

Duck defense keys road victory over Trojans

By Aaron Knox
Emerald Sports Editor

The Oregon men's basketball team continued its shooting woes against USC Thursday night, so coach Don Monson turned the defense up a notch and the Ducks held the host Trojans to 16 second-half points to post a 52-40 win in their Pacific-10 Conference opener

Thursday evening. Oregon's young squad improved to 6-4 on the season, 1-0 in the Pac-10. USC fell to 3-8, 0-3 in league play.

"This was a good win, especially on the road," Monson said. It was Oregon's first road victory of the season after two blowout losses, and they won just two away games last year.

The Ducks now travel down

the interstate a few miles for a Sunday clash with UCLA in a game that will be regionally televised beginning at 4 p.m. (channel 13, KVAL). UCLA lost to Oregon State 65-64 Thursday to fall to 4-8, 0-3 in conference.

Senior guard Anthony Taylor had another rocky shooting night, sinking only two of nine first half shots, both layins, for four points. He wound up sinking 5 out of 18 shots on the

night for 12 points, dropping his season shooting percentage to .424.

After watching his team fall to Oregon State in the finals of the Far West Classic on Dec. 29, Monson challenged the other players to take some of the scoring load off Taylor.

Thursday night, they answered the call well enough to support one of the strongest defensive efforts in recent Oregon history. The 40 point total and 16 point second half were both the lowest the Ducks have surrendered since the 45-second shot clock was adopted.

Transfer Brett Coffey knocked down a team-high 14 points to join Taylor as the only Webfoot in double figures. Point guard Frank Johnson added eight, and senior Keith Balderston and

little-used Steve Crawford each chipped in six.

Crawford, a junior transfer from Rice, was inserted in the lineup to soften the Trojan zone defense with his outside shooting. It was his rebounding and defensive play, however, which aided the Ducks' cause.

"Crawford really gave us a boost with his rebounding, particularly in the second half," Monson said.

The 6-foot-8 forward shut down SC's streaky Brad Winslow and pulled down eight boards to join Coffey as the Duck leader in that category. "I'm just glad I was able to contribute," Crawford said.

Trailing by five as the second half opened, the Ducks outscored the Trojans 11-4 to

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Trojans shoot down Duck women in conference basketball opener

By Craig Harris
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team experienced its biggest conference loss ever with a 82-56 schlamming by USC Thursday night at the Sports Arena in Los Angeles.

Despite opening the Pacific-10 Conference 0-1, the Ducks may have bigger troubles on the horizon. Stefanie Kasperki, Oregon's top rebounder and scorer, sprained her ankle late in the game and is doubtful for tonight's game against UCLA.

One of the few bright spots for Oregon, 7-4 overall, came early in the game when they went up 8-6 on the defending conference champs. But then Oregon committed several turnovers and USC reeled off 13 straight points. The game turned into a rout.

"There is really no reason (for the scoring run); we made silly turnovers," a disgusted coach Elwin Heiny said. "We did not execute and our rebounding was poor."

The Ducks nabbed only 36 rebounds for the game — the Trojans finished with 34 offensive boards and 60 for the game. Furthermore, the Ducks starting front line only contributed for 16 rebounds.

"We did not execute in our rebounding whatsoever,"

Heiny said. "We had an overall lack of team effort, period. Not one person played well and we had too many mental lapses. At one point the ball rolled through four of our players legs and no one picked it up."

Oregon continued its lapses throughout the game with its lethargic play.

"We didn't deserve anything. We lacked effort, and we were not prepared. We were not ready to play," Heiny said.

Unfortunately, the Trojans were. They continued their tirade in the first half, outscoring the Ducks 43-28.

Starting a young lineup, Oregon once again went to three young freshmen: Brooke Allen, Trina McCartney and Vonda Anderson. The three rookies combined for a meager 13 points and four rebounds. The only scoring threat for Oregon was junior Kris Glidden, who cashed in at 19 points. Kasperki only chipped in 12 points and seven rebounds before leaving with an injury.

Five USC players scored in double figures with Portland native Karon Howell leading the way with 20 points. Howell also bombed in two of USC's five scores from the three-point line. The Ducks were 0-2 from downtown.

USC kept on the heat in the second half, outscoring Oregon 39-28 with the USC reserves

mopping up the win.

Not surprisingly, the Trojans also dominated every statistical category except turnovers. USC recorded 13 steals to Oregon's 6, 19 assists to Oregon's 14. The Ducks coughed up the ball 21 times, while the Trojans only turned it over 10 times.

"It's very frustrating starting up the league this way, but they were clearly better. Our potential is great but the errors are typical for a young team. Tonight it was all USC," Heiny said.

"We are going to need a better effort and to play harder against UCLA. We have to be ready and if we can play to our ability the chips may fall our way. We need to give effort," Heiny said.

OREGON (56)
Glidden 9-17 1-3 19, McCartney 0-4 0-2 0, Kasperki 6-11 0-0 12, Allen 4-10 2-2 10, V. Anderson 1-6 1-2 3, Semeniuk 3-5 0-1 6, Petterson 1-3 0-0 2, Glick 2-4 0-0 4, Totals 26-63, 4-8 56.
USC (82)
Howell 7-18 4-6 20, Ford 2-7 0-0 4, Nelson 5-17 4-8 14, Wright 7-14 1-1 16, Piers 5-13 2-2 14, Hammond 4-13 2-2 10, Cruz 1-3 0-0 2, Dunbar 0-2 1-3 1, Strickland 0-2 1-2 1, Totals 31-88, 15-24 82.
Halftime—Oregon 28, USC 43. Fouled out—None. Three-point goals—Howell 2-5 Piers 2-5 Wright 1-1. Rebounds—Oregon 36 (Glidden and Kasperki 7), USC 60 (Howell 11). Assists—Oregon 14 (Sattiewwhite 6), USC (Howell and Wright 4). Total Fouls—Oregon 21, USC 15. A—386.

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