

Ducks Hold Off Dukes to Advance to CBI Semis

EUGENE, Ore. – Garrett Sim led all players with a season-high 20 points and the Oregon men's basketball team held off a late rally in a 77-75 win over Duquesne in the College Basketball Invitational quarterfinals at Matthew Knight Arena on Monday night.

Oregon (18-17) will host Boise State in the CBI semifinals at Matthew Knight Arena on Wednesday night.

Sim became the fourth Oregon player to score 20 points in a game this season. Three other UO players contributed double-digit points as Joevan Catron scored 14, E.J. Singler tallied 11 and Malcolm Armstead finished with 10. Catron led all players with 11 rebounds for his second-consecutive double-double. Armstead and Jonathan Loyd tied for the team lead with four assists.

Duquesne jumped ahead, 13-6, in the first 5:10 of play, but Oregon responded with a 30-11 over the next 10 minutes to go up 36-24 with 4:42 to go in the opening frame. Sim spurred the onslaught with 12 first-half points on 5-of-8 shooting as the Ducks took a 43-34 lead into the locker room at the break.

The Ducks opened up a 44-34 lead early in the second half on a free throw, but the Dukes responded with a 15-6 spurt that pulled them to within one at 50-49. A free throw by Catron and a layup by Loyd extended the lead to four, but a Mike Talley tip-in made it 53-51. Back-to-back three-pointers by JayR Strowbridge and Armstead made it 59-51 with 10:40 to play, the largest Oregon's lead would get the rest of the way.

Duquesne cut the deficit to three points on three occasions over the next three minutes, but the Ducks answered each time. Sim made three-straight free throws to make it 65-69 with 7:44 remaining, Catron tapped in a miss to make it 67-63 with 6:03 left and two Armstead free throws made it 69-64 with 5:17 remaining.

Sim followed with two more free throws to make it a seven-point game with 4:19 left, but a three-pointer by Bill Clark drew the score within four. DU got the score to 75-74 with 10 seconds to play on a Clark layup and Singler followed with two free throws to make it 77-74 with seven seconds left. With 1.7 seconds on the clock, Johnson drew a three-shot foul, but missed the first free throw. After making the second attempt, Johnson intentionally missed his final, but Catron was there to grab the rebound and secure the win.

Duquesne shot 48.3 percent from the field and held Oregon to 39.3 percent from the floor. The Dukes also drained 13-of-28 three-pointers (46.4 percent) against the Ducks' 9-of-25 (36 percent) mark from deep. The Ducks did hold a decisive, 41-31, advantage in rebounding and connected on 20-of-26 (76.9 percent) of their free throws while the Dukes went only 4-of-8 (50 percent).

Wednesday's contest against the Broncos tips off at 7 p.m. at Matthew Knight Arena.