

CSUN back on top of Big West

By Roman Veytsman Special to the Daily News
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One moment, Cal State Northridge was in complete control. The next moment, Big West lightweight UC Riverside was giving the Matadors the business. And then, all was back to normal.

CSUN (17-6, 9-2) almost blew a 21-point lead but outplayed the Highlanders over the final five minutes and hung on for a 73-61 victory Saturday at the Matadome.

With Pacific losing its past two games, including a 14-point loss to second-place Cal State Fullerton on Saturday, CSUN is percentage points ahead of the Titans (10-3 in the conference).

"I felt like, toward the end of the game, we stuck it out and we bounced back," senior Jonathan Heard said.

Riverside (5-17, 2-9) went on a 21-2run to get within 52-50 before Matadors junior Josh Jenkins took over. Jenkins scored 15 of his career-high 18points in the second half.

CSUN didn't make a 3-pointer until 5:38 remained, when Jenkins knocked one down to give the Matadors a 55-50lead. He would get two more, as CSUN outscored Riverside 21-11 to end the game.

"I didn't shoot the ball so well in the first half and I've been working on my shot every day," Jenkins said. "So I felt like I'd give it a chance to see if it was (working in the second half) ... and it was."

The Matadors forced 26 turnovers and outscored Riverside 29-11 in points off turnovers.

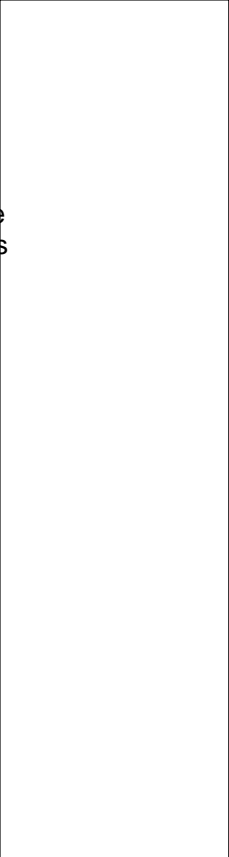
CSUN held Riverside to no field goals and just one point in the final 9:49 of the first half and first 1:50 of the second half.

That helped CSUN go on a 12-1 run and take a 38-22 lead.

Its biggest lead of the game came at 50-29 with 12:11 left.

Reserve guard will not play again this season

Backup point guard Paul Wayne will



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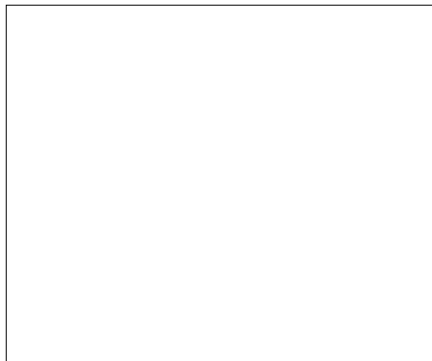
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DUCKS

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miss the remainder of the season
because of personal reasons.

Wayne, who missed the trip to Pacific
and UC Davis last week to attend to a
death in his family in Washington,
started eight games this season and
was averaging 4.5 points and 2.3
assists per game.

INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

Josh Jenkins scores 18 to help Cal State Northridge down UC Riverside 73-61

The Associated Press

Sunday, February 17, 2008

LOS ANGELES: Josh Jenkins scored a career-high 18 points Saturday to help Big West Conference leader Cal State Northridge withstand a UC Riverside second-half rally and post a 73-61 victory.

Jenkins made three 3-point field goals as part of a decisive 19-5 run late in the second half for Northridge (17-6, 9-2 Big West). He also finished with seven assists and a career-best six steals.

Jonathan Heard and Calvin Chitwood scored 12 points apiece and Deon Tresvant added 10 points for the Matadors.

Larry Cunningham had 15 of his 22 points in a 21-2 run that pulled Riverside (5-17, 2-9) within 52-50 with 6:27 remaining. Northridge went scoreless for a span of 4:26 and didn't have a field goal for 6:43.

Christian Soto and Aaron Scott scored 13 points apiece for the Highlanders.

Northridge built a 34-20 halftime lead, not allowing a Riverside point for a 9:40 span that extended into the second half. The Highlanders also failed to score a field goal for 11:39, by which time Northridge held a 38-22 lead.

Tremaine Townsend's eight-foot bank with 17:33 to play was the 100,000th point in Northridge history. He finished with eight points and 10 rebounds.

Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-sp-southland17feb17,1,3226250.story>
From the Los Angeles Times

SOUTHLAND ROUNDUP

Akognon, Cutley each score 24 as Fullerton beats Pacific, 92-78

From Times Staff and Wire Reports

February 17, 2008

Josh Akognon and Scott Cutley scored 24 points apiece to lead Cal State Fullerton to a 92-78 victory over Pacific on Saturday at Fullerton.

Frank Robinson and Marcus Morgan each had 13 points for the Titans, 17-7 overall, 9-3 Big West Conference, who have won three games in a row and seven of eight.

James Doran came off the bench to score 12 points for the Tigers (17-8, 8-4). Steffan Johnson also scored 12 points and Bryan LeDuc had 10 points.

After Chad Troyer's three-point basket got Pacific to within 66-58 with 9:38 to play, the Titans went on a 15-7 run for the game's biggest lead at 81-65 with 3:52 left.

Doran kept the Tigers close by making four three-point shots over the final five minutes.

Fullerton used a 12-0 run to take a 31-19 lead with six minutes left in the first half. Akognon and Cutley each scored five points during the spurt.

Pacific narrowed the deficit to 42-39 on C.J. Morgan's three-point basket with 18:14 to play. But Cutley's basket and Akognon's three-pointer extended the Titans' lead to 47-39 with 16:52 left.

Cutley made 10 of 13 shots, including all three of his three-point attempts. He scored 14 points in the second half.

Akognon broke out of a prolonged shooting slump to make nine of 13 shots, including four of seven three-pointers.

Fullerton scored 46 points in the paint, and added 40 more off 23 turnovers.

Cal State Northridge 73, UC Riverside 61 -- Josh Jenkins made three three-point baskets as part of a decisive 19-5 run late in the second half at Northridge for the Big West Conference-leading Matadors (17-6, 9-2).

Larry Cunningham had 15 of his 22 points during a 21-2 run that pulled the Highlanders (5-17, 2-9) to within 52-50 with 6:27 left. Northridge went scoreless for a span of 4:26.

UC Santa Barbara 77, UC Davis 73 -- The Gauchos (19-6, 8-4 Big West) led for the entire second half, holding off the host Aggies (8-17, 2-10) as they attempted to win for the first time in eight games.

It was 69-67 when Justin Joyner missed two free throws with 53.3 seconds left. Santa Barbara's Chris Devine got the rebound and after a timeout, James Powell made a jump shot to extend the lead.

Cal State Bakersfield 77, Long Beach State 71 -- The host Roadrunners (8-17) shot 57% from the field in the second half and put the game away with a late 21-8 run. Donovan Morris posted his fourth 30-plus point game of the season, scoring a game-high 32 for the 49ers (6-18).

No. 25 St. Mary's 80, Loyola Marymount 49 -- Freshman Patrick Mills scored 22 points, including four three-pointers, to lead the Gaels (22-3, 9-1 West Coast Conference) over the host Lions (5-21, 2-8). Freshman Orlando Johnson had 14 points and six rebounds for Loyola. St. Mary's remained tied for first place in the conference with Gonzaga.

Pepperdine 64, Santa Clara 58 -- The Waves (9-17, 3-7 West Coast) held off a late surge by the Broncos (12-12, 4-5) at Malibu. The loss overshadowed a big night for Santa Clara's John Bryant, who made all 11 of his shots to score 25 points. He also had 12 rebounds and five blocks.

Former Pepperdine coach Tom Asbury, who is in negotiations to return to the school he last coached at in 1994, said Saturday "it wouldn't be a real difficult transition, in some regards.

"I don't think we're ready to sign a contract yet, but I think it would be a fun opportunity to go back . . . not an easy opportunity, but a very fun situation.

"There's no big sticking point, just deciding if I want to do it. My wife is involved and she's had some health issues, but she's been doing well lately."

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UC Santa Barbara stops UC Davis

The Associated Press
Sunday, February 17, 2008

Ivan Elliott scored 18 points and Chris Devine put in 15 more as visiting UC Santa Barbara outlasted last-place UC Davis 77-73 on Saturday.

The Gauchos (19-6, 8-4 Big West) held the lead for the entire second half, holding the Aggies off as they attempted to win for the first time in eight games.

UC Davis pulled to within one point three times in the second half, but could never equalize.

It was 69-67 when Justin Joyner missed a pair of free throws with 53.3 seconds remaining. Devine pulled down the rebound and after a timeout, James Powell hit a jumper to extend the lead.

No. 25 Saint Mary's 80, Loyola Marymount 49: Freshman Patrick Mills had 22 points, including four 3-pointers, to lead visiting Saint Mary's.

The 5-foot-11 point guard also had four assists and two steals. Diamon Simpson added 12 points and nine rebounds for the Gaels, while center Omar Samhan had six points and eight rebounds.

Lucas Walker chipped in with eight points in the win and Yusef Smith had seven rebounds for the Gaels (2, 9-1 West Coast Conference).

The Gaels remained tied for first place in the conference with Gonzaga. San Diego trails by a half-game.

Pepperdine 64, Santa Clara 58: Rico Tucker scored 19 points, Malcolm Thomas had 11 points and eight rebounds, and host Pepperdine held off a late surge by Santa Clara.

The loss overshadowed a big night for Santa Clara's John Bryant, who hit all 11 of his shots from the floor and went 3 of 4 from the line to score 25 points. He also had 12 rebounds and five blocks.

Pepperdine (9-17, 3-7 West Coast Conference) made an 11-2 run midway through the second half to take an eight-point lead. Santa Clara (12-12, 4-5) battled back and came within a point with two minutes left before the rally fell short.

BYU 74, UNLV 48: Trent Plaisted scored a game-high 22 points and Lee Cumnard added 18 to power host Brigham Young.

The lopsided win helped the Cougars avenge a 70-41 loss at UNLV (19-6, 8-3 Mountain West) earlier in the season and also gave the Cougars a slight cushion at the top of the Mountain West Conference standings.

Cal St. Northridge 73, UC Riverside 61: Josh Jenkins scored a career-high 18 points to help Big West Conference leader Cal State Northridge withstand visiting UC Riverside's second-half rally.

Jenkins made three 3-point field goals as part of a decisive 19-5 run late in the second half for Northridge (17-6, 9-2 Big West). He also finished with seven assists and a career-best six steals.

San Diego 78, Portland 61: Brandon Johnson had 16 points and host San Diego scored the first 14 points and went on to rout Portland.

San Diego (15-11, 8-1 West Coast Conference) won its seventh consecutive game, matching its best conference start since the 1986-87 team lost its first game, then won its final 12.

Gonzaga 83, San Francisco 63: David Pendergraft scored 17 points to lead visiting Gonzaga.

Jeremy Pargo added 11 points, seven assists and three steals for Gonzaga (20-6, 9-1 West Coast Conference). Five Bulldogs scored at least nine points, including Austin Daye, who had 10.

Gonzaga, which travels to play WCC contender San Diego in a pivotal conference game on Monday, led by as many as 26 points, and never trailed after scoring the game's first points.

Cal St. Fullerton 92, Pacific 78: Josh Akognon and Scott Cutley scored 24 points apiece to lead Cal State Fullerton to a victory over visiting Pacific.

San Jose St. 71, Louisiana Tech 61: C.J. Webster scored 17 points as host San Jose State snapped a three-game losing streak.

Utah 72, San Diego St. 66: Lawrence Borha scored 22 points and Utah fought back from a nearly disastrous start to beat visiting San Diego State.

Northern Arizona 80, Montana 76: Kyle Landry scored 18 points and grabbed a team-high nine rebounds to lead visiting Northern Arizona.

Boise St. 84, Fresno St. 72: Reggie Larry scored 25 points and Mark Sanchez came off the bench to get seven crucial points in a little more than a minute in the second half to help host Boise State.

Nevada 85, Idaho 72: Marcellus Kemp scored 32 points and Brandon Fields added 21 as visiting Nevada defeated Idaho.

Cal St. Bakersfield 77, Long Beach St. 71: Trent Blakely had 18 points and five rebounds to lead four players in double figures as host Cal State Bakersfield defeated Long Beach State.

Eastern Washington 63, Idaho St. 53: Brandon Moore scored 14 points and Kellen Williams added 13 points, nine rebounds and four steals as host Eastern Washington beat Idaho State.



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UCR

UC Riverside men fall to Northridge, 73-61



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10:00 PM PST on Saturday, February 16, 2008

By **ALLAN STEELE**
The Press-Enterprise

NORTHRIDGE - If Cal State Northridge hangs on to its lead in the Big West Conference race, the Matadors can thank their defense.

UC Riverside found out the hard way Saturday night as the Matadors dominated early with a quick, stifling defense that dropped the Highlanders into a hole too deep to recover from. By the time it was over, even a dazzling 17-0 run by UCR in the second half wasn't enough as Northridge held on for a 73-61 victory at the Matadome.

The Highlanders nearly overcame a 21-point deficit in the second half, but the Matadors had too much speed and balance at the end. They also had the advantage of a bristling defense that set the tone early.

"They caused us a lot of problems," UCR coach Jim Wooldridge said of the Highlanders' 26 turnovers and the 25 fast-break points scored by the Matadors.

The one-sided game suddenly turned in the second half as the Highlanders' Larry Cunningham got hot from the perimeter. Cunningham started the rally with back-to-back three-pointers, and four minutes later the Highlanders had trimmed a 21-point deficit down to four. Cunningham accounted for 15 points in the 17-0 run.

"You start heating up," said Cunningham, who had four points and three turnovers in the first half. "You can't explain it."

Most of the 1,128 red-clad fans got quiet as UCR pulled within 52-50 on a pair of free throws by Christian Soto with 6:27 left, but the rally stalled and Northridge pulled away.

"You can't take it back," Wooldridge said of the early deficit caused by the turnovers.

UCR's defense has been respectable, holding opponents to 67.1 points, third in the Big West. But the defense didn't have a chance as Northridge's 17 steals led to easy baskets and a variety of dunks in the first half.

"For about 30 minutes I thought we were phenomenal defensively," Matadors coach Bobby Braswell said. "Cunningham really picked up the pace. Then we face-guarded him and kind of stopped the bleeding."

Cunningham finished with 22 points. Soto and Aaron Scott each scored 13 for the Highlanders, who are trying to keep out of the Big West cellar. With UC Davis's loss to UC Santa Barbara on Saturday, the Highlanders maintained their one-game lead in the loss column for the eighth and final Big West Tournament spot.

Reach Allan Steele at 951-368-9648 or asteele@PE.com

Potential tourney teams moving up ... and down

MOVING UP

•**Austin Peay** —The Governors (18-9, 14-3 Ohio Valley) clinched at least a tie for the conference regular-season title by holding off Tennessee Tech 80-76 for their fifth win in a row. Austin Peay got 18 points from Derek Wright and won despite missing 15 free throws.

•**Brigham Young**— The Cougars (20-5, 9-1 Mountain West) avenged a 70-41 loss earlier in the season and opened a 1½-game conference lead on UNLV by throttling the Runnin' Rebels 74-48 behind 22 points from Trent Plaisted. BYU has won 44 consecutive home games.

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•**Cal State-Fullerton**— The Titans got 24 points each from Josh Akogon and Scott Cutley to beat Pacific 92-78 for their seventh win in their last eight games. Fullerton (17-7, 10-3 Big West) holds second place behind league-leading Cal State-Northridge.

•**Connecticut**— It took a leaning runner from Craig Austrie with less than a second left in overtime, but the 17th-ranked Huskies (20-5, 9-3 Big East) edged South Florida 74-73 to run their winning streak to nine games. A.J. Price had 23 points for UConn.

•**Cornell** — The Big Red moved closer to winning their first Ivy League title since 1988 by beating Dartmouth 73-63 to extend their winning streak to 10 games. Cornell (16-5, 8-0) has a two-game league lead and shot 57% from the field against the Big Green.

•**Kent State**— The Golden Flashes (21-5) ran their home record to 15-0 and opened a two-game lead in the Mid-American Conference's East Division with a 72-62 win against Ohio, keyed by 65% shooting from the field in the second half.

•**Navy**— Clif Colbert's jumper with two seconds left lifted the Midshipmen (13-12, 6-4 Patriot League) to an 82-80 win at Lafayette. It was Navy's third consecutive win and fourth on the road in the league, leaving it one game behind Patriot-leading American.

•**North Carolina-Wilmington**— T. J. Carter's buzzer-beating short bank shot lifted the Seahawks (17-10, 10-5 Colonial Athletic Association) to a 75-73 win against George Mason (18-8, 10-5), completing a season sweep of the Patriots and handing them their first home loss.

•**Syracuse**— The Orange (17-9, 7-6 Big East) produced a 77-70 big-game victory against No. 8 Georgetown (20-4, 10-3) in front of 31,327 at the Carrier Dome. Syracuse bolted to a 21-point first-half lead and held on, easing the sting of a loss at South Florida earlier in the week.

•**Tennessee**— The No. 4 Volunteers (23-2, 10-1 Southeastern) grabbed a 2½-game lead in the SEC East by winning at Georgia 74-71. Chris Lofton scored 19 of his 22 points in the second half as Tennessee extended its winning streak to seven games.

•**Washington State**— The 20th-ranked Cougars completed a weekend road sweep by beating Oregon 62-53, ending a 12-game losing streak in Eugene. Taylor Rochestie scored 21 points to lead the Cougars (20-5, 8-5 Pacific-10), who have won three in a row after a three-game losing streak.

MOVING DOWN

•**Arizona**—A 31-point performance Saturday by Jerryd Bayless wasn't enough to prevent the Wildcats' third loss in four games, a 67-66 setback to Stanford. Arizona dropped to 16-9 overall, 6-6 in the Pacific-10.

•**Arkansas**— The Razorbacks (17-7, 6-4 Southeastern) dropped two games behind Mississippi State in the SEC West Division after Saturday's 80-74 loss to the Bulldogs. Gary Ervin led Arkansas with 15 points.

•**Baylor** — The Bears closed Saturday's game against Texas with a 15-6 run but came up short for the fifth time in six games, falling to the Longhorns 82-77. LaceDarius Dunn and Henry Dugat each had 19 points for Baylor (17-7, 5-5 Big 12), which has lost to Texas 22 consecutive times.

•**Florida** — The young Gators (19-7, 6-5) are finding life in the SEC to be tough after two consecutive national titles. Saturday's 61-58 loss at Vanderbilt was their fourth in the last five games.

•**Georgetown** —Saturday's 77-70 loss at Syracuse was the second defeat in three games for the Hoyas (20-4) and dropped them into a first-place tie in the Big East with Louisville at 10-3.

•**Illinois State** — The Redbirds (18-8, 10-5 Missouri Valley) blew a 13-point first-half lead Saturday and fell to Indiana State 76-72. Osiris Eldridge's career-high 34 points weren't enough.

•**Mississippi** —Things have gone south in a hurry for the Rebels (17-7, 3-7 SEC) since their school-record 13-0 start. With Saturday's 90-78 loss to Auburn, Ole Miss has dropped four consecutive SEC games and six of seven. Trevor Gaskins had 15 points for the Rebels.

•**Morgan State** — The Bears (15-9, 9-2 Mid-Eastern Athletic) had won nine of their first 10 MEAC games but blew a 21-point lead Saturday against Florida A&M and lost 90-89 in overtime. Lamar Smith scored a game-high 34 points and had 12 rebounds for the Bears.

•**North Carolina State** —The Wolfpack (15-10, 4-7 Atlantic Coast) rallied from 13 points down to take a three-point lead on Clemson but failed to score in the last 2:35 and lost to the Tigers 71-64.

•**Ohio State** — The Buckeyes never want to lose to Michigan, but Sunday's 80-70 defeat in Ann Arbor could have a lasting impact. Kosta Koufos scored 18 points for OSU (17-9, 8-5 Big Ten). The loss was coach Thad Matta's first to Michigan in eight games.

•**Oregon** — The Ducks (15-10, 6-7 Pacific-10) couldn't keep their two-game winning streak alive Saturday and lost to Washington State 62-53. Oregon was held 25.9 points below its season average.

•**Siena** —The Saints (16-9, 11-4 Metro Atlantic) lost to Loyola (Md.) for the fourth consecutive time with Saturday's 83-76 overtime defeat. Edwin Ubiles scored 37 points, the most by a Saint in 14 years.

•**Texas A&M**— The Aggies' 59-54 loss Saturday to visiting Oklahoma State enabled the Cowboys to break a 19-game road skid and ended a five-game winning streak for A&M (20-5, 6-4 Big 12). DeAndre Jordan led the Aggies with 15 points.