

Sports

Duck hoopsters drill Weber State, 75-57

By Capi Lynn
Of the Emerald

Oregon may have been disappointed and booed the men's basketball team during last Wednesday's loss to Idaho State University, but they had the opportunity to see an entirely different Duck basketball team Saturday in McArthur Court — and a welcome sight it was.

The Ducks treated the 6,184 on hand to a much improved performance over Wednesday, leveling Weber State University, 75-57, in non-conference action. The win evened Oregon's record at 2-2.

"After what our fans did to us — which I don't blame them — it kind of took our pride, and we stopped and thought we can't let our fans down," said guard Anthony Taylor, who scored an exciting season-high 29 points against the Wildcats.

"Everybody was ready for this game, and everyone knew we couldn't go out there like last Wednesday," Taylor said. Senior captain Kenny Sprague shared Taylor's sentiments: "We didn't want to lose at all. We just had it in our minds that we were going to take it to them."

And how the Ducks took it to the Wildcats.

Oregon shot 50.7 percent from the field on 34 of 67 for the game, while Weber State mustered only 38.3 percent on the night.

On the other end of the court, the Ducks outrebounded Weber State 42-27. Their 14 offensive boards, compared to the Wildcat's five, proved to be a key in the game.

Oregon also put on a clinic with its fast break, although missing the sure bucket on at least four occasions, to tally a team total of 18 assists.

Taylor, a vital link to the Ducks' break, noted that Oregon was looking more for the fast break against the Wildcats.

"Idaho State took us out of it (the break) Wednesday, but tonight we ran it and did what we wanted to," Taylor said.

While the Ducks were playing well on both ends of the court, Weber State hurt itself, committing 21 turnovers in the game, including nine traveling violations.

The first half of action all but

told the story. The Ducks stormed out to take a commanding 35-22 halftime lead thanks to Taylor's 18 points on nine of 12 shooting.

While Taylor was scoring at will, center Sven Meyer pounded the boards on the other end for eight first-half rebounds.

In the opening minutes of the second half, the Ducks increased their commanding lead to 55-31 (their biggest of the night) with forward Jesse Nash and Meyer each scoring three buckets.

Senior guard David Girley added a three-point shot from beyond the 19-foot-9 line, and Taylor converted a three-point play during that span as the Ducks outscored the Wildcats 20-7 to secure their control.

Nash started in place of Sprague, who has been unable to operate effectively because he is still rehabilitating his left knee, which was reconstructed last January. Nash scored 12 points on five of seven from the field. The junior transfer also grabbed seven rebounds.

Sprague, after playing 38 minutes in Oregon's season-opener at Montana, has not been able to play as much in subsequent games, but produced well for the Ducks on Saturday. He scored six points on three of five from the floor, grabbed five rebounds and dished out three assists.

Oregon head coach Don Monson was pleased with the play of Nash and Sprague in their reversed roles.

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