free throws to give the Dawgs a 65-63 lead. Oregon then missed the front end of a one-and-one, and Fortier drilled a free-throw line jumper to give Washington a 67-63 lead with 3:00 left to play.

Welp then blocked Adams' shot and the ball appeared to be going out-of-bounds off of Welp, but Oregon's Anthony Taylor tried to save it with no luck and the ball went back to the Huskies with 2:25 left.

This time Fortier missed and Oregon had life again. Greg Senior, who was in for Keith Balderston, who fouled out at the 5:51 mark, was fouled by Washington's Shag Williams, but he missed both free throws with 1:36 left.

Fortier didn't give the Ducks another chance as he canned a jumper that put the game out of reach at 69-63 with 1:01 left.

"We have four of our last five games at home," Monson said. "I knew the kids want to come home and prove that we are capable of winning."



Photo by Ross Martin

Jerry Adams had a career-high 21 points to go along with 11 rebounds as the Ducks played well but lost to the Washington Huskies 73-67 Sunday in Seattle.

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