



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald
Sophomore guard Freddie Jones storms down the court in the Ducks' 76-74 victory.

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way both times," said Wright, whose game-winning shot goes down as one of the greatest in the Ducks' history. "The big guys helped, and the guards did a good job switching. Everyone did a great job on him. I don't know if he was tired or what."

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said he noticed the Ducks' stifling defense wearing on House and effecting his play.

"He worked so hard, his shots were short at times," said Kent, as he savored the Ducks' first 20-win season in 55 years. "We played him well because of our ability to defend by committee."

"But as a team, they've gotten so much better. They don't have to rely on him to score as much any more."

In the first half, it looked like the game could come down to an old-fashioned duel between two of the nation's best. Scales had 11 points at intermission and House tied the game at 18-18, 20-20 and finally 35-35 right before the half with a big three-pointer.

If Scales thought he had a point to prove, the message was clear in the second half. Trailing 45-41, Scales made his first big try with 14:20 left.

Just moments later, with the Ducks behind 51-49, Scales recaptured the lead, 52-51. He then

added two more jump shots to give Oregon a 56-53 advantage.

But no shot was bigger than his final three-pointer.

After House iced the Ducks from the line, giving the Sun Devils a 74-70 lead, Scales received a baseball pass from southpaw Ben Lindquist and hit a huge three that set up Wright's improbable game winner.

Scales said he was surprised with the play Kent opted for at that point in the game.

"I was looking at coach like, 'Why are we doing this?'" Scales said. "We had nine seconds left, and we could have brought the ball up, and had someone run off the curl. But he called the play for us, and it worked. I was fortunate I knocked down the shot."

It was another vintage performance by the Ducks' guard. Scales has been on a tear as of late, including a 30-point romp in a key win at Southern California last Saturday.

Scales said his teammates are the major reason his confidence is sky-high right now.

"As long as my teammates have confidence in myself, I'm going to have confidence in myself," Scales said. "It's just a matter of stepping up. I give credit to my teammates."

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Similar production from Moore wouldn't hurt Saturday, when the Ducks play what is, for now, their biggest game of the season at 1 p.m. against No. 20 Arizona (22-5, 11-4). The Wildcats are currently 1/2 game behind the Ducks. The contest will be televised on Fox Sports Net.

"Lindsey may well have given us everything she can give us for the weekend," Runge said. "We played her way too long, but we just really needed a spark."

"It'll be hard for her to come back against Arizona, she's really limping. But if she can she will; she's a tough, tough kid."

On the inside, Oregon was again solid — and too much for Arizona State (13-12, 6-9).

Collectively, the Ducks' post combined for 26 points, led by Angelina Wolvert's 12 points on 3-of-6 shooting, including a first-half three-pointer.

Obviously, Oregon also needs more of that against the Arizona's Angela Lackey and Tatum Brown.

"Our post players have a tough job in front of them," Dion said. "They've got two very athletic post players who can jump and

score with street-ball skills, they can do the turnaround jumper and the fadeaway jumper and all that stuff, so everyone's gotta bring their 'A' game."

It took overtime for the Wildcats to shake overachieving Oregon State Thursday, 79-77. And Runge was happy to hear it — knowing that the extra period won't benefit Arizona's stamina.

"They aren't going to be able to put as much pressure on as they were able to put on last time [in their 77-63 win at McArthur Court]," Runge said. "Now the big game, it's a chance to beat a ranked team going into the tournament."

The Ducks made 16 of its 19 free throw attempts with 15 of their attempts coming in the second half. Oregon also hit 65 percent of its shots and scored 38 of its points in the latter half of the contest, while holding the Sun Devils to 24 on 30 percent second-half shooting.

The difference?

"It was just us coming together and saying, 'We're not letting go here, we're gonna go for the jugular,'" Dion said. "We pulled it together."

"If we keep that kind of mentality and we play with that kind of intensity we're going to be fine."

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