

SPORTS



Photo by Sean Poston

Oregon center Richard Lucas jams home two of his 19 points on this slam dunk in the Ducks' exhibition win over Brandt-Hagen Sunday.

Club team topped in 'blah' exhibition

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's basketball team built a big lead early and proceeded to hang on for a 92-89 win over Brandt-Hagen, a German club team, Sunday afternoon in an exhibition game at McArthur Court.

Oregon Coach Don Monson said the game was "the blahest game" he's seen at Mac Court in his eight years at Oregon.

"It really was a blah game," Monson said. "There wasn't any crowd and a lot of our players, particularly our young freshmen, were expecting a lot more noise. Hopefully it will pick up as we get into other games."

The Ducks set the tone early, opening with a picture-perfect lob from point-guard Terrell Brandon to a leaping Richard Lucas for a thunderous slam dunk. Oregon ran off eight straight points before Brandt-Hagen finally scored a point.

The Ducks built a 24-point lead in the first half, but had to rely on some clutch free throws by guard Kevin Mixon in the final two minutes to hold off the visiting German team.

Brandon tallied a team-high 21 points on nine of 12 shooting from the floor to lead the Duck attack, and he got some help from Lucas, Mixon and Bob Fife.

Lucas, Oregon's 6-foot-7 senior center, hit his first seven shots from the field and had 15 points in the first four minutes of the game before finishing with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Mixon hit for 16 points, including three three-point bombs while Fife chipped in 14 points and six boards.

The Ducks outshot Brandt-Hagen from the floor for the game by connecting on 36 of 62 shots (.581) compared to the German team's 31 of 64 (.492).

Overall, Monson said he was pleased with his squad's effort but felt that there was definite room for improvement.

"I thought our kids played reasonably well most of the time," Monson said. "I thought we were a very good basketball team for the first six to eight minutes. Defense is still a problem for us, but our kids played hard most of the time."

The Ducks dominated Brandt-Hagen for the first 14 minutes of the game but could only manage three points in the final six minutes of the half and ended the first frame with a slim 42-39 lead.

With six minutes left in the half and a 39-18 lead, Monson emptied his bench and, in the process, let Brandt-Hagen back into the ballgame. The Ducks' bench, which includes five freshmen and a total of six newcomers, struggled on offense and were picked apart by the older, more experienced German team.

"It was my plan to get everybody in the game in the first half," Monson said. "Maybe I played some kids a little too long, but I think that this is the time when they should play."

Brandt-Hagen, a club team

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