

■ Men's basketball

Oregon's ice-cold shooting proves costly in ASU loss

*The Ducks shoot 28.6 percent from the floor and drop their second straight home game to the Sun Devils*BY JON ROETMAN
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon men's basketball team hoped to give head coach Ernie Kent a victory for his 50th birthday Saturday against Arizona State.

Instead, the Ducks came out of the locker room ice cold and fell to the Sun Devils, 64-51, in front of a sellout crowd at McArthur Court.

Oregon (11-5 overall, 3-4 Pacific-10 Conference) shot 20 of 70 from the floor and connected on a miserable 4 of 34 three-point attempts against Arizona State's zone defense. The Sun Devils (14-5, 3-4) entered the contest on a three-game losing streak, allowing 90.7 points per game during that stretch, but limited the hapless Duck offense to a 28.6 percent shooting clip — including 11.8 percent from three-point range.

"Quite frankly, with this group, I felt like they hit the wall with their rhythm, their energy and their timing," Kent said. "And it's something that we're going to have to push ourselves through."

Oregon found itself down 33-19 at halftime and got within no closer than 10 in the second half. The Ducks looked confused offensively for the second consecutive game, often standing around and forcing long-range jumpers. Even when the Ducks got open looks from the perimeter, they couldn't knock down their shots.

"We were very stagnant," Oregon freshman Malik Hairston said. "We didn't let our offense flow; we played heavy legged and we didn't play with a lot of intensity."

Hairston led Oregon with 17 points but made only 8 of 18 from the floor, including 1 of 8 from three-point range. Aaron Brooks finished with 10 points on 3-of-15 shooting (0-of-6 from three-point range), while Bryce Taylor scored three points on 1-of-10 shooting (1-of-7 from three-point range).

"Defensively, we worked really hard," Arizona State head coach Rob Evans said. "(Friday) we had the hardest practice we've had the day before a game because I was not happy with our defense (of late)."

The lack of an inside game was also evident for Oregon, as post players combined to shoot 3-of-7 from the floor. Forward Ian Crosswhite, who came off the bench for the first time all season after struggling for several games, didn't attempt a field goal and committed two turnovers in 12 foul-plagued minutes.

Crosswhite, who garnered All-Pac-10 Honorable Mention honors last season, was the third big man off the bench — following Ray Schafer and seldom-used Adam Zahn — and didn't enter the game until the 11:52 mark of the first half.

Arizona State jumped out to a 6-0 lead when Steve Moore and Bryson Krueger knocked down consecutive three-pointers against Oregon's zone defense. The Ducks got as close as two at several points in the first half but trailed the entire game.

Oregon did excel defensively, however, limiting the Sun Devils to 36.5 percent shooting. The Ducks also held star center Ike Diogu to a

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ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Bryce Taylor's shot is blocked by Arizona State's Ike Diogu in the Ducks' 64-51 loss at Mac Court Saturday night. Diogu blocked four shots and altered many more in the Sun Devils' victory.

■ Women's basketball

Ducks drop second straight road game to ASU

*The Ducks' Pac-10 record away from Mac Court falls to 1-4 after Saturday's 74-65 loss to the Sun Devils in Tempe*BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

With all the talk of the Oregon women's basketball team being snake-bitten by injuries, an abundance of turnovers over the weekend proved to be the most poisonous venom.

Despite senior Cathrine Kraayeveld's sixth double-double effort of the season, Oregon couldn't outlast Arizona State and fell 74-65 in front of 1,811 fans at Wells Fargo Arena on Saturday.

"We're happy about the way we played, although we came up with a loss," Kraayeveld said. "We were a lot more aggressive and assertive than we were against Arizona."

While the Ducks (12-6 overall, 5-4 Pacific-10 Conference) may be happy with their

performance, they still committed 14 turnovers in the first half and 25 total — one less than their season-high.

Kraayeveld proved to be Oregon's most vital asset with 20 points (7-of-11 shooting) and 10 rebounds in 37 minutes. No other Duck reached double-digits in any category.

"She really had to work for things and she didn't get any clean looks that she usually gets," Arizona State head coach Charli Turner Thorne said. "We did a solid job on her overall."

It was a defensive battle in the first half with the Sun Devils recording seven of their nine blocks in the first 20 minutes.

Arizona State (14-5, 6-3) manufactured a 15-2 scoring run over an eight-minute period in the middle of the first half. Neither

team shot better than 35 percent out of the gate, but Oregon managed to nibble back and tie the game at 19 on an Eleanor Haring jump shot with 1:50 left in the half. The score settled in Arizona State's favor, 23-19 at the break.

"In the first half we were a bit disappointed with the turnovers," head coach Bev Smith said. "It seems to be a consistent part of our game. It's something we have to eradicate."

The Sun Devils figured out how to score in the second half and tip-toed to their largest lead of the game at 55-40 with 4:57 remaining.

Sophomore guard Kylan Loney made three three-pointers in the second half, two of which were five feet beyond the arc. She finished with 13 points.

Oregon shot 3-of-8 from three-point range. All three came in the final four minutes of play with senior Brandi Davis sinking two of them.

"We had a few defensive breakdowns,

in part from our fatigue and the way Arizona State plays," Smith said about the second half.

Senior point guard Corrie Mizusawa saw 55 minutes of action for Oregon and posted eight points to go with game-highs in assists (6) and steals (3). With Mizusawa's final assist of the game, she notched the 300th of her career.

"Our team still feels good about what we created in this game and how we played intensely," Smith said. "There are no moral victories and our team is very disappointed."

Arizona State's 74 points is the second-highest total scored against Oregon this season. Southern California and Washington each posted 77.

The Ducks are now 1-4 against Pac-10 opponents on the road, but return to McArthur Court this week to face UCLA and USC.

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GAME TIME

Thurs., Jan. 27

Men's basketball

Oregon at California, 7:30 p.m.

Women's basketball

Oregon vs. UCLA, 7 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 28

Wrestling

Oregon vs. Cal State Fullerton, 2 p.m.

Oregon vs. Stanford, 7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 29

Women's tennis

Oregon at University of Minnesota Court Classic

Men's tennis

Oregon vs. St. Mary's (Calif.), 11 a.m.

Oregon vs. Eastern Washington, 5 p.m.

Women's basketball

Oregon vs. USC, 1 p.m.

Men's basketball

Oregon at Stanford, 5:30 p.m.

Sun., Jan. 30

Women's tennis

Oregon at University of Minnesota Court Classic

OREGON SCORES

Fri., Jan. 21

Women's tennis

Oregon 6, Portland 1
Oregon 6, Utah 1

Sat., Jan. 22

Men's tennis

Oregon 7, Gonzaga 0
Oregon 7, Linfield 0

Men's basketball

Arizona St. 64, Oregon 51

UO: Hairston 17 pts

ASU: Angounou 20 pts

Women's basketball

Arizona St. 74, Oregon 65

UO: Kraayeveld 20 pts

ASU: Westerberg 26 pts

Sun., Jan. 23

Women's tennis

Oregon 6, UC Irvine 1

REGIONAL & NATIONAL SCORES

Sun., Jan. 23

NFC Championship

Philadelphia 27, Atlanta 10

PHI: McNabb 17/27
245 yds, 2 TDATL: Vick 11/24 133 yds,
1 INT, 4 att, 26 yds

AFC Championship

New England 41,

Pittsburgh 27

NE: Brady 14/21 207 yds,
2 TD

PIT: Roethlisberger 14/24

226 yds, 2 TD, 3 INT