

Behind The Beavers Beat

UTEP 70, Oregon State 63: Game 3 to decide title

Posted by Carlos M. Silva Jr., Special to The Oregonian April 01, 2009 21:26PM

EL PASO, Texas -- The more than 8,000 fans that filled Gill Coliseum were enough to help Oregon State to victory Monday night, but the sixth man wasn't available two days later when the team traveled 1,700 miles to El Paso.

Roeland Schaftenaar (17 points) and Calvin Haynes (10 points) tried to lead the way for the Beavers, but it wasn't enough to counter Stefon Jackson's 28 points as Texas El-Paso beat Oregon State 70-63 in the second game of College Basketball Invitational finals in front of a sellout crowd of 12,000 at the Don Haskins Center.

With the best-of-three series tied 1-1, the teams will play Friday night at UTEP for the tournament title.

"I certainly expected this place to be full and rowdy," Oregon State coach Craig Robinson. "We had every chance to win the game."

The scoring of Schaftenaar was crucial in Oregon State's 24-16 run to open the game. Schaftenaar scored 12 points in the first half. The Miners countered with a 12-2 run in the next five minutes. Oregon State closed the half with a 7-4 run that was capped by a Haynes layup, giving the Beavers a 35-30 halftime lead.

Oregon State (17-18) shot 50 percent from the field in the first half, but struggled to make three-point shots against the Miners' 3-2 zone defense. The Beavers were 4 of 14 (28.6 percent) from three-point range in the first half, compared to 44percent in the first half of Monday's 75-69 victory in Corvallis.

"We missed a lot of the three-pointers that we usually knock down," junior guard Seth Tarver said. "We missed a lot of easy shots."

Defensively, Oregon State stayed with what worked in the first game of the series: its 1-3-1 zone defense. The Beavers' defense again gave UTEP trouble, limiting the Miners to 37.5percent shooting from the field in the first half.

The second half began as a back-and-forth affair. Both teams struggled to find their shooting stroke for the first eight minutes, but OSU used a quick 4-0 run to take a 44-40 lead with 11:38 to play.

It seemed like the Beavers had UTEP on the ropes, but they forgot about Jackson. The senior guard's quick drive earned a three-point play after dunking while being fouled by Schaftenaar with 10:54 to play.

The Miners (23-13) went on a 14-2 run to pull away, capped by a Randy Culpepper layup that gave UTEP a 54-46 lead. Oregon State ended the run with a Haynes three-pointer. It began a 9-4 run which brought the Beavers within 58-55 with 3:54 left.

The teams traded baskets for the next three minutes, leading to a free throw shooting contest in the last 30 seconds.

"It's going to come down to who wants it the most," Robinson said of Friday's game. "It is really the last game now. Both teams have guys who are tired, banged up and hurt. What you saw are two good teams who are hustling their butts off."



AP Photo/Victor Calzada

Oregon State's Roeland Schaftenaar, right, hits Texas-El Paso defender Wayne Portalatin on the side of the head as Schaftenaar drives to the basket during the first half of the second game of the College Basketball Invitational best-of-three championship series, Wednesday, April 1, 2009 in El Paso, Texas.

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