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## SPORTS

# Oregon burned by Sun Devils, 89-76

By Jake Berg  
Emerald Sports Editor

It was the second half before Arizona State's explosion took fire.

But when it did, the Oregon women's basketball team was the one to get scorched.

The Sun Devils, fueled by a 19-8 run that started the second half, picked up a big 89-76 Pacific-10 Conference win Thursday night over Oregon at McArthur Court.

The loss, the Ducks' fourth in a row at Mac Court, dropped Oregon to 13-9 overall and 5-7 in the Pac-10.

It seemed that nothing would go right for the Ducks Thursday. They finished with 30 turnovers, made only 24 of 64 field goals (37.5 percent), and had Oregon point guard Vanessa Selden foul out with 10:42 still left in the game.

Oregon coach Elwin Heiny said losing the team's floor general was a turning point in the contest.

"Vanessa's absence definitely hurt us," Heiny said. "Really no one stepped in and took over when someone usually does."

Certainly, no players took control of the game, though Missy Stowell did her best to get the team going. It seemed a futile battle.

Stowell finished with a team-high 18 points, as she hit 5 of 6 shots from three-point land.

Early in the first half with Oregon trailing 12-6, two Stowell treys combined with a pair of Selden jumpers put the Ducks in the driver's seat and gave them the lead, 16-15. After numerous exchanges of leads, Debbie Sporcich's two free throws gave Oregon its last lead of the game, 29-27.

By Dave Charbonneau  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon's game with Washington Thursday was a game of streaks, and when it was all over the men's basketball team's road losing streak was extended as the Huskies toppled the Ducks, 71-55 at Hec Edmundson Pavilion.

The loss was Oregon's sixth



Oregon's Cindy Murphy looks up for a lay-in during the Ducks' 89-76 loss to Arizona State Thursday at Mac Court.

But who could have guessed that was the Ducks' last lead then? Maybe Arizona State felt it, because something lit a fire under the Sun Devils' tailpipe, and then they were the ones back behind the wheel.

Arizona State took off on a 15-2 blast that rocketed the Sun Devils ahead, 42-31. Oregon left the court at intermission trailing 47-38.

The good things didn't stop there for Arizona State, either.

## 'Dawg days continue for Oregon in 71-55 loss

road loss in a row, and it was their 10th loss in 11 games.

Washington, who needed a win almost as bad as the Ducks, stormed out of the gate with a 7-0 streak and led 9-2. Oregon came back with a 7-0 run of its own to knot up the score.

Not to be outdone, the Huskies retaliated with seven more of their own and led 18-11 half-

way through the first half.

Washington's work on the boards proved to be the difference at the start as it had six offensive rebounds compared to five rebounds total for the Ducks in the first 10 minutes of the game.

"They kicked us pretty hard on the boards tonight," Oregon coach Don Monson said.

Oregon cut the Husky lead to four, but Washington went on yet another 7-0 spurt to finish the first half up 30-19.

The woes continued for the Ducks in the second half.

Oregon was able to cut the lead to eight early in the half, but the Huskies would not allow the Ducks to get any closer.

Washington forward Chandler Nairn — who is averaging five points a game — finished Oregon off for good with an eight-point run of his own, including two three-pointers and a dunk. Nairn finished the game with 13 points and his spree put the Huskies up 56-40.

From there, Washington built the lead up to as much as 20 as Monson cleared the Oregon bench.

The big story of the game was Oregon's big gun Antoine Stoudamire posting a season-low 10 points.

Monson questioned whether Stoudamire was up for the

The Sun Devils buried Oregon with another barrage of points, starting the half by outscoring the Ducks 23-10 for a 70-48 lead.

The Sun Devils soon took their biggest lead of the game — 73-50 — and with it, a sure win, only their second triumph in the last nine meetings between the schools. The victory also marked the first time Arizona State had ever won at Mac Court in the teams' seven previous matchups.

Oregon won the last meeting 78-72 at Tempe, and Heiny said that may have been the contributing factor to Thursday's loss.

"It's always been one of the worst things — trying to get a team up for a team they've already beaten," Heiny said. "I think we were a little overconfident in the game."

One positive aspect of the game for Oregon was the return of Sporcich to the starting lineup. The sophomore forward played in her first game at Mac Court since Dec. 28, when a foot injury sidelined her for the first half of the Pac-10 season.

Sporcich, who grabbed 10 rebounds and scored six points, was pleased with the start, but she said her homecoming could have been better.

"I just wish we would have won," Sporcich said.

The Ducks get their next chance to do just that Saturday night when Arizona pays a 7:30 visit to Mac Court. Sporcich hopes the Ducks are more prepared for the Wildcats.

"Hopefully it'll be a whole different team out there that wants to win," Sporcich said.

Heiny said the Ducks still have a chance of making a post-season tournament.

"We just have to win the rest of our games," Heiny said.

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