

Sports

MEN'S CIVIL WAR BASKETBALL

No. 14 Ducks soar past Beavers in 2nd half

EUGENE (AP) — Oregon wasn't about to go down twice in one month against Oregon State.

Especially not with an opportunity to regain a share of first place in the Pac-12.

So with Payton Pritchard and Will Richardson providing the scoring, and an infusion of size for Oregon in this rematch, the 14th-ranked Ducks took over in the second half Thursday night on the way to a 69-54 win over the Beavers.

The victory moved Oregon (22-7) into a tie with UCLA for the conference lead at 11-5.

"There is a lot of ball to be played," coach Dana Altman said. "We don't have anything easy in front of us."

Oregon finishes the regular season next week with home games against California and Stanford.

Pritchard scored 15 of his 23 points in the second half and Richardson added 13 of his 15 points after halftime to spur the Ducks, who had only a four-point lead at the break but started the second half with a 22-4 run to send the Beavers (15-13, 5-11) to their fourth consecutive defeat.

"They got a lot of momentum at the end of the (first

half," Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle said. "We came out in the second half and again some of our guys didn't have that urgency that we needed to have."

Tinkle lamented that his Beavers weren't physical enough to match the Ducks, and certainly this was a different Oregon team inside from the previous meeting. The Ducks welcomed back 6-foot-11 N'faly Dante after he missed the previous nine games with knee tendinitis, and also available for this game was 6-9 Francis Okoro, who didn't play at OSU while attending his father's funeral in Nigeria. Okoro had a team-high six rebounds while Dante added two in five minutes, and his height seemed to impact OSU's inside shooting.

"Coach was all about me coming in to try and play more physical," Okoro said.

Richardson and Pritchard combined for 28 of Oregon's 40 points after the break. Anthony Mathis finished with 13. Those three Ducks were a combined 11 of 21 on 3-pointers.

"They hit some back-breaker 3s, give them credit for that," Tinkle said

Ethan Thompson led Oregon State with 15 points

and Tres Tinkle had 14 points and 10 rebounds. Zach Reichle scored 11 and Kylor Kelly added 10.

Thompson had only two points in the second half as Oregon concentrated its defense on him.

"Ethan put it on us in the first half and we made the call to start doubling him on ball screens and that helped us out in the second half," Altman said. "We got the ball out of his hands a bit."

Oregon led 29-25 at halftime after both teams struggled shooting. The Ducks shot 36% in the first half despite making five of 11 3-pointers, while the Beavers were at 38%.

Mathis led the Ducks with 11 points, including three 3-pointers. He was back in the starting lineup with Chris Duarte out after undergoing a surgical procedure earlier in the day for a broken finger sustained almost a month ago.

Oregon scored the first five points of the second half for its biggest lead to that point at 34-25. The lead was 10 when the Ducks went on a 9-0 spurt, aided by three OSU turnovers in a span of four possessions, for a 45-28 advantage seven minutes into the second half.

Pacers top Blazers

By Jim Johnson
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Pacers are preparing for a playoff run with a starting five that's barely played together this season.

Domantas Sabonis had 20 points and 11 rebounds to lead Indiana to a 106-100 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Thursday night.

Malcolm Brogdon had 17 points, eight assists and six rebounds while T.J. Warren and Victor Oladipo scored 15 points each for the Pacers, who have won four of their last five. Oladipo was playing in his ninth game of the season.

"Tonight was about being consistent and really establishing ourselves, especially that first unit," coach Nate McMillan said. "That group has only played about 100 minutes together this season. That's about three games, so it was really about them working on an identity."

CJ McCollum had 28

"It felt like a winnable game, that's for sure. We had a chance."

— CJ McCollum, Portland Trail Blazers guard

points and eight assists, Gary Trent Jr. scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half and finished with five rebounds, and Hassan Whiteside had 18 points and 16 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have lost five of six.

The Pacers were able to hold off the Blazers' late push to snap a five-game losing streak in the series.

Indiana led by as much as 14 when Warren made a fadeaway jumper to give the Pacers a 96-82 lead with 6:12 remaining.

"We started being aggressive," Sabonis said. "We didn't have enough energy in the first half. We've got a lot of weapons and when we get stops, it's tough to guard us in transition."

Portland then went on an 18-7 run to cut the deficit. After Brogdon made a jumper to give Indiana a 103-93 lead with 1:54 remaining, the Trail Blazers scored seven straight. McCollum's floater made it 103-100 with 30 seconds to go.

Myles Turner drilled a 3-pointer with 9 seconds remaining to seal it.

"It felt like it was a winnable game, that's for sure," McCollum said. "We had a chance. Probably shouldn't have let them get that run, but we were able to withstand it and come back."

The Trail Blazers went on a 10-1 run late in the first half to push ahead.

McCollum made a 3-pointer to give Portland a 42-40 lead with 3:13 to go in the second quarter. After a free throw by Oladipo, McCollum made another 3 and then a fadeaway to put the Trail Blazers in front 47-41.

Portland led 49-43 at halftime.

PAC-12 MEN'S BASKETBALL

Last-second 3-pointer lifts UCLA over Sun Devils, 75-72

By Joe Reedy
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Jaime Jaquez had practiced driving down the floor and hitting the game-winning shot plenty of times in a park while growing up. On Thursday night he got to do it for real.

The UCLA freshman hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key with .6 seconds remaining to give the Bruins a 75-72 victory over Arizona State and a share of the lead in the Pac-12 Conference.

"It is something you dream about a lot — battle for first place and hitting the shot. To do it tonight was amazing and an unreal feeling," said Jaquez, who was one of five UCLA players in double figures with 18 points.

Tyger Campbell tied it at 72 with a free throw in the final minute but the Bruins

were called for a lane violation on the second attempt. Arizona State's Remy Martin — who scored a game-high 30 points — missed a 3-pointer, which set the stage for Jaquez's game-winner.

UCLA coach Mick Cronin didn't call a time out after Martin's miss because he didn't want Arizona State to come out with a zone defense. Cronin said the original plan was for Campbell to drive into the paint and hopefully draw a foul.

"At the end you have to trust your players," said Cronin, who is in his first season with the Bruins.

The Bruins (18-11), who were 8-9 and 1-3 in the conference at one point, have won six straight and 10 of their last 12. They are tied with Oregon atop the conference at 11-5. UCLA hosts Arizona on

Saturday before finishing the regular season at Southern California on March 7.

"This is a tremendous win for our team. It was a great game. We made one more play," Cronin said. "We are trying to build faith in our team and the fan base. We're still a bubble team and we have to rest up. That's the reality of our situation."

Arizona State (19-9) — which beat UCLA by 18 in the first meeting on Feb. 6 — had its seven-game winning streak snapped and is a half-game back at 10-5. The Sun Devils last two losses have come on last-second shots.

"We have really been on the right side of many of these games," Arizona State coach Bobby Hurley said. "It was a tough contested shot. I just wish one of our guys had that opportunity."

Trojans beat cold-shooting Arizona

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Onyeka Onkongwu scored 11 points, including a three-quarters court shot, and grabbed 10 rebounds as Southern California gave its NCAA Tournament hopes a boost with a 57-48 victory over Arizona on Thursday night.

Trailing 21-20, Elijah Weaver hit a jumper and a 3-pointer and Okongwu finished the 8-0 run with his long shot as the half ended for a 26-21 lead. The Trojans (20-9, 9-7 Pac-12) didn't give up the lead after that as the Wildcats suffered through a miserable offensive performance, making just 3 of 26 3-point attempts and getting just one more field goal than their turnover total of 15. They came into the game as the conference's high-scoring team at 78.1 points per game but left with their lowest point total of the season.

A basket by Stone Gettings got Arizona (19-9, 9-6) within three points with just under four minutes left in the game but the Trojans went 7 of 10 at the line over a

1½-minute span for their biggest lead of 11 with 26 seconds remaining while the Wildcats missed six straight shots.

Beside the freshman Onkongwu's 11th double-double, Jonah Matthews scored 14 points for USC with five rebounds. The Trojans shot 43%.

Arizona's Zeke Nnaji scored 15 points with 10 rebounds for his conference-leading 13th double-double. Nico Mannion added 11 points but on 2-of-14 shooting, including 1 of 7 on 3-point tries. The Wildcats shot just 28%.

The Wildcats never got on track. They were 2 of 15 from the arc and shot only 8 of 31 overall for 26% in the first half and just 1 of 11 on 3-pointers in the second half while shooting 31%.

After USC got the game's opening basket Arizona went on a 9-2 run only to be answered by an 11-0 surge from the Trojans that began a 16-5 run over 11 minutes.

No. 21 Colorado falls to unranked Cal

By Michael Wagaman
Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Back-to-back losses against unranked teams have Colorado coach Tad Boyle questioning his team's confidence as much as its defense.

First-year California coach Mark Fox, on the other hand, is celebrating a signature win that he called the Golden Bears' best of the season.

Matt Bradley matched his career highs of 26 points and five 3-pointers, and California pulled away in the second

half to beat No. 21 Colorado 76-62 on Thursday night.

"Our defense has left us," Boyle said. "We let them make nine 3s. They're not a great 3-point shooting team but they are against us because we let them. Our defense does nothing to dictate the tempo of the game, does nothing to make them feel uncomfortable."

Boyle had similar issues with the Buffaloes after a loss to UCLA last week that dropped Colorado three spots in the rankings.

They had a chance to turn things around against California but fell behind by double digits in the first half and never recovered.

Now those hopes of a Pac-12 championship, which seemed so strong a week ago, are razor thin.

"We're not panicking at all. It hurts right now but we're going to move on," McKinley Wright IV said. "I still think we're one of the most-feared teams in the Pac-12, regardless of tonight's loss and the last loss against UCLA."



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