

Blazers snap Ducks two-game winning streak

Kennedy, Ogg lead UAB

By Tracy Sumner
Emerald Sports Editor

The Oregon men's basketball team had its two-game winning streak snapped Tuesday in a 79-69 loss to Alabama-Birmingham at the UAB arena in Birmingham.

Forward Andy Kennedy led the Blazers with 22 points, including 14 in the second half, as UAB held off a spirited comeback from the Ducks, who overcame a 43-29 halftime deficit. The Blazers' Alan Ogg, a 7-foot-2 center, chipped in 15 points to go with his game-high 13 rebounds.

After Keith Reynolds' 15-foot jump shot gave Oregon a 2-0 lead, Ogg scored six straight points to give UAB a 6-2 advantage. Guard Barry Bearden scored moments later to give

the Blazers an early 8-2 lead. After Oregon went on an 8-2 string to pull even at 10-10, the Blazers hit three straight three-pointers on the way to a 21-10 lead midway through the first half.

Oregon pulled to within seven at 30-23, but the Blazers, led by Bearden's three three-pointers, outscored the Ducks 13-6 the rest of the way for the 14-point halftime advantage.

For the half, the Sun Belt Conference Blazers hit on seven of 12 three point attempts for 21 of the 43 points while outrebounding the Ducks 22-11.

The Blazers held leads of between 11 and 15 points for the first five minutes of the second half.

After Ogg scored on a dunk, drew a foul and completed the three-point play to give the

Blazers a 58-43 lead, Kevin Mixon led the Ducks on a 22-7 tear to bring the Ducks to within 65-61 with just under nine minutes remaining.

During that run, Mixon scored nine of his 17 points on three three-pointers. Sophomore guard Terrell Brandon, who was held to nine points for the game, added five points during the streak.

The score remained at 65-61 for almost two minutes until Blazer forward Larry Rembert broke the scoring drought with two free throws followed by baskets by guard Stanley Jackson and Ogg.

With 2:23 remaining, Kennedy hit two free throws after a technical foul on the Oregon bench to give the Blazers a 73-65 lead. After Oregon guard Mike Helms hit two free throws to draw Oregon within 73-67 with 1:30 left, Kennedy scored the UAB's final six points to



Photo by File photo

Richard Lucas (left) and Kevin Mixon combined for 36 points last night in a 79-69 loss to Alabama-Birmingham Tuesday night.

seal the win.

Monson said the Ducks' inability to maintain a high level of play consistently cost them a chance for the win over the Blazers.

"We just don't seem to have the power of concentration or intensity for a full game," Monson said. "The first half, we seemed to play well for three or four or five minutes, then go into a fog for a few minutes. The second half, we got it down to within four, then we made a couple of crucial mistakes."

Monson took part of the blame for the Blazers' barrage of three pointers in the first half that nearly buried the Ducks. He also said his guards defensive play needs improvement.

"Part of that was my fault, but our guards weren't hustling," he said. "We just kind of meandered around (in the first half) but we did a better job in the second half."

Blazer coach Gene Bartow said the win wasn't pretty, but a good one for him and his players.

"It wasn't what you would call a stylistic game by either team," Bartow said. "But we think Alan Ogg had his best game of the year. I thought Stanley Jackson continued to play well, and Andy (Kennedy) and Barry (Bearden) shot the ball well."

Center Richard Lucas led the Ducks with a season-high 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds, while playing all 40 minutes.

"Lucas did a good job," Monson said. "He's getting better offensively, he's carrying his weight defensively and rebounding well."

Reynolds scored eight points before leaving the game after aggravating a knee injury sustained in the Arizona game.

Duck notes: Oregon returns home to play Utah Thursday and Portland Saturday. Both games have 7:35 p.m. starting times.

Bob Fife continued his excellent play off the Duck bench with two points, two assists, a blocked shot and a steal in 15 minutes of playing time.

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