

Sports

Duck women get NorPac lead by leashing the Huskies, 85-67

By Capi Lynn

Of the Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team snatched the NorPac Conference lead from the University of Washington on Saturday night as it registered an 83-67 victory over the Huskies at McArthur Court before a roaring crowd of 2,735.

The Ducks, 9-1 in the NorPac and 20-6 overall, avenged an earlier overtime loss to the Huskies and thickened the conference championship race and battle for the sole automatic berth to the NCAA tournament.

Oregon now holds a half-game lead over Washington, 8-1 and 20-4 overall. If both teams finish the season with no further losses, they will be declared co-champions and the automatic NCAA bid will ap-

parently be decided by comparing the strength of the two teams' schedules.

The Ducks jumped out early against the Huskies and rang up a 14-4 advantage less than five minutes into the game, forcing Washington to take a timeout.

"We were able to jump out to the early lead and maintain it," said Oregon coach Elwin Heiny. "Everyone had been waiting for this game and we showed we were ready to play."

The Huskies' timeout didn't curb the Ducks' momentum, as they pushed their lead to 22-11 just before point-guard Tammy Richard went down with an injury while pulling up on the break.

Richard was diagnosed as having a medial collateral tear in her left knee and possibly an

anterior-cruciate tear, much like the one suffered by Carol Drouet, also a point guard, in the San Jose State University game more than a week ago.

The injury delay did slow the Ducks, as Washington was able to pull within six at 27-21 with 5:53 left in the first half.

But the Ducks rose to the challenge and squelched the Husky rally. Senior Heather McDuffie scored four points, Kris Glidden chipped in two inside-buckets and freshman Shelly Ray gathered an offensive rebound for an easy two in the final five minutes of the first half to overpower Washington's surge and give the Ducks a 37-26 halftime lead.

The Huskies came out early in the second half and made another run at the Ducks, pulling within seven at 41-34.

But Oregon's Lauri Landerholm and Gabi Neumann countered the Washington rally as they made nine of the Ducks' 12 field goals in the second half and 32 of the Ducks' 46 second-half points. The two combined for a nine of 14 performance from the floor and a 14 of 14 showing from the free-throw line in the second half of play.

The Ducks secured their 11th home victory against no losses this season by shooting superbly from the charity stripe in the second half (22 of 23 for a .957 percentage). In the last 3:40 of the contest, Oregon connected on 14 of 14 from the line to tuck away the win and sole possession of the NorPac lead.

Landerholm topped all scorers with 26 points, including a perfect 10 of 10 from the line, while Neumann also made her presence known by adding 18 points, including 16 in the second half.

Sue Brown and Amy Petersen chipped in 10 points each to round out the Ducks' list of double-figure scorers.



Photo by Derrel Hewitt

Oregon's Kris Glidden goes over two Washington players on the way to two points in the Ducks' 83-67 victory over the Huskies. The win gave the Ducks a half-game lead over the Huskies in the NorPac Conference race.

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