

Sports

Reynolds' performance nets win Scores 21 points as Ducks down Huskies

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

The best way to turn a lackluster Oregon basketball game into an exciting one is to give Keith Reynolds the basketball.

After a sloppy first half that saw the Ducks lead Washington 28-27 in McArthur Court Thursday night, Reynolds took over in the second half, scoring every way imaginable to lead Oregon to a 65-54 Pacific-10 win.

Reynolds scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half, throwing in a three-pointer, jump shots, and even a reverse lay-in where he took off from the left side of the lane, went around the backboard, and kissed the ball of the glass for two.

"We did get hot after halftime," Reynolds said. "Coach (Don) Monson said if they leave you open, to shoot and drive. Once they started playing in, we were going to the basket and scoring."

In the first half Reynolds only took three shots, and, according to point guard Terrell Brandon, "that's ridiculous."

"Like the rest of the team, he had to keep going and get in the flow," Brandon said. "We played good defense in the first half, but weren't playing good offense."

Reynolds admitted that he was surprised that a few of his no-look lay-ins went in.

"Some of them I thought I was fouled on, and just threw it up so I could get two free throws and obviously it just went in," he said.

The win improves Oregon's record to 3-3 in the Pac-10 race and 8-7 overall. Both win figures match the Ducks' entire total from last season, and Monson was very pleased to end a four-game losing streak in the process.

"The first thing I think is that it's good to get a win," he said. "It seemed like a long time since we played Illinois State (the Ducks' last win)."

"This was a typical league game," Monson said. "It was a struggle and their young kids played well."

It didn't hurt matters for the Ducks that Washington point guard Eldridge Recasner, a two-time all-conference player, sat out the entire game with the flu.

However, Dion Brown and Doug Meekins provided the offense for the Huskies in the first half as Washington repeatedly broke Oregon's full-court pressure.

Brown jammed, juked and jumped his way for 12 first half points, including three spectacular dunks. Meekins, the sparsely-used sophomore who just recently worked his way into the starting line-up, chipped in eight points in the opening 20 minutes.

"In the first half we didn't get back on the press and we were standing around on defense," Monson said.

The Huskies jumped out to early 8-2 and 10-4 leads, but a 7-0 run by Oregon, highlighted by a Kevin Mixon three-pointer, put the Ducks ahead 11-10.

From there the two teams pretty much traded baskets un-

til halftime, with neither team leading by more than three points.

A Steve Hall lay-in gave Washington a 27-24 lead with 58 seconds before halftime, but Reynolds hit a long jumper and then Mike Helms, who scored four points in the final three minutes of the half, nailed another long jumper with 10 seconds to go, giving Oregon the advantage.

Brandon, who led the Ducks with seven points and five assists in the first half, said Oregon's slow start was partly because of the Husky defense.

"Washington came in and slowed it down and played a box-and-one and triangle-and-two on me and Keith," Bran-

don said.

The Ducks shot only .455 from the field in the first half (10 of 22) while the Huskies were 13 of 25 for 52 percent. Oregon, however, came out on fire in the second half.

Brandon and Reynolds hit back-to-back three-pointers and Reynolds hit a jumper to give the Ducks a 36-27 lead only 2:10 into the second half.

After Brown's free throw on Bob Fife's fourth foul at the 11:24 mark pulled Washington within 42-38, Reynolds took over.

First he hit two deep jumpers on assists from Brandon. Later

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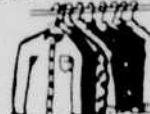
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