

Women hoopsters edge Arizona 67-66 on road

By Dennis Fernandes
Of the Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team turned back the University of Arizona, 67-66, for an important Pacific-10 Conference victory at Tuscon Thursday night.

The Ducks won only their second league game in five tries on the road while improving to 7-3 in Pac-10 play, 15-5 overall.

"Winning period is a big plus for us," said Oregon coach Elwin Heiny.

Oregon held an 11-point lead, 39-28, a minute into the second half, but Dana Patterson, the league's sixth leading scorer, reeled off eight points in a 12-5 Arizona run which pulled the

Wildcats to within four, 44-40, with 14:41 remaining.

One of the keys that enabled the Ducks to pull this one out was that Patterson did not tally another point after that brief flurry. But the Wildcats kept within clawing distance until the buzzer. Guard Lava Acosta scored with just 13 seconds left to close the gap to just one, but they did not get another opportunity to score.

"It looked like we were moving in slow motion at times. We would get the lead up to ten, and then slack off and turn the ball over," Heiny commented.

Freshman center Stefanie Kasperski netted 15 points and three blocked shots in just 18

minutes of action, but was not permitted to do further damage to the Arizona defense as she was saddled with foul trouble in both halves.

"As long as we had Stefanie in, we controlled the game. They really had no answer for her," Heiny said.

The Oregon coach also was pleased to see guard Lauri Landerholm, who only had 15 points over two games last weekend, turn in a solid performance on the offensive end: 23 points on seven of nine shooting while dishing out seven assists. "It was good to see her shoot well and get some points," he said.

Heiny did bring in guard Carol Drouet, whose status for the next few games was questionable, for "about nine minutes" late in the game. "She wanted to play 40 minutes, so she was ready," he said.

Arizona was lead by forward Yolanda Turner's 20 points. Acosta followed with 18, and Patterson added 17 points.

While Heiny was pleased to get the ever-valuable road victory, he was still left scratching his head as to the team's offensive woes. "Again, it was execution. We are still not following through on offense, and we just need to come out with more

intensity and play hard," he said.

The Ducks now look ahead to Arizona State University in a game this Saturday at Tempe. The Sun Devils, 9-10 on the year, lost to Oregon State University, 75-58, Thursday night.

Oregon beat ASU last month at McArthur Court by an 84-70 count, but Heiny insists they "are the better of the two" Arizona schools. Sherry Poole, Patti Pepler and Robin Connolly all average over 15 points per contest, and ASU earlier beat the University of Washington for the Huskies' only conference loss of the year, so the Ducks are in for a tough matchup.

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ting Arizona's lead to two, 23-21, when forward Jesse Nash went up for a layup and a Wildcat was whistled for goaltending.

Arizona stretched the lead to four again on guard Craig McMillan's layup with six seconds remaining in the first half. Nash then drilled a jump shot from the foul line just

before the buzzer to slice the advantage back to a field goal, 25-23.

With Nash's jumper looking to give the Ducks the momentum after intermission, the Wildcats came out scratching in the opening minutes of the second half to score the first six points and establish control.

Oregon inched its way to a

50-44 deficit and had the opportunity to even the game up with two three-point attempts with less than seven minutes to play in the contest, but the shots wouldn't fall.

The Ducks cut the lead to four, 50-46, on a Taylor basket, but Oregon would get no closer.

The Wildcats gradually pulled away and scored at will in

the final minutes.

Taylor paced the Ducks with 17 points, including 11 in the first half. Nash was the only other Oregon player to reach double figures with 10 points.

Arizona center Tom Tolbert did damage to the Ducks, leading all scorers with 20 points on eight of 12 from the field. Tolbert also grabbed eight

rebounds.

Forward Sean Elliot, who the Ducks held to just one point in the first half, poured in 16 points in the second half to help the Wildcats down the stretch.

The Ducks shot a respectable 48 percent (24 of 50) from the field, but were outrebounded 30-24 and surrendered 12 turnovers.

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