

Heidegger scores 27; UC Santa Barbara beats Montana 80-73

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Max Heidegger scored 27 points to lead UC Santa Barbara to an 80-73 victory over Montana on Tuesday night in the Progressive Legends Classic championship.

Heidegger was 7 of 14 from the field and 13-of-16 shooting from the free-throw line. Leland King II added 20 points for UC Santa Barbara (3-2). Jalen Canty had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Ahmaad Rorie scored 20 points to lead Montana (3-2).

The Gauchos started on a 25-9 run and led 38-27 at halftime. Montana answered in the second half with a 21-8 run and led 48-46 with 13 minutes to play. Rorie scored five points during the stretch.

Canty scored eight points and Heidegger added seven during a 15-0 surge, and the Gauchos regained the lead, 59-48. The Grizzlies cut the deficit to four points, 72-68, with three minutes to play but didn't get closer.

The four-team tournament started Monday night. Montana beat Oral Roberts and UCSB defeated Pepperdine in the openers.

UC Santa Barbara controls 2nd half, beats Pepperdine 92-84

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Max Heidegger scored 24 points and UC Santa Barbara led the entire second half in a 92-84 victory over Pepperdine on Monday night in the Progressive Legends Classic sub-regional.

Heidegger was 8 of 16 from the field, including four three-pointers. Leland King II had 19 points and Marcus Jackson added 16 for UC Santa Barbara (2-2). King and Jackson each made three 3-pointers.

Kameron Edwards had a career-best 27 points for Pepperdine (1-3). Colbey Ross chipped in a career-high 25 points. Both teams shot better than 50 percent from the field, but Heidegger, King, and Jackson combined for 10-of-21 shooting from long range compared to the Waves' 5 of 12 from 3-point range.

The Gauchos had a double-digit lead for most of the second half. Edwards scored six points and Ross added four as part of a 14-7 surge to pull Pepperdine to 81-74 with 1:36 remaining, but the Waves didn't get closer.

It was the 73rd meeting between the teams, but the first since 2007-08.

Ross scores 21 to help Pepperdine slip past Oral Roberts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Colbey Ross scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half to help Pepperdine overcome a 15-point deficit and beat Oral Roberts 80-76 on Tuesday night.

Ross, a freshman who scored a career-high 25 points in a win over UC Santa Barbara on Monday, finished 7-of-10 shooting, including 2 of 4 from 3-point range, hit 5-of-6 free throw and had six assists. Kameron Edwards scored 14 points before fouling out with nearly four minutes to go and Trae Berhow had 12 points and eight rebounds for Pepperdine (2-3).

Ross scored 16 points — including the final 11 — during a 20-7 run that gave the Waves their first lead, 64-62, since midway through the first half with nearly seven minutes to play. Albert Owens made two layups as Oral Roberts took a one-point lead about two minutes later, but Edwards converted a 3-point play to spark a 10-4, during which the Golden Hurricane made just one field goal, over the next four minutes to make it 77-72 with a minute to go. Emmanuel Nzekwesi was fouled as he hit a jumper that pulled Oral Roberts within two points with seven seconds left, but missed the ensuing free throw and Jade' Smith made two foul shots — his only points of the game — to seal it.

Nzekwesi had 17 points and Owens scored 16 to lead five Oral Roberts players in double figures.

Pepperdine trailed 40-33 at halftime but shot 61.5 percent (16 of 26) in after the break.

Montana hangs on for 69-64 win over Oral Roberts

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Ahmaad Rorie scored 18 points and dished out six assists to help Montana hold off Oral Roberts for a 69-64 win Monday night in a Legends Classic sub-regional matchup.

Montana (3-1) opened up a double figure lead early in the second half but had to hold off Oral Roberts down the stretch. Sam Kearns hit a 3-pointer for Oral Roberts with 29 seconds left in the game to cut the gap to 65-62 but Montana sealed the win with Rorie and Fabijan Krslovic each going 2 for 2 from the line down the stretch.

Michael Oguine added 14 points and Karl Nicholas had 11 for Montana, which broke away late in the first half with a 10-3 run and carried a 31-24 advantage into the break.

Austin Ruder hit five of Oral Roberts eight 3-pointers and led the Golden Eagles with 19 points. Kearns finished with 10 points.

Averette, Oklahoma State crush Oral Roberts 91-48

By JOHN TRANCHINA

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Brandon Averette has put in a lot of time in the gym working on his 3-pointer, and it showed Thursday night.

Averette scored a career-high 21 points, hitting 4 of 6 shots from 3-point range, and added nine assists and four rebounds to lead Oklahoma State to a dominating 91-48 victory over Oral Roberts.

Mitchell Solomon had 12 points — all in the first half — along with seven rebounds and three assists, and Thomas Dziagwa and Zack Dawson each scored 11 for Oklahoma State (3-0).

"He's a kid who's earned this," Cowboys coach Mike Boynton said of Averette. "He truly embraces the 'Let's work' mentality that we've had since Day One. He spends as much time in that gym as any basketball player I've ever been around. No one spends more time working on their game and he's starting to bear the fruits of his labor."

The Cowboys continued to employ their stifling, pressuring defensive style, limiting Oral Roberts to just 33.3 percent shooting (20 of 60), including 16.7 percent (3 of 18) from 3-point range. This marks the first time since the first three games of 2014-15 that Oklahoma State has held opponents under 35 percent in three consecutive contests.

"Coach Boynton's instilled in us that we can win games even if we don't shoot well, if we play well on the defensive end," said Solomon, who also had three blocks and one steal in 25 minutes of action. "We've been putting a lot of focus into that and practicing it every day, and it's shown."

Albert Owens had 16 points and six rebounds to lead Oral Roberts (1-2).

"We didn't shoot it well," said Oral Roberts first-year head coach Paul Mills, "with 3 for 18 from the 3-point line, and 2 for 12 from one of our better shooters (Austin Ruder). Those things add up. (Oklahoma State) had a lot to do with that." Oklahoma State is still without its best player, senior guard Jeffrey Carroll, who has not suited up yet this season "pending the ongoing review of the men's basketball program," according to a school press release.

The matchup featured Cowboys assistant coach Scott Sutton facing his former team, where he was head coach for the previous 18 seasons and set the Golden Eagles record with 328 wins.

"Scott's terrific," said his replacement, Mills, who was a longtime Baylor assistant. "He's a fantastic coach, he is a fantastic person and he's gone over and above in regards to helping me in the transition at ORU."

The game was part of the Progressive Legends Classic tournament, which includes many teams throughout the country and continues over the next eight days.

BIG PICTURE

Oral Roberts: Owens looked good in the first half, playing like the pre-season All-Summit League first-teamer he is, but had just two in the second until the game was well out of hand in the final four minutes. His basket early in the second half game gave him 1,000 career points, becoming the 34th ORU player to hit that mark. Owens reached the milestone in his 98th career game, the 28th fastest in Golden Eagles history.

Oklahoma State: As strong as they've looked on the court, Oklahoma State continues to deal with disciplinary issues. In addition to Carroll's absence, the Cowboys have not utilized the services of junior guard Davon Dillard, who averaged 5.7 points and 3.2 rebounds in 13 minutes per game last season. Dillard sat out his third straight contest for "failure to meet team standards," according to the school. Sophomore forward Cameron McGriff was also held out of the first half as a disciplinary measure for being late to the morning shootaround. He finally entered the game with 17:31 remaining and played the rest of the contest, totaling eight points and seven rebounds.

"We have standards and rules," Boynton said. "He was late today and that's part of the deal. It's a lesson learned, certainly something we want to try to nip in the bud. Cam's a great kid . but the standards don't get lowered in this program for anybody. Everybody has to follow the same rules."

TURNING POINT

Austin Ruder's 3-pointer with 7:28 left in the first half pulled Oral Roberts to within 30-24, but Oklahoma State reeled off a 14-3 run over the rest of the half, including nine points in a row to close it, to take a commanding 44-27 advantage into the break. The Golden Eagles didn't get closer than 15 points the rest of the way.

DELAY

With 11:54 remaining in the contest and Oklahoma State leading 61-34, action was delayed for 17 minutes because of a scoreboard malfunction. First, the buzzer stayed on for about a full minute straight, then the shot clock and scoreboard shut off. Arena personnel were unable to repair the system and eventually play continued with it off. The PA announcer alerted everyone when 10 seconds were left on the shot clock, and reported the score and overall time remaining during stoppages.

Oklahoma State beats Pepperdine 78-47 in Boynton's debut

By JOHN TRANCHINA

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Even without their best player, Oklahoma State had no problem with Pepperdine on Friday night.

Lindy Waters scored 14 points and pulled down seven rebounds as Oklahoma State gave Mike Boynton a victory in his coaching debut, 78-47, in the season opener for both teams.

Kendall Smith, a graduate transfer from Cal State Northridge, scored 10 points and had eight assists, as well as three steals, in his first game for Oklahoma State, which had five players score in double digits.

"We all just stepped up, whether it was offensively or defensively," said Waters, a sophomore who averaged 5.7 points and 1.8 rebounds per game last year. "We didn't really focus on the offense, we focused on defense and it rolled over and it just helped us offensively."

Cowboys star guard Jeffrey Carroll, who averaged 17.5 points (ranking third in the Big 12 Conference) and 6.6 rebounds last year, did not play. A statement released by the school about four hours before game time stated Carroll was "being withheld from play pending the ongoing review of the men's basketball program."

"I can't say a whole lot other than, obviously, it's part of an ongoing investigation and hopefully, we have it resolved some time soon," Boynton said of the situation. "We'd all like to move past it."

The 35-year-old Boynton, who served as an assistant coach on Brad Underwood's staff for three years at Stephen F. Austin and last year with OSU, won his first game as a head coach at any level.

"I'm extremely proud of our team, for the way we played," said Boynton, who was presented with the game ball by his players after the game. "The win is obviously really big. . I'm most proud of the way we defended, so if we continue to make strides in that area, I feel good about where this team can go."

Trae Berhow scored 13 points and had eight rebounds to lead Pepperdine.

Oklahoma State limited the Waves to just 28.3 percent shooting (13 for 46), including 18.8 percent (3 for 16) from 3-point range.

"Kind of surprised at us, more so of our lack of poise than our lack of discipline," said Pepperdine coach Marty Wilson. "I didn't expect that from our side. I'm more disappointed at what we didn't do and I thought we were nervous."

The game was part of the 2017 Progressive Legends Classic tournament, which runs over the next two weeks and culminates Thanksgiving week at Texas A&M.

BIG PICTURE

Pepperdine: The Waves remained competitive in the contest for most of the first half before Oklahoma State blew open a close game. It was good to see Amadi Udenyi, who missed most of last season with a torn Achilles tendon, back on the court. In 23 minutes, Udenyi scored two points and had two assists. Kameron Edwards, who missed all of last year with a fractured jaw, scored seven points, with four rebounds, in 24 minutes of action.

Oklahoma State: The Boynton era got off to a nice start, as the new-look Cowboys, who lost three of their four leading scorers off of last year's squad (and sat the fourth), showed flashes of the same up-tempo offense and pressuring defense that helped them go 20-13 and set a new school record with 85.7 points per contest.

The mysterious situation with Carroll is worrisome, though, depending on how long he is held out of the lineup and what the investigation ultimately uncovers.

TURNING POINT

After Berhow sank a 15-foot jump shot with 5:45 remaining in the first half, Pepperdine trailed just 22-18, but Oklahoma State responded with a 12-3 run to end the half, taking a 13-point lead into halftime. The Cowboys then came out of the break with a game-defining 17-4 run to build a 26-point advantage when Mitchell Solomon sank a 10-foot jumper with 12:41 to go.

TIP INS

Oklahoma State forced 17 turnovers while limiting Pepperdine to just six assists. The Cowboys had 18 assists of their own, turning the ball over just 10 times. . With the win, Oklahoma State has now won 23 straight season opening games and 42 consecutive home openers, as well as 10 non-conference home contests in a row. . Pepperdine is 6-21 in season-opening road games, and has lost eight straight such contests dating back to 1997-98.