



Erin Swanson-Davies Emerald

Senior midfielder Melissa Parker makes a move past an Arizona defender Sunday. Parker had the game-winning goal in Oregon's 2-1 upset of UCLA last year in Eugene. The Ducks face the Bruins on Sunday.

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stepped up and scored three goals — all at the feet of junior forward Chalise Baysa — and the Ducks won their second game in four tries.

"When you don't score goals for a while, the hardest thing is to score that first goal," Steffen said. "So when Chalise scored that goal against Arizona State, that was a

great goal because we scored two more against Arizona. We're going to have to build on that and take it into this weekend."

They will have to build fast because the Ducks are about to face two of the toughest teams in the Pac-10.

USC has one of the best records in the league at 8-1-2. Since a 2-1 loss to No. 23 Florida, the Trojans are 3-0-2 and will carry a five-game unbeaten streak into Friday's matchup with the unranked Ducks. In USC's first

Pac-10 game last week against UCLA, the Trojans tied the Bruins 1-1.

UCLA's record is even more formidable than USC's. The Bruins lost 1-0 to No. 5 Clemson to start the season, then rattled off nine straight victories before tying with the Trojans last weekend. UCLA gave up only two goals during that nine-game stretch, and has given up only four goals on the year.

While USC has stumbled against top-ranked opponents, UCLA has

moved up in the national rankings by beating some of the country's top teams. The Bruins beat No. 23 Florida and No. 24 Marquette by a combined score of 9-1.

"SC and UCLA are really good teams," Baysa said. "But I think we'll continue to get better and hopefully we'll surprise them."

If the Ducks do sweep this weekend, the only people who won't be surprised — or satisfied — will be the players themselves.

Blazers steal win in exhibition game

By Landon Hall
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — This is what Shawn Kemp missed the last few years: A team with more talent than it can use, a big man to rebound beside him and a huge crowd cheering him on.

Kemp, still overweight but working hard, scored eight of his 17 points in the final 8 1/2 minutes to help the Portland Trail Blazers pull away and win an ugly preseason debut, 92-84, over the Los Angeles Clippers.

"We needed that," Kemp said of the close game, but he could have said the same about his own performance.

Kemp, acquired in a three-team trade from the Cleveland Cavaliers this summer, was vilified last season for his weight — which topped 300 pounds — as well as his foul trouble and poor work ethic. But Thursday night he drove the lane, dished to teammates and hit shots from the outside, huffing and puffing through 23 minutes.

"I'll play as much as they call my number," he said. "I've just always been that way. If I get to the point where I have 10 rings, maybe I'll cool down."

Kemp looked heavier than his listed 280 pounds. And he got into immediate foul trouble after coming into the game with 4:11 left in the first quarter, picking up four personals by halftime.

But he was in control in the final period. Kemp's 22-foot jumper broke an 82-all tie with 1:39 left, and two free throws extended the lead to 86-82. Los Angeles scored just two points in the final 2:58.

"Four or five years ago, I probably would have kept on fouling," said Kemp, a former preps-to-pros phenom now in his 12th season. "But I cleaned it up in the second half. It's fine to make mistakes, but you can't let that frustration take

over your game."

With the Cavs, Kemp was forced to play center most of the time because of injuries, instead of his natural power forward position. That problem appears to be solved with the acquisition of 6-foot-11 Dale Davis, traded from the Indiana

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Shawn Kemp
Blazers power forward

Pacers to Portland the day Kemp arrived.

Davis had 13 rebounds in 27 minutes.

"That's the luxury I've been looking for the last 12 years," Kemp said.

Kemp also couldn't believe 17,384 people showed up for a preseason game the night after 10,000 attended a free scrimmage.

"In Cleveland we were getting 4,700 a game," he said. "I can totally respect that now. Maybe I didn't respect it as much when I was younger."

The Blazers turn around and go to San Jose, Calif., to play the Golden State Warriors on Friday night.

The Clippers, who were an

NBA-worst 15-67 last season, nearly improved to 2-0 on the preseason.

They led 56-53 at halftime and took their biggest lead at 71-63 late in the third quarter before the Blazers came back. Bonzi Wells got an easy breakaway layup, Stacey Augmon made a 3-pointer and Dale Davis dunked off a pass from rookie Erick Barkley with 1.3 seconds left in the period to pull the Blazers to 71-70.

Blazers coach Mike Dunleavy, expecting a better effort from a team expected to challenge the Los Angeles Lakers for the NBA title, wasn't impressed.

"We need to work on everything," he said. "It was definitely no masterpiece. But first time out of the box, they looked better than they did (Wednesday night)."

Nineteen-year-old rookie Darius Miles was impressive in his second preseason game, scoring 19 points to lead the Clippers. Miles, drafted No. 3 out of East St. Louis High, made 7 of 14 shots and had several leaping dunks. In the second quarter he had two steals and scored four points on consecutive possessions.

Portland's Scottie Pippen, who has taken it easy in camp while preparing for his 14th NBA season, did not play. "It was a game-time decision," Pippen joked in the locker room.

The Blazers also were without center Arvydas Sabonis, who is recovering from surgery on his right foot and won't be back until late in the eight-game preseason schedule.

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