

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

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## UW wins physical battle with Northridge, 80-66

 By **DAN RALEY**  
 P-I REPORTER

Ryan Appleby, accompanied by a trainer, walked to the locker room with four minutes remaining in the first half, suffering back spasms. Moments later, Artem Wallace crashed to the floor, sending a concerned gasp through the crowd, and limped to the bench. Almost on the heels of that play, Matthew Bryan-Amaning went up for a lob pass and dunk attempt and landed hard on the ground.

There was more. Early in the second half, on one particularly rugged possession and in a matter of seconds, Venoy Overton, Jon Brockman and Tim Morris as defenders were each knocked on their backsides separately with no fouls whistled.

With 4.2 seconds remaining, Justin Dentmon struggled to get off the floor, needing the help of a trainer to reach the bench while suffering leg cramps.

On Saturday afternoon at Hec Edmundson Pavilion, the Washington basketball team was treated to a non-conference game against Cal State-Northridge and a test of roster survival. The Huskies made it through this pre-holiday interlude fairly intact, banking an 80-66 victory while dealing with assorted pains and bruises, none believed to be serious.

"I think it's time for a little break," Brockman said. "I think our legs are starting to feel it. We need some time with family. It's Christmas."

Brockman still had enough energy left to lead the Huskies (7-4) with 21 points and 10 rebounds, drawing offensive support from Dentmon's 18 points, Overton's career-best 14 and Morris' 13.

These guys pretty much had to go the distance without Appleby, who felt his lower back tighten up after he dished the ball to Dentmon. Averaging 19 points coming in, the senior guard wound up taking and missing just one shot and going scoreless in his abbreviated stint. He tried to play again in the second half, but didn't last long.

"It was, 'Somebody foul somebody, so I can get a sub,' " Appleby said of the moment his injury occurred. "I wasn't helping anyone out there."

It was a strange game all around for him. In the brief time he was on the floor, the noted long-range shooter faced a box-and-one defense for the first time since high school, forcing him to pass to teammates rather than zero in on the rim.

Appleby originally injured his back this past summer, preparing for the Huskies' trip to Greece. He was able to play only after taking medicine for four or five days. He intends to do the same and be ready for the UW's next game, Saturday at LSU.

In this outing, Cal State-Northridge (7-3) was an overmatched opponent, but it was difficult convincing the Matadors of that. The black-shirted visitors from the Big West Conference led only twice, at 2-0 and 4-3, but played a physical brand of basketball that allowed them to hang with the Huskies until just seven minutes remained to be played.

When shoved, they shoved back. When there was a loose ball, they often got there first. Their defensive intensity clearly stymied the Huskies at times.

"They were a good team," Overton said. "They competed. They never backed down."

The hometown crowd, announced at 9,128 but maybe a thousand or two fewer, spent much of the second half booing the officiating crew, displeased with the physical nature of the game.

The Matadors were trailing just 58-54 when Jacob Jenkins knocked down a 3-pointer from the right side with 7:42 remaining, quieting the arena momentarily. Jenkins led his team in scoring with 17 points.

The UW, however, responded with a 13-1 run to end all the suspense and wear down Cal State-Northridge, with Morris getting it started with a 3-pointer launched from the top of the key.

"On the road, victory favors the team that makes the fewest mistakes," Matadors coach Bobby Braswell said. "You can't make the kind of

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## Huskies flex muscles

John Boyle  
By John Boyle

SEATTLE - First, it was Cal State Northridge's defense that prevented Ryan Appleby from putting on another long-range clinic. Later, it was a balky back that slowed the senior guard who had drained 17 three pointers in his first three games back from a thumb injury.

So with Appleby not able to provide an offensive spark, Justin Dentmon and Venoy Overton came off the bench to combine for 32 points and go 6-for-7 from 3-point range.

That, along with another typical game from Jon Brockman (21 points, 10 rebounds) was more than enough for Washington in an 80-66 victory over the Matadors on Saturday afternoon.

"He couldn't go in there and really do any damage, but some other guys stepped up and hit threes and did a nice impersonation of him, so that was nice to see," said Washington coach Lorenzo Romar.

And while Appleby, who came into the game averaging 19 points, attempted only one field goal in 14 minutes, plenty of 3-point opportunities were available for his teammates, especially Overton. The freshman guard scored a career-high 14 points, going 5-for-5 from the field and 4-for-4 on 3-point attempts.

"They were leaving me open," Overton said. "After one shot I heard their coach say, 'We'll take that.' It seemed like they were putting more pressure on App and the other guards, so they left me open and my shot was going tonight I guess."

The Matadors probably felt like they could get away with leaving Overton open, seeing as he came into the game shooting 20 percent from long range.

"I'm a way better shooter than my numbers," he said. "I know I can shoot the ball but I've just been having some terrible shots and picking my shot selection kind of bad. But I know I can shoot it. If I keep my confidence up I know I can stroke it."

Appleby, meanwhile, was happy to play the role of decoy when he was on the floor. With the Matadors using a box-and-one defense to keep him from getting open shots, other players had scoring opportunities and converted. As a team, the Huskies shot 52.9 percent on 3-point attempts, their second-best total of the season.

"For us, it's kind of like, 'All right, we'll play four-on-four then,'" Appleby said. "So really I was trying to stay out of the way and play the weak side and just reverse the ball when I could. When they're going to do that, it makes it easier for everyone else to try to score. We've got good players. It's not like our guys can't make shots and can't make plays, and they showed they can do it tonight. As long as we win the game, that's fine. If they want to try to take me away and play four-on-four and we win the game, that's all that matters."

Dentmon, who recently lost his starting position, played Saturday like he wants back into the starting five. The junior guard made five of seven shots and finished with 18 points and five rebounds. He had a game-high 13 points at halftime as the Huskies built a 42-33 lead.

"I'm trying to get my spot back," said Dentmon, who limped off the floor in the final minutes with leg cramps. "I'm playing hard and trying to play defense. That's what (Romar) said I've got to focus on. Sometimes I get off track on defense and so I've just got to continue to focus and I should be back in there one of these days. I can't just sit back and settle with this game. I've got to continue to play hard in practice and continue to show that I can be a defensive stopper."

Washington's nine-point halftime lead nearly vanished in the second half when Northridge opened the half on a 7-0 run. The Matadors never tied the score, but continued to hang around for a while before the Huskies eventually put the game away with a 22-9 run that turned a three-point nail-biter into a 16-point game with five minutes to play.

From there the Matadors were never able to get closer than 12 points. Still, despite a third straight win, Romar wasn't completely happy with what he saw.

"I don't think we made a big step today," he said. "I don't feel like we improved defensively. I thought there were times we did a really good job and forced them to turn the ball over and take bad shots, but I didn't think it was where we can look back and say 'Hey, we made another huge step.' I don't think that's the case."

## Santa Clara is no match for Minnesota, falls 68-50

**San Jose State men end losing streak; Oregon stunned**

**Mercury News Staff and Wire Reports**

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Brody Angley had 15 points, but it wasn't nearly enough for Santa Clara to keep pace with Minnesota, which cruised to a 68-50 victory in Minneapolis.

Dan Coleman led the Gophers with 20 points and a career-high six steals as Minnesota extended its winning streak to five games. The Gophers finished with 18 steals.

"We did some good things tonight, but we just did not take care of the ball," Santa Clara Coach Kerry Keating said. "We outrebounded them, and we slowed the pace down and held the score down. But if you have that many turnovers it is difficult to win. You have to credit Minnesota; they work hard and create offense out of defense."

Lawrence McKenzie added 11 points for Minnesota (8-1), which is off to its best start since the 2000-2001 season, when the Gophers entered the Big Ten season with a 12-1 record.

These Gophers have the chance to be 11-1 heading into conference play if they can win all three games in next week's Duel in the Desert in Las Vegas.

In addition to Angley's contributions, John

Bryant and Calvin Johnson each had 10 points for Santa Clara (7-5), which has lost its last two games by a combined 44 points.

Santa Clara pulled to within 38-28 early in the second half on a drive by Angley. But Minnesota responded with a 12-2 run and the Broncos didn't seriously challenge again.

San Jose State 68, Presbyterian 64 : San Jose State used a 15-0 first-half run to defeat Presbyterian College at the Event Center and end a four-game losing streak.

Center Chris Oakes and guard Justin Graham each scored 13 points for the Spartans (4-5). Forward DeVonte Thomas and guard DaShawn Wright added 11 points apiece.

"Presbyterian hadn't shot the ball well so far on its trip," San Jose State Coach George Nessman said. "We were concerned about that. They got some shots to fall coming out in the second half. But we weathered the storm.

"We need to keep getting better. We need to develop an attitude where we can put teams away and knock them out when we get them down."

Oakland (Mich.) 68, Oregon 62 : Greg Kampe has been coaching at little-known Oakland University longer than any of his players have been alive.

None of it prepared him for Saturday night.

His Golden Grizzlies overcame a 20-0 second-half run and stunned No. 23 Oregon - the first win over a top-25 team in school history.

Kampe started at Oakland in 1984, when the program was still in Division II and called the Pioneers.

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"This is the most important game in my 24 years here," said an emotional Kampe. "People might say, 'You beat Michigan and you won an NCAA tournament game,' but this is the biggest."

UCLA 69, Michigan 54 : Josh Shipp scored 15 of his 19 points in the second half for No. 8 UCLA.

The Wolverines (4-8) led by as many as eight points in the second half, but couldn't keep up with UCLA (11-1) down the stretch.

Kevin Love had 17 points and 16 rebounds for UCLA, while Luc Richard Mbah a Moute added 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Arizona 74, San Diego State 58 : Jordan Hill had 15 points and 10 rebounds as No. 19 Arizona won its sixth consecutive game.

It was the third double-double of the season and second in a row for Hill. The 6-foot-10 sophomore was 6-of-7 from the field to lead the Wildcats in scoring for the third time in four games.

Jerryd Bayless had 15 points, Chase Budinger added 13.

USC 78, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo 55 : Daniel Hackett scored 19 points, O.J. Mayo added 18 points and No. 25 USC did its typical excellent job on defense.

The Trojans have held eight consecutive opponents to 62 points or fewer, tying a similar eight-game stretch from Dec. 2-28, 1950.

The Trojans clinched the victory by outscoring the Mustangs 11-1 in the first three minutes of the second half for a 49-27 lead.

Notre Dame 84, USF 76 : Up by 23 points 7:24

before halftime, Notre Dame appeared headed for an easy victory. But the Dons rallied to cut the lead to five points five times in the second half before losing.

"I think sometimes our guys and even our building thinks, 'Well, it's going to be one of those where everybody plays,'" Irish Coach Mike Brey said.

Instead, all five Notre Dame starters played at least 28 minutes.

Washington 80, Cal State-Northridge 66 : Jon Brockman had a double-double of 21 points and 10 rebounds and Justin Dentmon came off the bench for 18 points to lead Washington.

Fresno State 75, Pacific 58 : Kevin Bell had 24 points, six rebounds and five assists as Fresno State pulled away in the second half.

Louisiana State 67, Oregon State 61 : Marcus Thornton scored all but two of his 20 points on three-pointers, the last with 12 seconds left, to lead the Tigers.

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