

Ducks survive mistakes to sneak past Huskies

By Dave Charbonneau
Oregon Daily Emerald

Scott Didrickson saved Jordy Lyden Saturday night.

Didrickson bricked a three-pointer off the front of the rim with seven seconds left in the game after Lyden missed an ill-advised shot seconds earlier, giving the Oregon men's basketball team a sloppy 61-60 win over Washington at McArthur Court on Saturday.

"I was sitting on the bench just praying they wouldn't score," Lyden said.

The Oregon fans, coaches and players gave a collective wince as Lyden grabbed a long rebound off a Kenya Wilkins miss and launched a 15-footer that bounced off the back rim with 12 seconds remaining, giving the Huskies one last shot to upset the Ducks.

"The ball came right to me and I was so wide open, I felt I could hit the shot," Lyden said. "I should have had more savvy to bring it back out and let them foul me. Luckily, they missed the shot at the end."

Lucky indeed.

After a timeout, Washington guard Amir Rashad brought the ball up the court and penetrated into the lane. He then kicked the ball back out top to Didrickson, who made a questionable

decision and fired up a three-pointer. Questionable because although Didrickson had hit three of seven treys on the night, the Huskies only needed a two-pointer to win the game.

"I thought the shot was in, because he had been shooting well all night," Oregon head coach Jerry Green said. "But I was surprised Amir kicked it out."

Oregon forward Jeff Potter said he expected the shot to go in also.

"It's always been my luck that whenever the other team has shot to win it at the end of the game, it always goes in," he said. "Luckily, it didn't this time."

The ball came off the rim and a mad scramble for the ball ensued. Oregon guard Orlando Williams came up with the ball as time ran out.

An ugly end to an equally ugly game.

From the opening tip, it was obvious that it wasn't going to be pretty. The Ducks fell behind 9-0, committing turnovers on their first two possessions.

After seven minutes, Oregon had only three points and trailed by 10. But the Ducks came back to go on a 12-2 run and tied the game up on Lyden's back-to-back jumpers and acrobatic

layup on the fast break. Oregon led 30-28 at halftime and built the lead to 49-41 midway through the second half.

The Huskies managed to hang close and eventually stole the lead back with a Didrickson three-pointer followed by a Michael McClain drive to the hoop that made the score 54-53 with under six minutes remaining.

Potter and Lyden both hit a pair of free throws to put the Ducks up by three, and Oregon held that margin again when Potter scored on a strong rebound with 1:55 left.

Rashad scored inside, but Oregon forward Darryl Parker retaliated with a rebound basket of his own at the 1:02 mark. Thirteen seconds later, Husky center Maurice Woods scored easily inside, setting up the events of the final 49 seconds.

Although Didrickson and Lyden's shots at the end stand out, the game was loaded with miscues, mental errors and just plain poor displays of basketball.

- Oregon shot a miserable 30 percent from the field in the second half and finished the game at 35 percent.
- The Huskies were equally inept at the free throw line, hit-



Mark McTyre for the Emerald
Oregon guard Kenya Wilkins drives down the lane during Oregon's 61-60 win over Washington at McArthur Court on Saturday.

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