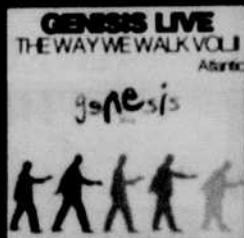


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Ducks drop one more

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

USC's women's basketball team shot 58 percent from the field and outrebounded Oregon 37-19 on its way to defeating the Ducks 80-61 Thursday night at McArthur Court.

The 16th-ranked Trojans (15-4, 9-2) started the game quickly, scoring the first 10 points of the game while holding Oregon scoreless for the first four minutes of the game. USC built a 23-5 lead midway through the first half.

USC's lead got as big as 35-14 with 3:56 left in the first half before Oregon began to put up a fight. The Ducks went on a 13-4 run to finish the first half when they scored on six of their final seven possessions in the half.

Oregon's Debbie Sporcich scored the first two points of the second half to cut USC's lead to 39-29, but that was as close as the Ducks could get in the second half. USC's backcourt of Joni Easterly and Nicky McCrimmon combined to score 25 points in the second half to keep the Ducks at a distance.

Sporcich led the Ducks with 19 points and six rebounds, followed by Jessica Schutt who came off the bench to add 14 points. Easterly finished with 26 points and seven rebounds for the Trojans. USC's 6-foot-5 Lisa Leslie scored 16 points in the first half and finished with 20 before fouling out with 7:13 left in the game.

Oregon has now lost 11 straight games and is 0-10 in the Pacific-10 Conference heading into Saturday night's game against UCLA.

Men lose close one at USC

The Oregon men's basketball team nearly pulled out its first victory of the Pacific-10 Conference season, but eventually fell to USC 73-67 in Los Angeles Thursday.

The Ducks led 64-62 with four minutes left in the game, but the Trojans scored nine-straight points in three minutes to take a 71-64 lead.

At halftime, Oregon trailed 42-37 but was able to trim the lead on the outside shooting of Orlando Williams who hit five three-pointers. Antoine Stoudamire led the way for the Ducks with 25, and Williams finished with 15.

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