

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Oregon 45, LSU 39

Oregon Wins In Wild Finish

Oregon and LSU played in a great back-and-forth affair on Saturday evening, answering each other's shots and plays in lock-step. Nick Argenio (11 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist) of LSU returned with a vengeance, scoring 5 points, including an early 3-pointer to remind the league that he was still a threat to be wrecking with. Dylan Burd (4 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist) of LSU also got off to a hot start, scoring 4 points off hard takes to the basket. However, Oregon was playing just as hard, as Chad Himmelback (6 points, 7 rebounds) had a huge game in the paint, scoring 4 points in the opening frame. Thomas Polek (12 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 6 steals, 1 block) also did the what he does best, as he attacked the hoop by scoring 6 points during the quarter. Connor Lembke (2 points, 1 rebound) also hit a nice jumper in the frame. At the end of first quarter, Oregon led 14-11.

Each team continued to exchange blows in the second and third quarters, playing about as evenly as possible. Landon Calvert (17 points, 4 rebounds) of LSU and Derek Jelen (16 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists) of Oregon were on FIRE Saturday, exchanging baskets left and right. Over the course of the two quarters, Calvert dropped an incredible 17 points, attacking the basket and using great moves away from the ball to get open. Derek Jelen dropped 14 points in the frame, and hit two silky three-pointers to help keep the game tied. In the third quarter, Joseph Holman of LSU hit a deep three-pointer, and then Nate Schaefer (3 points, 1 rebound, 3 steals) of Oregon answered back with a banked in three. Heading into the 4th quarter, LSU held a 35-34 lead.

The 4th quarter featured great defense from both teams until the final minute of the frame. With 2 minutes remaining, Oregon held a 39-37 lead. For LSU, after receiving an offensive rebound from Romeon Alriche (2 rebounds, 3 steals), Nick Argenio dribbled out to the top of the key, made a great behind the back move, and drilled a 15 foot jumper with a hand in his face to tie the game. After this moment, however, Oregon took over.

In the span of 45 seconds, Oregon created a 45-39 lead, thanks to a nice take by Thomas Polek, and two great moves and baskets in the paint by Tristan Fox and Chad Himmelback. With this quick transition, Oregon blew the game open. Thomas Polek and Jacob Smith (2 points, 1 rebound, 3 steals) held onto the lead by making key defensive plays down the stretch, securing the victory for Oregon.

Oregon defeated LSU, 45-39. On each team's first offensive possession of the game, each team elected to take an 8-second back-court violation's in honor of Kobe and Gianna Bryant, and all others who lost their lives last Sunday. Kobe Bryant's "Mamba Mentality" is what many of our Rec Staff grew up with when playing basketball in our leagues as children, as it taught many of the workers to always play hard, regardless of the score and outcome.

Saturday was about more than just playing basketball.