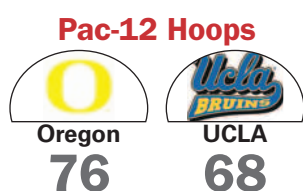


Men's Basketball

Oregon beats UCLA to clinch share of Pac-12 title

By BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer



LOS ANGELES — Tyler Dorsey scored 20 points and No. 9 Oregon rallied in the second half to beat UCLA 76-68 on Wednesday night, giving the Ducks at least a share of the Pac-12 title for the first time since 2002.

Dillon Brooks added 15 points, and Elgin Cook had 14 points, making all six of his free throws for the Ducks (24-6, 13-4 Pac-12), who won their fourth in a row and 10th in 12 games. Dorsey had a team-high nine rebounds, helping the Ducks control the boards, 40-28.

Isaac Hamilton scored 19 points, Tony Parker added 18, and Bryce Alford 16 points for the Bruins (15-15, 6-11). They have lost three straight and six of eight with one game remaining in the regular season.

After leading by 11 points in the first half, the Bruins made a last-gasp attempt to win. Alford, who was 6 of 14 shooting, hit consecutive 3-pointers that got them to 71-68 with 59 seconds left.

After a timeout, the Ducks passed the ball around before Brooks coolly sank a 3-pointer for a 74-68 lead. Hamilton missed a layup and Alford snagged the offensive rebound before turning the ball over with 11 seconds left.

UCLA led by seven points early in the second half before the Ducks scored nine straight to take a 50-48 lead. The Bruins tied it four more times, but never regained the lead.

Alford's 3-pointer put UCLA back in front 23-21 and launched an 18-12 run that ended the half with the Bruins leading 38-33. Alford and Hamilton each had six points in the spurt, with three other players scoring, too.

TIP-INS
Oregon: The Ducks clinched the No. 1 seed for the Pac-12 tourney in Las Vegas. ... F Chris Boucher had three blocked shots to break the single-season school record with 96. ... The Ducks are 15-0 when holding opponents under 70 points.

UCLA: Hamilton has scored in double figures for 26 straight games. He's the only Pac-12 player in double figures in each of his team's league games this season.

UP NEXT
Oregon: Concludes regular season at Southern California on Saturday.

UCLA: Hosts Oregon State in regular-season



Oregon guard Tyler Dorsey (5) reacts after he scores a goal during the second half of Wednesday's game against UCLA in Los Angeles.

AP Photo/Kelvin Kuo

finale on Saturday.

USC 81, OREGON STATE 70 — At Los Angeles, Jordan McLaughlin had 17 points and nine assists as Southern California rode a hot-shooting first half to an

81-70 victory over Oregon State on Wednesday night.

Katin Reinhardt scored 15 points and Bennie Boatwright added 13 for the Trojans (20-10, 9-8 Pac-12), who snapped a three-game losing streak and moved into sixth place in the conference

standings with one regular-season game remaining.

Nikola Jovanovic had 10 points and eight rebounds for USC, which won for only the second time in seven games and improved to 16-1 at home. Southern California

reached the 20-win mark for the first since 2008-09.

Gary Payton II had 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists to lead Oregon State (17-11, 8-9), which dropped to eighth place in conference with one league game left. Stephen Thompson Jr. added 17 for the Beavers, who fell to 1-7 in conference road games.

The Trojans ran off a season-high 56 points in the first half, making 21 of 34 (62 percent) from the field, including 8 of 11 from 3-point range. USC finished off the period with an 18-4 spurt for a 56-33 halftime lead.

TIP-INS
Oregon State: Coach Wayne Tinkle is only the second coach in school history to win 17 games in his first two years in charge. Bob Hager was the first, back in 1923 (19-7) and 1924 (20-5). Gary Payton II came into the game as the only player in the country averaging 15.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 2.5 assists.

Southern California: The Trojans have won 10 of their last 12 home games against the Beavers. ... The Trojans' last five losses were by an average of 13.0 points per game, with the last two by 20 (at Stanford) and 22 (at California) last weekend.

NEXT UP
Oregon State: At UCLA on Saturday.

HERMISTON: James scores 17

Continued from 1B

La Salle grabbed its only lead in the second quarter when Burns scored halfway through the period to push the Falcons ahead 9-8. But Chance Flores hit his only 3-pointer of the game the next time down the floor, and Hermiston jumped right back in front 11-9. The Bulldogs led the rest of the way.

Flores struggled Wednesday night, scoring just seven points, but Andrew James stepped in and led all scorers with 17 points and Austin Naillon added 14. That type of offensive balance had Ego pleased.

Hermiston finished the second quarter on a 13-1 run and never looked back. The lead grew to as many as 16 in the third quarter on Preston Peterson's free throws, sending the Bulldogs into the final period with its biggest lead of the night.

But La Salle came back furiously in the fourth quarter to make things rather interesting.

The Falcons scored 23 points that quarter, more than their point total from the first three quarters (19). The Falcons' shooters — which watched many 3-balls go in and out — got hot in the fourth. Three different Falcons — Robertson (2), Matt Niebergall and Joe Boyd — each hit 3-pointers to grab a slice of the momentum, but Hermiston kept the Falcons at arm's length with aggressive drives and made free throws.

La Salle got as close as seven in the final stanza on Andrew Lam's basket, but the lead was quickly back to 12.



Hermiston's Andrew James looks to pass the ball guarded by LaSalle's Ange Toku in the Bulldogs' 55-42 win against the Falcons on Wednesday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Bulldogs now advance into the 5A bracket where they slot in as the No. 16 seed and will next face off against the No. 1 seed Wilsonville on Saturday afternoon. The tip-off time has yet to be announced.

Despite the low ranking and tough path to the final, Neal and Bulldogs are confident.

"I think we can pull it off,"

Neal said. "Coming from lone, I grew up an underdog. That team got third in state. This team, I think we can take first."

LSP (9-15) 4 6 9 23 - 42
HHS (13-12) 6 15 14 20 - 55
LA SALLE PREP — J. Barnes 10, S. Robertson 8, A. Toku 6, J. B. Boyd 6, A. Lam 5, M. Niebergall 5, M. Berger 2, J. Norton, N. Grogan, J. Lyver, N. Parisse.
HERMISTON — A. James 17, A. Naillon 14, C. Flores 7, T. Neal 7, D. Neal 5, P. Peterson 5, H. Walls.
3-pointers — LSP 6, HHS 4. Free throws — LSP 4-6, HHS 17-26. Fouls — LSP 21, HHS 12.

GOLDEN EAGLES: Condon/Wheeler bumped into consolation bracket

Continued from 1B

let them get at the offensive rebounding and I think that really hurt us in the first quarter."

Nixyaawii was also struggling to find its shot as it went just 1 of 11 from the field to trail 14-4 after one quarter.

The key to turning it all around was defensive pressure, Maddern said.

"We extended our press a little bit and I think those last three quarters were indicative of how our girls played defense."

Nixyaawii finished the game with 20 points off turnovers and outscored Adrian in the paint 20-8. The Antelopes had just eight points off turnovers.

"We kind of beat them at their own game a little bit," Maddern said.

Nixyaawii shot 15-34 (44 percent) from the second quarter on and held Adrian to 6-40 (15 percent) over the same span.

The Golden Eagles now get their chance at redemption against a Country Christian team that beat them 60-36 in the first game of the season. The Cougars punched their semifinal ticket with a 56-32 win over Crane.

"It'll take another great defensive effort (to beat Country Christian)," Maddern said. "They've got multiple kids that can score and so everybody's going to have to be up."

The game tips off on Friday at 6:30 p.m., and

Maddern said his team plans to take advantage of its rest day.

"It was a great physical game (against Adrian) and I think Country Christian's gonna bring more of the same," he said, "so that day off is going to be huge."

AHS (20-6) 14 4 7 5 - 30
NCS (25-2) 4 12 17 17 - 50
ADRIAN — C. Morton 20, A. Hutchings 3, L. Barraza 2, S. Villarreal 2, K. Skerjanec 2, M. Bayes 1, E. Nielson, S. Speelman. (12-52)
NIXYAAWII — M. Stewart 22, D. Maddern 15, K. Melton 5, T. Oatman 4, E. Looney 4, S. Fuentes, A. Farrow, A. Tanasket, S. Fitzpatrick. (16-45)
3-pointers — AHS 4, NCS 3. Free throws — AHS 3-9, NCS 15-23. Fouls — AHS 15, NCS 12.

NORTH DOUGLAS 49, WHEELER 29 — At Baker City, the Warriors owned the paint to knock the Knights into the consolation side of the bracket on Wednesday.

North Douglas scored 30 points in the paint led by forward Dani Baker and Kalli Frieze to give Condon/Wheeler just its third loss of the season.

Baker scored a game-high 20 points and Frieze added 17 and the Warriors (25-4) went on a 15-0 run to end the first quarter and never looked back.

Knights coach Kevin Gramson said Baker was the thorn in their side, though, and seemed to be able to score at will from her post position.

"We had five or six kids take a shot at her, we tried to double her, we just had no answer for her," Gramson said.

The Knights (25-3)

scored the first two buckets of the game to go up 4-0 on shots by Annika Rietmann and Justine Homer, but shot just 11 for 43 (25.6 percent) in the game and trailed by double digits for the last 17 minutes of the game. The score was 26-11 at halftime.

"They were just big and athletic. They challenged every shot and it's just something that we haven't run into before," Gramson said. "We haven't seen anyone near that big."

"I wasn't unhappy with how we played, we just ran into a good team that played well."

Emma Logan led Condon/Wheeler with 12 points and nine rebounds, and Rietmann finished with seven points and four rebounds.

Condon/Wheeler will need to move on quickly from the loss, and plays Rogue Valley Adventist today at 10:45 a.m. in an elimination game.

Gramson said he think the Knights will be ready to go.

"In the locker room I wasn't so sure, but by the time we went to dinner and got back to the hotel I think they're feeling confident," he said.

C/W (25-3) 4 7 9 9 - 29
ND (25-4) 15 11 14 9 - 49
CONDON/WHEELER — E. Logan 12, A. Rietmann 7, B. Dyer 6, J. Homer 2, B. Jaeger 2, A. Carnine, L. Amodt, A. Terland, A. Ramsey, K. Reser. (11-43)
NORTH DOUGLAS — D. Baker 20, K. Frieze 17, R. Black 4, J. Lane 4, S. MacDowell 2, P. Black 2, L. Downie. (18-47)
3-pointers — C/W 3-17, ND 2-7. Free throws — C/W 4-11, ND 11-15. Fouls — C/W 13, ND 11.

2A STATE: Four schools bring both teams to Pendleton

Continued from 1B

Boys Bracket

No. 4 Western Menno-nite Pioneers vs. No. 5 Imbler Panthers, 1:30 p.m. at PCC

The Pioneers come into the game with a 19-8 overall record and average 57.6 points per game and allowed 49.7 per game. The Panthers roll in with a 20-3 record, scoring an average of 52.0 points per game and boast one of the best defenses in the state, allowing just 34.6 points per game.

No. 1 Regis Rams vs. No. 9 Kennedy Trojans, 3:15 p.m. at PCC

Regis comes into the tournament with a 23-3 overall record — their last loss came to Western Mennonite on Jan. 8 — and average 58.4 points per game on offense and 46.8 points on defense. Kennedy

boasts a 15-10 overall record, scoring an average of 50.6 points and allowing an average of 49.2 points. The Rams and Trojans met twice this season with the Rams winning both games by an average of 11 points.

No. 2 Vernonia Loggers vs. No. 7 Burns Hilanders, 8:15 p.m. at PCC

Vernonia stands with a 25-1 record — with its only loss of the season coming in the season opener on Dec. 2. The Loggers boast one of 2A's best offenses, averaging 72.9 points while allowing 45.9 per game. Burns comes in at 21-5 overall averaging 53.8 points and allowing 41.8 points per game.

Girls Bracket

No. 1 Kennedy Trojans vs. No. 9 Bonanza Antlers, 1:30 p.m. at PHS

Kennedy comes in with a 22-4 record averaging

49.2 points per game and allowing 37.4 points per game. Bonanza (21-6) comes in off of a 60-58 win over Vernonia in the first round, and average 46.0 points per game and allow 37.9 points per game.

No. 4 Western Menno-nite vs. No. 12 Imbler Panthers, 3:15 p.m. at PHS

Western Mennonite sits at 20-7 overall, and averages 52.9 points per game and allows 39.7 per game. Imbler (17-7) is coming off a 41-40 upset of Regis in the first round, and average 40.1 points per game and allow 32.6 per game.

No. 3 Burns Hilanders vs. No. 6 Grant Union Prospectors, 6:30 p.m. at PHS

These two Wapiti League opponents are very familiar with each other, facing off three times in the regular season with Burns winning all three by an average of

eight points. Burns (25-2) comes into the game winners of 19 of their last 20 games, and average 59.1 points per game and allow just 34.2 points per game. Grant Union (19-6) averages 53.6 points per game and allows 32.9 per game.

No. 2 Monroe Dragons vs. No. 7 Lost River Raiders, 8:15 p.m. at PHS

Monroe (25-1) lone loss of the season came all the way back on Dec. 12, and won 22 straight to finish the season. The Dragons average 56.1 points per game and allow 32.5 points. Lost River comes in at 23-5 overall and averages 42 points per game and allows 29.6 per game. The two teams faced each other three times this season during Mountain View Conference play, with the Dragons taking all three by a combined 35 points.



In this Jan. 13, 2016 file photo, Grant Union's Kori Pentzer lays up a shot for the Prospectors in the game against Burns.

The Eagle file photo/Angel Carpenter