

Simmons' shooting slump ends against Sun Devils

BY TIM BOOTH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — So much for Tre Simmons' shooting slump.

The Washington senior tied a career-high with 29 points and made 6 of 7 three-pointers, and No. 14 Washington held off pesky Arizona State 90-82 Thursday night.

Simmons, Washington's leading scorer at 16.1 points per game, has struggled shooting recently, including a 1-for-11 performance two weeks ago at Oregon.

He had 16 in a win last weekend at Washington State and broke out in a big way against the Sun Devils, shooting 9 for 19.

"I just came out aggressive," Simmons said. "I'm a shooter, that's what I do."

Nate Robinson added 21 points for Washington, including eight in the final 5:20. He punctuated the night on a dunk with three seconds left, as the Huskies survived the Sun Devils' challenge.

"I don't know who we were out there, but they were like Joe Frazier," Washington coach Lorenzo Romar said. "They just kept coming at us and they played at a very high level."

Arizona State's Ike Diogu, leading the Pac-10 in scoring and rebounding, had a game-high 31 points and 15 rebounds. He was 17 for 18 from the foul line and had 24 points in the second half.

"Ike is a grown man playing a college basketball game," Robinson said. "He's like a train going downhill."

Washington (22-4, 12-3 Pac-10)

won its 21st straight home game and stayed one and one-half games behind Arizona in the Pac-10. The Huskies host the Wildcats on Saturday.

Simmons left the court hobbling after diving for a loose ball in the first minute of the second half. Simmons said he fell on his right hip which he had bruised in practice last week.

Less than two minutes later, Simmons returned and ignited a 14-5 run, scoring 12 of Washington's points during a four-minute span. The run gave the Huskies a 58-48 lead, its first double-digit lead of the game.

"You just got to find the shooter. Tre was hot and we just kept feeding him," Robinson said. "You've got to milk them as long as you can."

But Washington could not shake the Sun Devils, who stayed in the game thanks to a 29-for-32 performance at the free throw line. The teams combined for 44 fouls.

Arizona State scored 10 of its next 19 points at the foul stripe and cut the lead to 69-67. Washington pushed the lead back to eight, but eight points from Diogu kept the Sun Devils close, trailing 83-80 with 1:20 left.

Robinson scored on a runner with 45 seconds left. On Arizona State's next possession, Tyrone Jackson was called for a charge, and Washington made 3-of-4 free throws in the final 26.5 seconds.

"We haven't played a game against Arizona State in three years that wasn't physical like that," Romar said. "It's the nature of our

games. We both play an aggressive, attacking style."

Will Conroy added 13 points and Bobby Jones had 12 for Washington. Kevin Kruger had 17 for Arizona State (18-10, 7-9 Pac-10), which lost its fourth straight to the Huskies.

"We played really well. We did everything but win the basketball game," Arizona State coach Rob Evans said. "Key stops at critical times didn't allow us to win the game."

Washington can complete its first undefeated home campaign since 1984 with a win Saturday. Washington's last home loss was Jan. 10, 2004, an 86-84 overtime loss to UCLA.

With wins in their final three games, the Huskies will clinch at least a share of the conference regular season title. Washington hasn't claimed a share of the Pac-10 regular season title since 1985 and have not won a conference title outright since winning the Pacific Coast Conference in 1953.

"We're ready and looking forward to having some fun," Robinson said.

Washington was hoping to get some help from their cross-state rivals Thursday night, but Arizona held off Washington State 57-56 in overtime.

Washington led 44-41 at halftime on the strength of 54 percent shooting and making 7-of-10 three-point attempts. But for only the second time against Pac-10 foes, Washington never led by double-digits in the first half.

Frye contends loss improved Arizona Wildcats' Pac-10 play

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PULLMAN, Wash. — The way Arizona's Channing Frye sees it, getting upset by Washington State last month helped the Wildcats in the long run.

After losing to the Cougars in Tucson, Frye and Co. realized they needed to play better if they wanted to stay in first place in the Pacific-10 Conference.

That lesson helped the Wildcats withstand another strong challenge from Washington State on Thursday night, with Ivan Radenovic sinking two free throws with 9 seconds left in overtime to give No. 9 Arizona a 57-56 victory.

It was the seventh straight win for the Wildcats since losing to Washington State in late January.

"Earlier in the year, we would have lost this game," said Frye, who led all scorers with 26 points, and added eight rebounds and four blocked shots.

"It was the best case scenario in Tucson," said Frye, who made 11-of-13 shots even as Arizona was held 23 points below its season scoring average. "It brought us together as a team and showed us what we've got to work on."

Radenovic, who added 10 points and eight rebounds, said he wasn't nervous as he went to the line with the game on the line and his team trailing 56-55.

"Every basketball player is looking for that moment when he hits the free throws to win a game," Radenovic said.

Arizona coach Lute Olson was also happy to see Radenovic at the line.

"If you noticed, neither one of those touched the rim," Olson said.

Derrick Low's three-point shot for Washington State rimmed out in the closing seconds and Radenovic rebounded for the Wildcats (24-4, 14-2), who won for the 17th time at Pullman.

The win gave Olson 304 wins in the Pac-10, tied with legendary UCLA coach John Wooden for most wins ever in the league.

"It's really an honor for me to have been in here long enough to have the opportunity to tie him," Olson said.

Olson is 41-3 against Washington State.

Washington State (10-14, 5-10), fighting for one of eight spots in the Pac-10 tournament, employed a slow-down offense and the league's best defense snarled Arizona's up-tempo offense.

The Cougars rank seventh in the nation defensively, and best in Pac-10, giving up 57 points per game.

"That's a game that was winnable, that's the hard part," said Washington State coach Dick Bennett. The Cougars were seeking their first sweep of Arizona since the 1982-83 season.

"Channing Frye was the difference, as he has been so many times in the past against us," Bennett said.

Thomas Kelati led the Cougars with 16 points, and also held Salim Stoudamire, Arizona's leading scorer, to eight points, 10 below his average.

The Cougars broke a 38-game losing streak to Arizona with a 70-63 win in January, one of the biggest wins in Washington State's recent history. But the Cougars have lost five of six games since.

The score was tied at 49 at the end of regulation after Frye scored inside with 51 seconds left.

Stoudamire's two free throws gave Arizona a 51-49 lead. A three-pointer by Kelati gave Washington State a 52-51 lead, but Hassan Adams' layup put Arizona ahead 53-52.

Two free throws by Low and two more by Kelati made it 56-53 for Washington State with 2:03 left. Mustafa Shakur replied with a layup for Arizona to close to 56-55.

Robbie Cowgill missed and Arizona got the ball back with 23 seconds left. Radenovic drove to the basket and was fouled by Chris Schlatter. Then Radenovic calmly tied it and put the Wildcats ahead from the line.

At times playing four freshmen, Washington State led 32-30 after the first half.

Two free throws by Frye tied the game at 42 with 7:52 left, and his bank shot gave Arizona its first lead, 44-42.

After Frye powered in for a layup to tie the score at 49, Washington State turned the ball over and Arizona called a timeout with 13.8 seconds left.

Stoudamire dribbled inside as the clock ran down, but was striped of the ball by Kyle Weaver and the game went into overtime.

IN BRIEF

OSU secures first winning season in fifteen years

CORVALLIS, Ore. — David Lucas had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Oregon State clinched its first winning season in 15 years with an 84-83 win over Stanford on Thursday night.

Jason Fontenet added 15 points for the Beavers (15-11, 7-8 Pacific-10 Conference). Nick Dewitz and Sasa Cuic had 12 points each.

Stanford (15-10, 9-6) trailed nearly the entire game and lost to the Beavers for the first time in 12 meetings.

Chris Hernandez led the Cardinal with 29 points on 8-of-18

shooting and 10-of-11 free throws. Matt Harysz added 15 points and nine rebounds.

The Beavers led by nine with three minutes left, but poor foul shooting opened the door for the Cardinal.

But Lucas hit two big baskets and the Beavers made enough free throws to hold off Stanford despite 3-pointers by Nick Robinson and Hernandez in the final 20 seconds.

The Beavers' last winning season was 1990. Led by Gary Payton, that team won the Pac-10 and lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Oregon State, which has no conference road wins, ran its overall home record to 11-1.

The Cardinal won three in a row and nine of their last 11. It remains

in third place in the conference.


The Beavers led 43-34 after a fast-paced first half where they shot nearly 50 percent and made six 3-pointers. The game was tied at 16 when Oregon State went on an 11-2 run that included two threes by Fontenet and one by Chris Stephens

Stanford opened up the second half with a 12-2 run and got within a point when Hernandez converted a three-point play at 14:19.

A key injury and some midseason departures have whittled the Stanford roster down to nine players. Leading scorer Dan Grunfeld was lost for the year when he tore a knee ligament on Feb. 12, but the Cardinal still beat California and then swept the Los Angeles schools.

— The Associated Press

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