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Men

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it and knocked the ball away. It went directly to his teammate Darius Wright, who dribbled out the remaining seconds, and soon thereafter, was amid a sea of celebrating Oregon students who enthusiastically stormed the court.

Final score: 68-67, Oregon. Consider the ghost of Adam Spanich officially exorcised.

"We played as well as we could have on that last play," said senior forward A.D. Smith, whose 15 points marked the 16th time in 17 games that he has scored in double digits. "We worked on that type of defense since the first day of practice. We ran it perfect."

With the win — in front of 8,593 fans — the Ducks improve to 14-3 overall, and 5-1 in the Pacific-10

Conference. More importantly, the loss drops USC (12-6, 5-1) into a four-way tie for first, with Arizona and Stanford.

"It feels great being first," Jones said. "But with a four-way tie, you can go from first to fourth place in a blink of an eye. To win a game this close is a real boost of confidence."

And this was game was close. Both team's leading scorers — Alex Scales and Brian Scalabrine — recorded 18 points each. Both teams turned the ball over just 12 times. Oregon shot 48 percent from the field; USC 45 percent. The Trojans out-rebounded the Ducks 33-32.

Oregon's largest lead of the game was 66-61 with three minutes and 53 seconds left. But after two free throws by David Bluthenthal with 2:21 to go, the score was trimmed to 66-65.

In this type of game, every

point is precious. And the Trojans were the recipients of an extra point thanks to one of the most unusual calls in basketball.

With 1:02 remaining, Granville was at the free-throw line trying to cut an Oregon three-point lead. His first shot missed as the crowd went crazy — a little too crazy.

All the fans' jumping up and down caused the basket to shake, and officials ruled that Granville would get two more attempts.

But before he could, Oregon head coach Ernie Kent reluctantly used a microphone to instruct the crowd not to jump anymore. Granville made both of his free throws, but they wound up being the last points scored in the game.

"I told the team that the bottom line was to just get the win," Kent said. "We did, and now we have our program in position for some good things to happen."

Williams

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18 points. "He played well against Scalabrine," Kent said. "He forced him out and had good shot pressure. And he was battling from a back injury and mono."

USC was battered after last weeks win against Arizona State when it lost its leading scorer, top reserve to injury.

So Scalabrine shouldered more of the scoring load.

"With Sam out, that's about 15-16 shots we need to make up with different people," Scalabrine said. "I just take five extra shots."

Scalabrine said the Ducks' interior defense wore him down.

"It's a lot easier when we have a guy like Sam here, because I rely on him to get a lot of blocks," Scalabrine said. "But what we have out there is what we have to go with. Oregon is pretty crafty."

Kent said was content with the work his interior defense did on both Scalabrine and forward

David Bluthenthal, who was the Pac-10 player of the week last week.

"For the way Scalabrine and Bluthenthal played last week against Arizona and Arizona State, we did a pretty good job," Kent said. "They're such good players. Every time we broke down, they made us pay. But our defense has won these last three games for us down the stretch."

Scalabrine said he was encouraged that the Trojans stayed in the game, but hurt that they couldn't come away with a victory.

Women

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stead of blocking out. That cost us the ballgame, and it's a hard lesson to learn."

In terms of the Pac-10 title race, Oregon's loss is particularly tough to swallow because Stanford, which remains tied for second with the Ducks, was upset at Washington, 85-83. And Oregon stays in Los Angeles to take on No. 10 UCLA on Saturday.

"We're just going to have to regroup and go play our best game," Runge said.

Down 59-47 with about 10 minutes to play, Brianne Meharry — playing at the small forward position for the first time in her career — hit a midrange jumper off the dish from Williams. Meharry scored again from the paint on the Ducks' next possession. Then fol-

lowing a USC three-second violation, Jenny Mowe sank two free throws to make the score 59-53.

The Trojans began pulling away once more when Mashia and Camille Norwood hit a pair of three pointers. Still, Williams kept her team within 10 with a layin.

Then Oregon started its final comeback. Meharry scored the next four points, and the Ducks soon took a 66-65 lead on a jumper by Nicole Strange.

Down by three points with under two minutes to play, Williams drove to the hoop for the layin and the foul. She iced her free throw, and two possessions later, she sank the final two free throws that almost won the game for Oregon.

Almost.

"We did a great job in that spurt," Runge said. "But on the very last possession we just didn't get the job done."

Along with leading Oregon in scoring, Williams had five assists and four rebounds. Angelina Wolvert, Mowe, Strange and Meharry all had 11 points. Mowe completed an all-around performance with five rebounds and six blocks.

Tashara Carter led the Trojans with 20 points, two assists and three rebounds. Elmore had 13 points and three rebounds, not to mention the game-winning shot.

"They were hot in the first half. Everything they threw up was going in the basket," Runge said. "We were flat emotionally. In the second half [we] came out and played with a lot more intensity."

"I don't have a good answer for the kind of inconsistency we're seeing right now in different halves of the ballgame. I don't think there's something broken, but there are times when we just don't play with a lot of emotion."

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