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Ducks and Bluejays meet in Game One of CBI Championship Series

By Sports Network
 The Sports Network

The first of a best-of-three series in the Championship Round of the CBI Tournament will tip-off this evening when the Creighton Bluejays host the Oregon Ducks from the Qwest Center Omaha. The series will switch to Eugene on Wednesday for game number two. Game three will also take place in Eugene on Friday if necessary.

This is just the second-ever meeting between the two schools on the hardwood, and the first since 1974. In the lone meeting, the Ducks claimed a 75-64 decision over Creighton in a game played in Portland.

The Ducks reached the title series by defeating Boise State, 79-71 in the semifinals. Prior to that, Oregon took down Weber State (68-59) and Duquesne (77-75). The Ducks have now won five of their last six matchups and are one victory away from a 20-win campaign.

As for the Bluejays they have breezed through their first three games of this tournament, defeating San Jose State (85-74), Davidson (102-92) and finally UCF (82-64) all by double figures. All three victories came at home where the Bluejays are 18-3 on the season. That bodes well for Creighton since in the four-year history of this event the home team has an overall ledger of 45-19.

The Ducks simply overpowered the Broncos in their last matchup, and they did most of their damage in the first 20 minutes, as Oregon posted a 50.0 percent shooting effort, which included an 8-of-16 clip from behind the arc. However, Oregon did not stop there, as the team shot 50.0 percent in the second stanza as well, finishing off Boise State rather easily. Joevan Catron, the team's leading scorer and rebounder (15.5 ppg, 6.7 rpg), led the way with a double-double of 24 points and 11 rebounds. The Second-Team All-Pac-10 member received help from E.J. Singler and Malcolm Armstead, who tallied 18 and 10 points, respectively. Singler has been the second best option on the year for Oregon, as the forward is contributing 11.7 ppg and 5.6 rebounds per game. Singler has been even more dangerous in postseason play, averaging almost 17 points per game (16.8) over the course of the Pac-10 Tournament and this event.

Creighton opened with a 15-2 run and never looked back, as the Bluejays pounded UCF, 82-64. The Bluejays shot a sizzling 57.7 percent from the floor in the contest and also performed well defensively, recording 25 points on 19 UCF turnovers. Gregory Echenique was one of five players in double figures, as the center tallied 19 points. Doug McDermott added 16 points, and so did Antoine Young, who completed a double-double with 10 assists. Josh Jones and Kenny Lawson Jr. helped Creighton's cause by netting 11 points apiece. McDermott and Young have been the one-two punch leading the way for Creighton since the start of the season and the two players have increased their efforts in this event. On the season, McDermott is leading the Bluejays with 15.0 ppg and 7.6 rpg, while Young is helping out with 13.3 ppg, and a team-best 178 assists.

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