

Ducks lose close one to Huskies

□ Ducks gnaw at Husky lead but miss two last second shots in a 72-71 loss to the 'Dawgs

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

When you're not that good of a team, even the nights you play well turn out lousy.

Such was the case Saturday as the Oregon men's basketball team took Washington down to the wire but lost its fifth game in a row, 72-71 at MacArthur Court.

The loss dropped the Ducks to 1-5 in the Pacific-10 Conference and 5-10 overall. Washington is now 3-2 in the Pac-10 and 9-6 overall.

The Ducks had a chance — in fact two chances — to win the game in the final seconds, but both shots fell off the mark.

With the score 72-71 and 32 seconds remaining in the game, Oregon looked to be playing for the last shot. However, with 15 seconds left, freshman guard Johnnie Reece pulled up for an 18-footer that hit the right side of the rim and bounced off.

Two Husky players were unable to control the rebound and the Ducks regained the ball with nine seconds remaining.

Reece took the inbound pass, made a move to the bucket and then kicked the ball out to junior Antoine Stoudamire. Stoudamire promptly launched a 25-footer that bounced off the rim and out of bounds with three ticks left on the clock.

Reece said he thought he had a chance to be the hero of the game when he took the first of the two last-second shots.

"It felt good when it left my hands," he said. "I thought it was going in."

Coach Don Monson wanted better penetration on the play



Antoine Stoudamire gets the ball past Washington center Rich Manning in the Ducks' loss to Washington Saturday night at Mac Court.

that resulted in Stoudamire's miss.

"We wanted penetration a little bit, and then try to kick it," Monson said. "But he had a good look at the basket. If it goes in you say nice shot."

Reece defended Stoudamire's decision to take the shot.

"Toine was hot all night," he said. "He had a good look at the hoop, he just missed it."

For much of the game it seemed like a two-on-two contest between Reece and Stoudamire and Washington big men Doug Meekins and

Rich Manning.

Meekins was unstoppable, as he buried baseline jumpers all night long en route to 25 points on 11 of 16 shooting.

Stoudamire couldn't believe he missed that many.

"I don't remember Meekins missing a shot all night," he said.

Manning had one of his best games of the year, scoring 26 points on 11 of 15 shooting. Freshman Mark Pope dominated the boards for the Huskies,

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Lillard leads Oregon to win over Arizona State

□ Junior forward scores career high 24 as Ducks exorcise Sun Devils at Arizona State, 78-72

In a season where the Oregon women's basketball team has been forced to count on a variety of different players, Jean Maree Lillard may have figured it was her turn Saturday night.

Lillard, who joined the team a year ago, had a career game Saturday in leading the Ducks to a 78-72 win at Arizona State. The junior played only 24 minutes off the bench but scored a career-high 24 points to help her team.

Lillard, who averaged just under five points a game prior to Saturday, made 8 of 10 shots and 8 of 10 free throws.

The win boosted Oregon's record to 11-5 overall and 3-3 in the Pacific-10 Conference. The Ducks' victory was their third in the last four games and gave Arizona State its first taste of a home loss out of nine games at Tempe this season.

Staci Wallenborn also did her part in giving the Ducks a win. The senior tallied up 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds during the night.

Wallenborn scored 10 of her points during a first half that saw the Ducks secure the lead for good before leaving the court at halftime with a 37-28 lead. Lillard also scored 13 points in the first 20 minutes of the game.

The first half saw Oregon take control of the Sun Devils because of the two teams' shooting. Arizona State connected on a miserable 27 percent of its shots, but the Ducks hit 46 percent from the field.

The difference in the game, though, may have come at the free throw line. Oregon made 28 of 37 (76 percent) shots from the charity stripe, twice as many as the Sun Devils, who hit only 14 of 33 free throws (42 percent).

Missy Stowell was the only other Oregon player in double figures, scoring 11 points.

The Arizona State loss overshadowed an outstanding performance by Reynoldi Becenti, who finished the night with a triple-double. The Sun Devil guard scored 15 points to go along with her 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

Oregon next plays Friday at Oregon State.

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