

Saturday February 2, 2019

UNC 36, Oregon 25

UNC pulls away from Oregon

Each team came out firing on Saturday. Oregon hit 2 early 3's, thanks to Daniel Liberti (10 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist) and Evan Johnson (5 points). Aaron Quinn also hit a lay-up early in the quarter. However, Nash Rieselmann (14 points, 10 rebounds) carried UNC early, also hitting a 3 pointer, and then dashing to the basket for an And-1. Dylan Franusiak also snagged a rebound and basket to give UNC their first lead of the game late in the quarter. At the end of the 1st quarter, UNC led 10-7.

UNC leaned on their size to disrupt nearly every Oregon shot. The big-men combination of Nash Rieselmann, Dylan Franusiak, Andrew Barnes and Zack Smith combined for 34 points on the night. In the 2nd quarter, UNC began to pull away. Rieselmann continued to quarterback his team, running and spacing the floor, finding open teammates. Dylan Franusiak and Andrew Barnes also did a great job of cleaning up the scraps, notching baskets as well. At half-time, UNC held a 20-10 lead.

The 3rd quarter saw Zack Smith catch fire, scoring 4 points by working hard in the paint. Dylan Burd also joined the scoring party, hitting a jumper after Andrew Barnes hit a 3 pointer. The size of UNC made it difficult for Oregon to get into the paint consistently. At the end of the 3rd, UNC led 29-15.

Oregon did make things interesting in the 4th quarter, cutting the deficit to 9 halfway through. Evan Johnson and Connor Burkestone each hit 3's to gain some momentum. Andrew Barnes answered the 3's back with 2 strong drives to the basket to regain a double-digit lead. With 2 minutes left, Daniel Liberti hit back-to-back fancy lay-ups—adding a little extra spin on the ball to get it to fall. However, Nash Rieselmann knocked down the exclamation point with a minute remaining, as UNC won 36-25.