

SPORTS

Ducks fall to AIA on buzzer-beater

Oregon loses last-second game again as Porter nails shot

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

It was like deja vu all over again for the Oregon men's basketball team against Athletes in Action Tuesday night.

At least that's how the immortal Yogi Berra would have described last night's events at McArthur Court.

For the second straight game, the Ducks held a slim lead with seconds to go only to lose on a last-second bomb at the buzzer.

On Saturday, it was Jay Peters' three-point buzzer-beater that gave Wisconsin a 72-70 overtime win in Mac Court, and it was Michael Porter's turn in Tuesday's non-counting exhibition game.

Porter, who played his college ball at New Orleans, took a pass from Lorenzo Romar in the corner and buried a 21-footer as time expired to leave AIA with a 93-92 victory, and the Ducks feeling a little snakebit.

The jumper by Porter, which came only seconds after he tied the game with a bomb from the other corner, gave AIA their second last-second win in a week. Romar buried a 30-footer last Friday to push AIA past the University of California Santa Barbara.

Afterwards, Oregon Coach Don Monson and the Duck players could only shake their heads and wonder what they did to deserve such hard luck.

"I really feel for my kids," Monson said. "Our kids played hard and well enough to win."

Senior guard Kevin Mixon, who hit six of 14 three-point attempts on his way to a game-high 24 points, stressed that the Ducks will learn from their hard luck and be a better team down the road because of it.

"The first thing I thought when I got down to the locker room was that we're going to be a good

team," Mixon said. "We'll bounce back and both games will stick in the back of our minds."

Duck captain Richard Lucas admitted being disappointed, but he agreed with Mixon that it won't get the team down.

"We're a pretty resilient group," Lucas said. "It seems impossible but I guess it'll teach us that we shouldn't have teams in that position late in the game."

Leading 84-76 with just under four minutes left, the Duck offense sputtered, allowing an experienced, talented AIA team back into the game.

"They were pressuring our guards," Jordy Lyden said. "They're an experienced team and they made it tough on us."

Losing leads and home ball games are something that good teams cannot afford to do, Monson said.

"We just don't seem to be able to put it away," he said.

Lyden made good in his first start as a Duck by hitting five of six from the floor, including all three of his three-point attempts, and finished with 16 points, four assists and four rebounds.

Chuck Patterson joined Lyden in the Ducks' new starting lineup and turned in a solid eight-point, 10-rebound performance while Lucas tallied his second double-double of the year with 20 points and 10 boards in 38 minutes of action.

The Ducks struggled with their shooting most of the evening, finishing the night with a higher percentage from behind the three-point line than in front of it.

A major reason that the Ducks couldn't put the game away was their meager percentage from the free throw stripe, connecting on only 26 of 40 free throws (65 percent) for the game.

After two Lyden free throws gave the Ducks a 90-87 lead with 16 seconds left, AIA hurried the



Photo by Eric Evans

Oregon guard Kevin Mixon goes up for two of his game-high 24 points in Tuesday night's loss to Athletes in Action at McArthur Court.

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