

Women lose important tilts in LA

Playoff hopes dim, but Kasperski's back

By Cam Sivesind
Emerald Sports Reporter

Playoff chances look grim for the Oregon women's basketball team after the Ducks dropped two games in Los Angeles Sunday and Friday.

The Ducks fell to Southern California 66-61 Sunday night after losing an even more important battle to UCLA Friday, 79-65.

Oregon, a team tied for third with the Bruins in the Pacific-10 Conference going into last

Oregon knotted the score at 39-39 at the 14:51 mark off a basket by Kasperski. The Trojans took a 41-39 lead on their next possession, and never looked back.

USC steadily increased its lead by going on a nine-point streak that gave them a 48-39 lead with 11:32 remaining.

Oregon guard Jacquie Semeniuk tossed in two free throws to cut the lead to seven, but the Trojans answered with six more points of their own. USC then led 55-41 with 9:38 to go in the contest.

The Trojan lead increased to 15 after forward Linda Kennedy sank a three-point shot at the 5:39 mark. Kennedy finished with 12 points on the night, eight of which came in the second half.

The Ducks fought back behind the tough inside play of forward Trina McCartney and Semeniuk. The duo combined for 10 of the Ducks' next 12 points, and slashed the Trojan lead to two at 62-60 with 1:04 to play.

"The way we came back at the end was real good," Heiny said. "We actually executed the offense for the first time. Trina made some real good drives, and we got the ball into Stefanie, which we hadn't been doing for the whole first half."

McCartney, who saw limited action against the Bruins because of a kidney infection, had

a game-high 17 points on 7-for-11 shooting.

Freshman guard Jom Easterly dropped in four big free throws down the stretch for USC to secure the Trojan victory. Oregon got only one more point off a free throw by Kasperski, and the game ended 66-61.

Forward Tammy Hammond led all USC scorers with 14 while grabbing nine caroms. Easterly finished with 12 points.

For the Ducks, sophomore forward Stacy Wallenborn had 12, and freshman guard Vanessa Selden added 11. Semeniuk hauled in nine boards to lead the Ducks.

Friday night's loss to UCLA was a rough one with Kasperski going out with her injury 10 minutes into the game. McCartney, kidney ailment and all, came off the bench to chip in 10 points.

Wallenborn led the Ducks with 16 points, while senior guard Michelle Eble sank three three-pointers for nine points.

The Bruins' Sandra Van-Embricqs led all scorers with 22 points while catching 14 rebounds.

Oregon was helpless on the boards without Kasperski, and the Bruins grabbed 57 rebounds to the Ducks' 38.

Oregon faces Arizona State Thursday night at 9 at McArthur Court in a nationally televised game airing on ESPN.

Pac-10 Women			
	Conf W/L	Overall W/L	Games Behind
Stanford	14-1	24-1	—
Washington	13-1	22-2	1/2
UCLA	11-4	16-9	3
Oregon	8-6	16-9	5 1/2
California	7-8	15-10	7
Southern Cal	6-9	8-16	8
Washington St.	5-9	13-11	8 1/2
Arizona St.	4-10	12-12	9 1/2
Arizona	3-11	10-15	10 1/2
Oregon St.	1-13	5-21	12 1/2

weekend's action, now finds itself 2 1/2 games back of the third place Bruins.

If any good news can come from any of this, it would be that the Ducks' senior center Stefanie Kasperski, who went out with a foot injury early against UCLA Friday night, came back and played 39 minutes.

Kasperski still managed to do some damage inside accumulating 15 points. She also pulled down seven rebounds in the Ducks' losing effort at USC.

The loss to the Trojans may have been more devastating, since USC is a team well below the Ducks in the Pac-10 standings.

Oregon coach Elwin Heiny blames the loss on poor rebounding and turnovers.

"Rebounding and turnovers was clearly the difference to-night," Heiny said.

The Ducks were outrebounded 40-36, but the edge was more apparent in the offensive boards department, where Oregon grabbed 11 to the Trojans 18.

Turnover numbers were worse as the Ducks lost the ball 21 times compared to the Trojans' 11 give-aways.

The number of shots put up by the Trojans may explain the offensive boards edge; USC threw up 72 shots for the game. USC made 28 of those shots for a poor 38.9 shooting percentage.

Oregon got up 20 less shots on 23-52 shooting for the game and a 44.2 percent mark.

"We knew they were a good shooting team, and we didn't rebound real well," Heiny said. "Their offensive rebounding sort of killed us. We had the ball in our hands and didn't come down with it."

The Ducks were in the game against the Trojans with about 14 minutes remaining, but USC pulled away from Oregon for the win.

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