

Arizona letdown results in Husky upset

SEATTLE (AP) — The Washington Huskies aren't going to go through the entire Pacific-10 Conference season without a victory.

"I really believe this is a team that never has thought of themselves as losers," first-year coach Bob Bender said, "despite our record."

The Huskies, a team with more determination than talent, got their first conference success Saturday by beating No. 12 Arizona 74-69. Jason Tyrus scored a career-high 20 points and 6-foot-10 Maurice Woods scored 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Trying to avoid becoming the first Washington team in history to lose 20 games in a season, the Huskies broke a nine-game losing streak and a 12-game Pac-10 skid.

And they did it against the defending Pac-10 champions, who think they're NCAA tournament title contenders this season.

Arizona coach Lute Olson found it hard to be positive. The Wildcats are trying to catch 8-1

UCLA in the Pac-10 race.

"Now, there's very little margin of error left if we want to defend our conference championship," Olson said. "We've got to go 9-0 in the second half and that's a big task."

After winning a tough Pac-10 game Thursday night at Washington State, the Wildcats made the mistake of looking past Washington.

Arizona's highly publicized backcourt of Damon Stoudamire and Khalid Reeves combined for 38 points — 21 for Stoudamire and 17 for Reeves — but it took 42 shots. Stoudamire was 10-for-21, including 1-of-10 three-point attempts, and Reeves was 6-for-21, including 1-of-8 three-point tries.

The Wildcats were behind 36-23 at halftime and tried to get back into the game with full-court pressure in the second half. It didn't work. Washington beat the pressure most of the game and had only 11 turnovers.

When Woods made a layup 18 seconds into the second half,

Washington had a 15-point lead for the first time this season.

The Wildcats (17-4, 6-3) admitted they weren't ready for Washington after an 80-68 triumph in Pullman. It was their third loss in Seattle in four years.

"It was a complete letdown," Reggie Geary said. "Seattle is a place where you've got to get a victory if you're going to win the Pac-10. Now, that's almost impossible for us. We just weren't ready to play."

How big was the victory for Washington?

Bender said it was his best. And he had an NCAA tournament team in 1990, his first of four seasons at Illinois State.

After the game, Bender telephoned coach Mike Krzyzewski at Duke, where he played and then worked as an assistant coach for six seasons.

"Did you hear our score yet, coach?" he asked.

Washington (3-15, 1-8) has nine Pac-10 games left, five on the road, but Bender didn't want

to talk about the possibility of 20 losses, only the Arizona win.

"It was just one win but it was a big win that came at an important time," Bender said. "A little bit of adversity can sometimes prepare you for a victory. You get a little hardened."

Washington didn't get any points from starting forward Sam Allen, who was in foul trouble all day, and starting guard Jamie Booker was out with stomach flu, but Tyrus and Woods picked up the offensive slack. Woods scored 18 points in the second half. Tyrus, starting in Booker's place, got 16 in the first half.

Bender deserves some kind of medal for his positive-thinking approach this season. He hasn't let his players think negatively despite the losses.

"I'm so happy for our kids and our staff," Bender said. "They've really hung in there tough. This team has showed what a real competitor it is. You don't need to get a trophy to prove you're a winner."

CAL

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Murray scored 14 points while the Golden Bears built a 25-9 lead.

Oregon (6-12 overall, 2-7 in the Pac-10) got into the game and brought the crowd with it, going on a 11-3 run to close the first half and getting close at 39-32 at halftime.

The Ducks stayed in good shape for the first few minutes of the second half and trailed just 43-39 with 15 minutes remaining in the game. Kidd responded with the three three-pointers, scoring nine of Cal's next 14 points and feeding guard Monte Buckley on a break-away dunk for two more.

By the time Kidd, Murray and Co. were done, Cal had built a 66-43 lead and canceled any upset plans of the Ducks. California head coach Todd Bozeman said he wasn't surprised when Oregon made its run. Instead, he just waited for his team to respond.

"I knew Oregon would make a run," Bozeman said. "It's just a matter of time. It's whoever has the longest run or the biggest run that wins the game."

Green was disappointed in his team's performance but said he sensed a problem even before the game. Green said players had missed classes and were late for other team functions during the week, which resulted in poor concentration and practices.

"We had our worst practice of the week Friday," Green said. "The consistency is a good showing of how we practiced all week. This week was the first setback we've had this year."

Oregon point guard Kenya Wilkins backed up Green.

"We have to practice hard," Wilkins said. "This week we didn't progress and it showed in the game."

About the only people Green was satisfied with were the fans.

"This is the kind of environment we'd like to play in," Green said. "This is the reason I came to Oregon. I know it can be done. This shows people have pride in Oregon basketball."

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ENTERPRISE

Wrestlers knock off Raiders

The Oregon wrestling team won the first four matches and dropped only two overall in defeating Southern Oregon State 25-6 Saturday in Ashland.

Kevin Roberts continued his great season, getting the Ducks out to an early lead with a win over Brandon Keosky. Chris Jensen followed at 126 pounds, gaining a 12-3 major decision over the Raiders' Ty Sonnen.

Pat Hirai and Cory Sonnen followed with wins for the Ducks at 134 and 142 pounds, respectively. Oregon's Chris Anderson ended the meet by gaining revenge with a win over John Paul Jones, who had beaten him earlier in the season.

The Ducks, 7-4 overall, will be back in Eugene this week to face Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo Thursday night at McArthur Court.