

Women: Arizona stifles Oregon's centers

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Both teams came out sluggish in the first half as neither team shot better than 37 percent from the field.

But the Wildcats got 12 points and nine rebounds from forward Adia Barnes in the opening half to go up 29-23 at the break.

Then Oregon (12-4, 5-2) charged back to start the second half.

Forward Arianne Boyer brought the Ducks back early, scoring 10 of her game-high 17 points in the first seven minutes of the second half, helping to pull Oregon within one point with 13 minutes, 44 seconds remaining.

"I thought Arianne Boyer really played a good second half," Bonvicini said. "She really took the game in her own hands."

"I was just thinking we've got to score, and I think in this game we needed to score a lot more inside, and we needed to drive to the hole more," Boyer said.

After Boyer's heroics, Arizona regained control of the game and pushed their lead to 10 points with a 10-2 run. Guard Lisa Griffith keyed the Wildcat run with two three-pointers.

But Oregon fought back once again.

Guard Natalie Hughes hit a three-pointer to end Arizona's run. Boyer followed with a free throw, and Cindie Edamura scored a layup to make the score

53-49.

The two teams then traded baskets until the Ducks trailed by four with less than 30 seconds remaining. Oregon center Renae Fegent, who was 2-of-10 from the field, nailed a three-pointer from the top of the key to cut Arizona's lead to one.

Following an Oregon timeout, Oregon guard Lisa Bowyer sent Felecity Willis to the line with 29 seconds left. Willis hit both free throws of the one-and-one situation to make the score 60-57.

After another Oregon timeout, the Ducks waited for the last shot, but did not get the one they were looking for. Hughes's 15-footer fell short with 3 seconds left, and Arizona had won its second game at Mac Court in as many years. For Oregon, it lost its first game at Mac Court this season and only its fourth in their last 26.

Coming into Saturday's game, Arizona had more than last season's postseason snub as motivation. Just two nights before beating Oregon, Arizona suffered an 85-76 loss at the hands of the sixth-place Oregon State.

"We lost Thursday and were out-hustled and out-played. It was a must-win game here," Bonvicini said. "We put our backs against the wall, but I like the way our kids respond when our backs are against the wall, and we have adversity."

While Bonvicini was singing

the praises of her team, Runge was not happy with her inside players.

"We couldn't score inside, and we got nothing off the bench from the inside," Runge said.

Oregon's centers combined for just 11 points and eight rebounds.

"We didn't have any posts who rebounded very well," Runge said. "That can't happen. Somebody's got to pull those rebounds."

Prized freshman center Jenny Mowe added four points and three rebounds to the inside game, which wasn't enough for Runge or the Ducks.

"Jenny's not boxing off, and she is not pulling rebounds against a team that is quicker than she is," Runge said. "We've got to get her doing that so she can stay in the game."

While Fegent hit the three-pointer that brought Oregon within one with less than a minute remaining, she was not happy with her performance.

"I had a terrible offensive night," Fegent said. "The three may have given us a chance, but it was a lot too little to late. I had a lot of open shots that I missed, bricked basically."

While Arizona heads home for two games after salvaging a split of the two Oregon schools, the Ducks travel to Los Angeles to play UCLA and USC this week, then to Washington and Washington State the following week.

Wildcats' team defense stymies Oregon offense

■ DEFENSE: Arizona holds Oregon to 57 points and 39 percent shooting

By Ryan Halvorsen

Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team can blame a lot of things when it reviews what went wrong Saturday night against Arizona, but it was all the result of one thing — a tough Wildcats' defense.

Arizona guards stymied Oregon's outside game from the onset. The big Wildcats underneath pushed and shoved the Ducks right out of their inside game, holding Oregon centers Renae Fegent and Jenny Mowe to just seven and four points, respectively, and a combined eight rebounds for the game.

"It was a great defensive game for both teams," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said. "They did a good job of knocking us around. We couldn't score inside."

The only Oregon player to slip through Arizona's defensive cracks was Arianne Boyer as she chalked up 17 points, the only Duck in double figures.

"We knew that we had to key

in on Renae's high post shot and Arianne's fakes and post moves," Arizona forward Adia Barnes said. Arizona's rough play didn't go completely unnoticed as the Wildcats chalked up a total of 19 fouls, but they might have gotten away with more than they should have according to Runge.

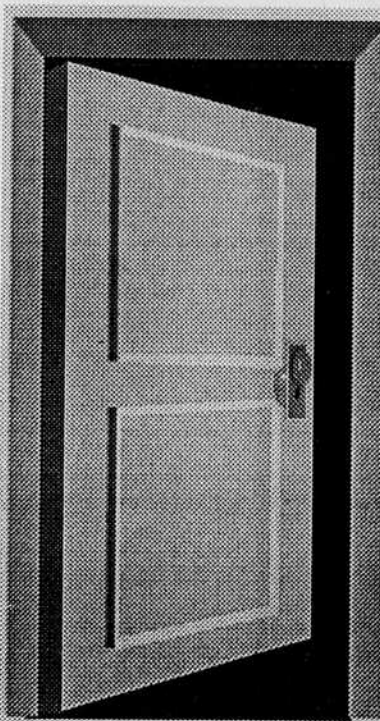
"Arizona had 37 fouls at Oregon State [Thursday] and I asked the refs to please call the fouls, but they weren't," Runge said.

The rest of the team was having a hard time getting up any quality shots too, as Arizona mixed up its defensive sets from man-to-man to a 2-3 zone, using a half-court trap at times and pressing full court on occasion as well. The Ducks were only able to make 8-of-24 shots from the field in the first half, and finished the game shooting 39 percent.

"When we were getting open they would be right there so you had to shoot it fast because they were in your face and other people couldn't get open because they were right there with them," Oregon guard Nicole Strange said.

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