

Sports

Loss to tough Stanford squad comes after women win opener

By Cam Sivesind
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team lost to second-ranked Stanford 76-57 Sunday at McArthur Court, dropping their record to 8-4.

After defeating California in their Pacific-10 Conference opener Friday night, the Ducks looked to continue their impressive play against Stanford.

But it was not to be. The Ducks found themselves down 7-2 four minutes into the contest, thanks to two hoops and a free throw by Stanford's sophomore center Julie Zeilstra and another basket by senior All-American guard Jennifer Azzi.

Oregon battled back to knot the score at 9-9 and stayed within six points for the next 10 minutes.

Stanford opened the lead to eight off a jump shot by junior forward Trisha Stevens with 4:47 remaining in the half. Oregon's senior center Stefanie Kasperski sank a shot to cut the lead to six again with 2:56 to go in the half.

Azzi then sank two free throws and senior forward Katy Steding dropped in a three-pointer to end the half's scoring. A free throw by Oregon senior forward Jacquie Semeniuk added another point to the Ducks' total.

The Cardinal went in at the half leading 31-21.

"We ended up giving them too many easy buckets, but they're an outstanding team," Oregon coach Elwin Heiny said. "They make you pay for mistakes."

Oregon came out fighting in the second half. Kasperski put in a turnaround jumper and then gave an assist to junior forward Trina McCartney for another basket. Sophomore guard Vonda Anderson knocked in two free throws, as did McCartney to bring the Ducks to within four.

Semeniuk stole the ball on the Cardinal's ensuing inbounds pass and tossed it to Kasperski for an easy score. Oregon found itself within two points at 33-31 with 16:37 remaining.

The Cardinal pushed the lead back up to six off a steal and layup by Azzi and a 15-foot jumper by freshman center Val Whiting.

The Ducks again chipped the lead to two points with 14:19 to go at 37-35 before Stanford went on a scoring run.

Stanford rattled off nine



Senior forward Jacquie Semeniuk takes this steal against Stanford, but it was the Cardinal that ended with the win.

straight points upping its lead to 46-35 with 12:25 remaining. Oregon's sophomore forward Staci Wallenborn added a layup for the Ducks before Stanford's Steding nailed a three-pointer and Whiting canned another jumper.

Wallenborn then sank six free throws over the next three minutes, but the score still had the Cardinal up by 12 at 57-45 at the 8:55 mark.

Stanford went on another scoring spree, popping in 13 unanswered points and grabbing a 21-point lead with 6:08 left in the game. The Ducks did not give in and ran up a 10-point scoring streak of its own to bring the margin back to 13 with 2:22 left.

The Ducks would score once more after an eight-point run by the Cardinal and the final score showed a 76-57 defeat for Oregon.

"I think one thing good about it is that we have a lot more room to improve," Heiny said. "I don't know if Stanford can improve much more form where they are now."

Kasperski led all scorers with 23 points and added 11 rebounds. She also had three blocked shots. Anderson contributed 11 points and eight rebounds for the Ducks while Wallenborn added eight points.

Steding, recruited out of Lake Oswego, led the Cardinal in scoring with 21 points while adding 11 rebounds. Fifteen of those points came from three-point land.

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