

Sports

# Duck hoopsters post road losses

By Ashley Conklin  
Emerald Sports Reporter

In what is becoming a bad habit for the Oregon men's basketball team, the Ducks found new ways to lose on the road this past weekend.

After playing California tough for about 30 minutes on Friday night before losing 95-72, the Ducks lost to Stanford on Sunday by a 58-56 count when Kenny Ammann hit a shot at the buzzer.

The two losses dropped Oregon to 2-2 in the Pacific-10 Conference and 7-6 overall. The Cardinal is now 1-1 in conference action and 9-2 overall.

The Ducks have yet to win on the road — they're 0-5 away from McArthur Court and neutral sites — and although Oregon might have picked up some confidence by playing a good team tough on the road, coach Don Monson still wasn't pleased with the outcome.

"It was a good effort, but a loss is a loss," Monson said. "We played well and came back again and did a lot of good things, but we didn't make the play at the end."

Oregon trailed 45-37 with less than 12 minutes to play, but guard Terrell Brandon brought the Ducks back with eight points, and when Richard Lucas scored on a hook shot with about three minutes left, Oregon had a 53-52 lead.

Adam Keefe, who led Stanford with 23 points, hit two free throws to give the Cardinal a 54-53 lead.

The Ducks took a 56-54 lead on a three-point shot by Kevin Mixon, but Stanford tied the score when Deshon Wingate made two free throws with 1:05 remaining.

Oregon turned the ball over on its next possession and the Cardinal played for the final shot to win.

The Ducks finally got a good game from Brandon on the road, who scored 21 points and four assists.

"Terrell played better and I thought the kids generally played good," Monson said.

Still, Monson hoped his squad would come away with a win.

"I feel for them," he said. "They're young, and inexperience takes over. You have to learn how to win and how to win on the road."

Besides getting a strong game from Keefe, Ammann added 11 and Andrew Vlahov netted 10 for Stanford.

While both teams shot over 50 percent from the field, the difference in the game was on the boards, as Stanford had a 30-19 advantage over Oregon. Keefe had 12 rebounds to pace the Cardinal.

The game was close throughout with neither team leading by more than four points in the first half, when the Cardinal had a 27-26 lead at intermission. The Ducks led most of the half, but 15 points by Keefe helped Stanford come back.

On Friday, California took it at Oregon from the start, and although the Ducks fought back, the Golden Bears ran away from the Ducks to post the 23-point victory.

California jumped out to a 17-4 lead early on, but Oregon pulled within 22-18 on an inside basket from Bob Fife.

The Golden Bears used the three-point bomb to perfection to lead 46-35 at intermission.

California was 5-5 from three-point range in the first half, with Ryan Drew making three and Bill Elleby canning two. The Golden Bears also got a good half from point guard Keith Smith, who had 14 points.

The Ducks came back early in the second half behind the play of Brandon, Mixon and Keith Reynolds to pull within 54-52 on a Reynolds basket. Brandon, Mixon and Reynolds scored all but one of Oregon's points in the run.

However, Smith led California on a 20-6 run with two three-pointers to make the lead 74-58 and Oregon was quickly done for.

Drew, Smith and Elleby ended up a combined 10 for 12 from three-point range to help bury the Ducks. Drew had 23

points; Smith added 20 points and 12 assists while Elleby chipped in 14 points.

"The kids get in and out of the game too much, in and out of spurts," Monson said after Friday's game.

Monson wasn't very happy with his team's perimeter or inside defense as freshman center Brian Hendrick scored 17 points and the Golden Bears were a sizzling 39 of 61 from the field for 63.9 percent.

"Defensively we're not very good," he said. "I'm beside myself because usually I can coach defense. It's not all their fault though, because maybe I didn't do a very good job coaching and getting them ready to play."

Lucas was about the only bright spot for the Ducks, pounding the glass for 18 points and a career-high 17 rebounds.

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