

Beavers top Cougars; Ducks fall to Huskies

The Associated Press

Oregon State rebounded from a dismal 0-2 road trip by, well, rebounding.

The Beavers have won the battle of the boards almost all season long, but both Arizona schools outrebounded Oregon State last week. So the squad worked on crashing the glass, said forward Tres Tinkle.

“It’s nice to get back on top of that. It’s something we focused on and we made it count for sure,” Tinkle added.

Stephen Thompson Jr. had 22 points, with four 3-pointers, six rebounds and seven assists as Oregon State defeated Washington State 90-77 on Thursday night.

Tinkle had 21 points and four steals and Ethan Thompson added 20 points and six assists for the Beavers (12-6, 4-2 Pac-12).

“For a lot of minutes we played some good basketball, shared it, moved it, attacked, defended,” said Oregon State Coach Wayne Tinkle.

C.J. Elleby scored 21 points, all in the second half, and Robert Franks Jr. had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Cougars (8-11, 1-5).

“They’re competing like crazy, and that’s very important, but they have a lot more growth potential,” said Washington State Coach Ernie Kent.

Oregon State shot 52 percent and 10 for 27 on 3-pointers, while Washington State shot 50 percent and 12 for 28 from long range. But the Beavers outrebounded the Cougars 39-24 and grabbed 15 offensive boards.

The Beavers took a 49-33 lead after a 9-0 run, capped by a Stephen Thompson Jr. Euro step and lay-in with 1:32 left in the first half.

Oregon State led 52-36 at



Amanda Loman/The Associated Press

Oregon State’s Ethan Thompson slides around Washington State’s Ahmed Ali during the first half Thursday.

the break.

Elleby got hot and helped whittle the deficit early in the second half. A 7-0 Cougars surge, with Jervae Robinson scoring five points, trimmed the margin to 67-58 with 12:35 remaining. But that was as close as Washington State would get.

Kylor Kelley finished with 10 points, seven rebounds and three blocks for Oregon State.

DUCKS’ RALLY AGAINST WASHINGTON FALLS SHORT

David Crisp knew Washington had the right man at the line with the score tied and mere seconds on the clock.

Still, the senior guard chose his words carefully to describe Husky sophomore

Jaylen Nowell’s heroics.

Nowell scored 20 points, capped by three free throws with 1.6 seconds left, and Washington weathered a furious Oregon rally to escape 61-56 on Thursday night.

“First off, this is a bad — I wish I could say it — this is a bad boy,” Crisp said with Nowell standing next to him. “He’s one of the clutchest players I’ve played with and one of the clutchest I’ve seen.”

Nowell was fouled on a desperation 3-point try after Payton Pritchard lost the ball as the Ducks were trying to set up for a final shot with the score at 56. Pritchard then hit Nowell on the arm as he rose to shoot on the run from about 30 feet.

“Matisse Thybulle locked Payton up, and he couldn’t get around him and lost the

ball,” Nowell said. “When I saw the ball rolling on the ground, I just took it and made sure I got a shot up, but when (Pritchard) jumped past me, he grabbed the arm.

“Luckily, the ref called it at that point in time, and I was able to hit the three free throws. I wanted to beat these guys at home and that’s what we came in to do.”

“(With) him at the line, it was a no-brainer,” Crisp noted.

Oregon’s last possession ended with Paul White throwing it the length of the court out of bounds. Thybulle, who had seven assists and three steals, hit two more free throws for the final points.

Crisp added 18 points and Noah Dickerson 11 for the Huskies (15-4, 6-0 Pac-

12), who won their eighth consecutive game. It’s also Washington’s best start in conference play in 35 years.

Louis King had 19 points to lead the Ducks (11-8, 2-4), and Miles Norris added 10 off the bench. Oregon lost a fourth home game in Matthew Knight Arena for the first time since it opened in 2011.

Washington survived despite committing 12 of its 19 turnovers in the second half against Oregon’s relentless full-court pressure.

The Huskies led 51-42 before Pritchard led the Ducks on a 14-0 run over six minutes to go up 56-51, but Oregon never scored again.

The Ducks called timeout with 20 seconds left intending to play for one shot by

either Pritchard or King, Coach Dana Altman said, even if a miss led to overtime. Instead, Pritchard lost his footing and the ball trying to elude Thybulle, and Nowell made Oregon pay for the turnover.

“The spin was what got (Pritchard) into trouble,” Altman said.

Nowell’s three free throws gave him 20 or more points for the fourth time in his last six games.

“Real tough call to end the game,” Altman said. “It was a gut-wrencher and one we’ll just have to fight through. A tough play for Payton. It’s a tough moment for everybody.”

Washington led by as many as 12 in the first half and was up 27-19 at the break largely because of Sam Timmins’ seven consecutive points off the bench. It was the third fewest points in a first half by Oregon this season, and the others resulted in losses at Houston and Baylor.

LOCAL SCHEDULE

Saturday WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

• Walla Walla at Eastern Oregon, 8 p.m.

PREP SWIMMING

• La Grande at LHS January Invite, Veterans’ Memorial Pool, noon

PREP WRESTLING

• La Grande at Reser Tournament of Champions, Liberty High School, Portland, 11 a.m.

• Joseph/Wallowa, Imbler at 1A State Invitational, North Lake, TBD

• Enterprise at RD Brown Invitational, Caldwell, Idaho, TBD

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

• Union at Enterprise, 4 p.m.

• Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 5:30 p.m.

• Cove at Powder Valley, 5:30 p.m.

• Imbler at Pine Eagle, 5:30 p.m.

• Elgin at Griswold, 5:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

• Elgin at Griswold, 4 p.m.

• Imbler at Pine Eagle, 4 p.m.

• Cove at Powder Valley, 4 p.m.

• Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 4 p.m.

• Union at Enterprise, 5:30 p.m.

—Subject to change

Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race kicks off



Adele Buttolph photo

Musher Miriam Osredkar takes off from the starting line of the Eagle Cap Extreme on Thursday at the Ferguson Ridge Ski Area near Joseph. Osredkar is competing in the 31-mile, two-day mid-distance race, racing 31 miles a day. In all, 26 mushers are competing in four different races.

Tiger wrestlers topple Baker

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers wrestling team used nine victories — six by fall — to claim a 46-21 victory over the Baker Bulldogs in a dual Tuesday in Baker City.

La Grande’s best run came in the middle and upper weights, where it picked up pins by Parker Robinson (160 pounds), Grayson Livingston (170), Christopher Woodworth (195), Lincoln Clark (220) and Gabe Shukle (285). The Tigers also had a win by fall from Casey McCall at 138.

LHS’s Ezra McIntosh (120) and Braden Carson (126) earned decisions of 6-0 and 4-0, respectively, and Keith Oswald (152) had a win by a 12-3 major decision.

La Grande is in action today in Portland at the Reser Tournament of Champions.



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