

Sports

Duck women use Eble bombs to shoot down frosty Pilots

By Craig Harris
Emerald Sports Reporter

The road-weary women's basketball team awoke from a dead-week slumber in the second half, downing Portland 69-56 in front of 266 people in the Portland Chiles Center.

The Ducks, who played their third road game in five days, relied on the three-point bombs of sophomore Michelle Eble to pull away from a neck and neck game and move their record to 3-1.

The Ducks only led 19-10 midway through the first half and 25-22 at the break because of a horrid 33 shooting percentage from the field. But the Pilots couldn't fare much better, only hitting 10 of 40 shots for a 25 percent mark.

"We didn't play as well as we could, but that could be because everybody was still a little tired from last weekend (the Montana trip). But all 13 players got into the game and that was important," Oregon coach Elwin Heiny said.

One of those 13 that cleared the pine in the second half was Eble, who nailed all four of her shots from three-point land to cushion the Ducks' lead.

"The bright spot of the night was Michelle Eble. Her series of three-point plays in the second

half really got us excited," Heiny said. "It was close throughout the whole game, then she hit them and it put them away."

The fact that Eble even scored is exciting, because going into the contest she only averaged 1.7 points a game. She finished the night with a career-high 16 points, two blocked shots, and three steals in only 16 minutes.

"I knew she could hit from that range and she is a very good shooter. We've been trying to find a spot to utilize her and I think we finally found it," Heiny said.

Heiny also said he definitely supports the new three-point shot in women's basketball, and it will add a new dimension to his offensive scheme.

"We figured we would use the three-point shot, but we didn't think we had anyone to provide us with the shot. Now we know we can use it, it gives us confidence, and Michelle confidence."

Along with Eble's bombs, the Ducks also drastically improved in their shooting percentage in the second half. Oregon went 18 for 25 from the field, a blistering 72 percent, and went four for six at the foul line. The Pilots didn't even rifle one up from no-mans land and barely improved their shooting percentage. Only 13 of their 49 shots

slipped through the twine in the second half, a meager 27 percent.

The Ducks' Stephanie Kasperski continued her dominance in the middle, as the 6-foot-7 sophomore ripped down nine rebounds and scored a game-high 17 points.

"She had a real size factor, and the key is her rebounding," Heiny said.

The Ducks continue their traveling expedition this weekend when they play in the Pepperdine Tournament in Malibu, Calif. Oregon will match up against the host on the opening night, and Heiny said the Waves are notch or two above the Pilots.

"Tonight was easy compared to what we have from here on out. The road doesn't get any easier," Heiny said.

OREGON (69)
Semeniuk 1-4 0-0 2, Sattiewhite 2-3 0-0 4, Allen 1-4 0-3 2 Roth 0-2 0-0 0, Bourn 0-2 0-0 0, Giguire 0-0 0-0 0, Glidden 4-8 0-0 8, V. Anderson 2-6 1-1 6, Eble 6-8 4-4 16, M. Anderson 0-0 0-0 0, Gieck 1-2 0-0 2, Petterson 2-2 0-0 4, McCartney 2-5 2-2 6, Kasperski 8-15 1-1 17, Evans 1-1 0-1 2.
Totals 30-62 4-8 69.
PORTLAND (56)
Chalfant 4-12 0-0 8, Sheldon 0-0 0-0 0, Reinebach 2-7 4-6 8, Halter 3-13 0-0 6, Young 0-4 0-0 4, Naszy 7-19 0-0 14, Sharpe 0-1 0-0 0, Linehan 2-6 2-2 6, Channel 0-0 0-0 0, Mark 2-6 2-2 6, Murawski 3-15 1-2 7, Harding 0-6 1-2 1.
Totals 23-69 10-14 56.
Halftime—Oregon 25, Portland 22. Three-point goals—Eble 4, V. Anderson 1. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Oregon 50 (Kasperski 9), Portland 44 (Harding 9). Assists—Oregon 19 (Sattiewhite 4), Portland 18 (Chalfant 7). Total Fouls—Oregon 12, Opponent 15. A—266.

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