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Hoopsters go 1-2 at Shootout

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's basketball team blew 12-point leads in two consecutive games and lost them both to finish fifth at the Great Alaska Shootout during Thanksgiving weekend.

The Ducks opened the tournament with a 96-73 victory over host Alaska-Anchorage on Thursday night. Early in the game the score was close, but the Ducks scored 14 straight points to pull ahead 26-12.

Forward Clyde Jordan came off the bench to lead the Ducks over the Seawolves, scoring 19 points and pulling down six rebounds. Junior Bob Fife scored 16 points in 23 minutes for the Ducks, and Jeff Potter and Orlando Williams each scored 12 points.

Oregon shot 55 percent for the game, making 22 of 31 shots in the second half. The Ducks out-rebounded Alaska-Anchorage 53-42, led by Potter's nine rebounds.

The Ducks advanced to the semifinals of the Shootout after beating the Seawolves but lost to New Mexico State 86-75. The game gave the Ducks a rare chance to play before a national audience, as the game was televised on ESPN, but Oregon blew a 12-point first-half lead in falling to the Aggies.

Oregon got off to a fast start on Friday night, hitting 52 percent of its shots in the first half, including six of 10 three-point shots. The Aggies shot only 36 percent in the opening half, and the Ducks took a 41-32 lead into the locker room at halftime.

New Mexico State went on a 12-2 run to start the second half and took the lead at 44-43 four minutes into the half. The Aggies outscored the Ducks 54-34 in the second half when Oregon managed to hit only 11 of 31 shots.

Antoine Stoudamire led the Ducks with 21 points and five rebounds in 34 minutes against the Aggies. Williams had another strong game with 16 points, hitting four of nine three-point shots.

Forward Eric Traylor scored 19 points for the

Oregon finished fifth at the Alaska tournament, which marked the official beginning of the Jerry Green era in Eugene.

Aggies, followed by point guard Sam Crawford's 18 points and nine assists. Center Tracy Ware scored 16 points and pulled down a team-high nine rebounds for New Mexico State.

The Ducks built another 12-point first-half lead the following night against Vanderbilt in the third-place game, but they lost again, 83-81.

The Ducks started quickly against the Commodores, shooting 53 percent from the field in the first half on their way to building a 42-35 halftime lead. The Ducks led 34-22 with 4:40 remaining in the half.

Vanderbilt shot 48 percent in the first half but caught fire in the second half when it hit 18 of 27 shots to pull ahead of the Ducks. Unlike the night before, Oregon was in the game until the end when Stoudamire missed a three-pointer as time expired.

Stoudamire led the Ducks for the second straight night, scoring 24 points and pulling down seven rebounds. Williams had his third straight strong effort for Oregon, scoring 17 points and grabbing seven rebounds.

Guard Billy McCaffrey, who transferred to Vanderbilt after playing on Duke's 1991 NCAA championship team, led the Commodores with 21 points, followed by center Chris Lawson with 12 points.

Oregon finished fifth at the tournament, which marked the official beginning of the Jerry Green era in Eugene. The Ducks will be on the road for one more week, as they travel to Fresno State and Pacific this Thursday and Saturday before playing their home opener Dec. 9 against Alaska-Fairbanks.



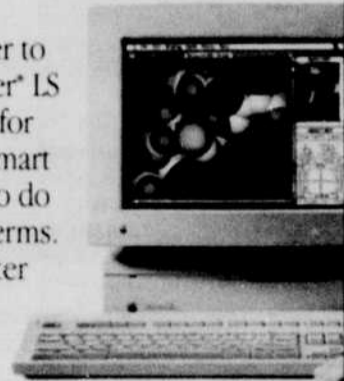
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