

SPORTS

Ducks come back for first victory

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's basketball team came out hot, cooled off, got hot again and held off Fresno State to capture its first win of the season, 71-63, at McArthur Court Thursday night.

The Ducks upped their record to 1-1 by using scrappy defense and a balanced offensive attack to surprise the previously undefeated Bulldogs.

The win gives Oregon a much-needed positive in a young season that has been filled with negatives.

"Obviously, I'm pleased for my kids," coach Don Monson said.

After Fresno State scored the first basket of the game, the Ducks went on a 9-2 run and looked in control of the game. The Ducks' hustle on the defensive end seemed to be frustrating the Bulldogs.

But with just under eight minutes left in the first half, Oregon started to tire and Fresno State took advantage going on a 13-2 run to take a 29-22 lead.

During the Fresno State spurt, the Ducks made terrible shot selections and seemed to lose some of their desire on the defensive end. The result was Oregon heading to the locker-room trailing 34-26.

"When you have bad spurts," said junior point guard Andre Collier, the game's leading scorer with 18, "you have to be able to come back and play hard."

And that is exactly what the Ducks did.

Oregon began the half scoring 15 of the first 17 points, including six by senior center Chuck Patterson, to claim a 41-36 advantage with under 13 minutes to play.

Many of the Duck fans were probably wondering if the Ducks would repeat their first half performance and lose the lead.

It looked like they may do just that as the Bulldogs' Davon Satterwhite and Wil Hooker hit back-to-back three-pointers to narrow the Oregon lead to only one point.

But the Ducks picked up their defense, hit some key shots and with 7:30 left held a 51-48 advantage.

Clyde Jordan scored 17 points, but his biggest contribution to the victory was his 15 rebounds.



Orlando Williams scored 14 points in the Ducks' 71-63 win over Fresno State Thursday night.

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