

ARIZONA 83, WASHINGTON STATE 62

# A MUCH-NEEDED BLOWOUT

Mannion sparks 26-0 run in second half as UA wins 20th game

By Bruce Pascoe  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

On his way out of McKale Center this week, Nico Mannion reminded everyone why, despite what his critics might think, he is a projected first round NBA pick.

The freshman point guard led the Wildcats to an 83-62 win over Washington State at McKale Center by scoring 23 points and dishing seven assists to one turnover while engineering the Wildcats' game-changing 26-0 run early in the second half.

Zeke Nnaji, another projected first rounder next June, had 21 points on 9-for-14 shooting with seven rebounds, singlehandedly keeping the Wildcats alive with 14 points in the first half before their second-half revival.

The win moved Arizona to 20-10 overall and 10-7 in the Pac-12, keeping their hopes of a first-round Pac-12 Tournament bye alive, while WSU dropped to 15-15 and 6-11.

UA will host Washington on Saturday in the regular-season finale for both teams; the last-place Huskies upset ASU 90-83 in Tempe earlier Thursday.

## UP NEXT

- **Who:** Washington (14-16, 4-13) at Arizona (20-10, 10-7)
- **When:** 8 p.m. Saturday
- **TV:** ESPN
- **Radio:** 1290-AM, 107.5-FM

Mannion hit floaters, layups and 3-pointers while also putting on a show with his ball-handling: Among other assists, he raced inside to flip the ball to Nnaji for one second-half score while firing a bullet in from the wing to Christian Koloko for a late dunk.

"Nico was terrific," UA coach Sean Miller said. "I think that's back-to-back games where he's really running our team, making shots, playing with a lot of confidence. I really hope that that continues, both for him and for our team."

Although the Wildcats trailed 31-29 after a relatively lifeless first half, then gave up a 3-pointer to WSU standout CJ Elleby 11 seconds into the second half, Mannion helped them surge to life afterward.

Mannion hit two floaters and a layup to score the first six points of their 26-0 run, which eventually gave the Wildcats a 58-38 lead when Stone Gettings scored inside with 11:53 left.

Gettings had six points during the run while Mannion had nine. The Wildcats fed their run by scoring 11 points total off seven WSU turnovers, while the Cougars missed all seven shots they took.

"I'd say we had energy," Mannion said. "We just got a couple steals, Stone got a big dunk. Zeke had a dunk late in the second half. Plays like that, when we're turning defense into offense, it kind of fuels us."

For at least 12 minutes or so in the second half, it was the Wildcats at their best: Taking advantage of turnovers to get out in transition, Mannion pushing the ball and making shots, everyone getting the ball inside to Nnaji and other scorers pitching in from everywhere else on the floor.

Miller didn't hesitate when asked if those moments were the Wildcats at their best this year.

"Yeah, I mean 26-0 was our run and it had both good offense and good defense," Miller said. "A lot of a lot of our good offense begins with our ability to play really solid defense and make hard plays on the ball, be tough, be disciplined."

"That leads to transition opportunities and our team, when we get out in transition, a lot of great things have happened for us all year."

Arizona wound up shooting 57.1% in the second half to finish with 47.1% overall shooting, and hit 9 of 18 3-pointers. The Wildcats totaled 23 points off 17 Cougars turnovers.

In the first half, Nnaji shot 6 for 9 from the field to score nearly half of the team's points but all other



PHOTOS BY KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Nico Mannion shovels an assist around Washington State's Volodymyr Markovetsky in the second half. Mannion had 23 points and seven assists.

## PAC-12 STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	Overall
Oregon	12-5	23-7
UCLA	12-5	19-11
Colorado	10-7	21-9
USC	10-7	21-9
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>10-7</b>	<b>20-10</b>
Arizona State	10-7	19-11
Stanford	9-8	20-10
California	7-10	13-17
Oregon State	6-11	16-13
Utah	6-11	15-14
Washington State	6-11	15-15
Washington	4-13	14-16

Arizona players combined for only 25% shooting while UA made just 3 of 10 3-pointers.

The Cougars managed to keep the lead despite getting just six points on 3-for-8 shooting from Elleby. Guard Isaac Bonton led WSU with nine points in the half, shooting just 2 of 10 from the field but hitting all four free throws he took.

Arizona jumped out to an early 9-0 lead, with Nnaji scoring the first six points, but the Cougars then went on an 8-0 run to pull within one. Arizona never led by more than seven the rest of the half and lost the lead with 1:47 left in



Arizona forward Ira Lee bounces off Washington State center Volodymyr Markovetsky on his drive into the lane in the first half. UA trailed by six early in the second half but then ripped off a 26-0 run and won by 21 over the Cougars. UA now has 20 wins heading into its regular-season finale on Saturday against Washington.

See WILDCATS, BC2



PHOTOS BY KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Arizona's Josh Green takes on most of the Washington State defense in the first half of the Wildcats' win. Green had 12 points in 28 minutes in his return to the UA lineup.

## WILDCATS

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the half when WSU's Tony Miller hit two free throws.

The Cougars had tied it with 2:34 left in the first half when Bonton hit two free throws. They went ahead 31-27 with 1:34 left when Jervae Robinson stole the ball from Nnaji and raced inside for a layup, while Jemarl Baker made a layup for the final score of the half with 37 seconds left.

Mannion had eight points on 3-for-9 shooting in the first half while dishing three assists.

While the Wildcats returned freshman wing Josh Green to the floor after he missed games at USC and UCLA last week with a sore lower back, they went without guard Max Hazzard and center Chase Jeter.

Hazzard was kept out for the second time in the Wildcats' past three games for what the school is calling "personal" issue. A former starter who now rarely plays, Jeter was suspended for two games for an unspecified violation of team rules.



"I'd say we had energy," said Nico Mannion of UA's dominant second half, which included a 26-0 run.

Miller said Jeter would be a part of the team in the Pac-12 Tournament next week.

Green had 11 points and four rebounds while playing 28 minutes.

With the Wildcats leading 82-56, Miller inserted walk-ons Matt Weyand, Kory Jones and Jordan Mains. Jones is graduating this spring and is not expected to return despite hav-

ing a year left to play; Miller did not play forward Jake Desjardins, who is redshirting to preserve a final season of eligibility he may use as a grad transfer elsewhere next season.

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	Min	M-A	M-A	FT	Reb	A	PF	PTS		
WSU										
Elleby	28	4-14	1-2	0-5	1	3	10			
Miller	27	2-8	2-2	2-4	0	3	6			
Bonton	33	5-17	10-10	2-5	1	21				
Robinson	32	4-9	3-4	3-5	0	3	13			
N.Williams	16	3-5	4-4	0-0	1	2	10			
Markovetsky	30	0-1	0-0	0-6	2	1	0			
Kunc	14	0-0	0-0	1-5	0	0	0			
Cannon	8	0-1	2-2	0-1	0	1	2			
Henson	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
Rapp	4	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
Rodman	4	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	0	0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>18-56</b>	<b>22-24</b>	<b>9-32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>62</b>			
Percentages: FG .321, FT .917, 3-Point Goals: 4-19, 211 (Robinson 2-6, Bonton 1-4, Elleby 1-5, Cannon 0-1, N.Williams 0-1, Miller 0-2).										
Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: 1.										
Blocked Shots: 2 (Elleby, Miller). Turnovers: 16 (Bonton 8, Miller 3, Elleby 2, Cannon, Markovetsky, N.Williams). Steals: 6 (Bonton 2, Kunc, Miller, N.Williams, Robinson).										
Technical Fouls: None.										
	Min	M-A	M-A	FT	Reb	A	PF	PTS		
Arizona										
Gettings	25	2-5	2-2	2-9	2	3	6			
Nnaji	32	9-15	3-4	4-7	2	1	21			
Green	28	4-7	2-3	1-4	4	2	12			
Mannion	33	8-20	3-4	0-2	7	1	23			
Smith	26	1-5	0-0	0-4	1	5	3			
Baker	24	3-6	0-0	0-3	5	2	8			
Lee	18	3-4	0-0	0-3	1	1	6			
Koloko	10	2-5	0-0	1-3	0	1	4			
Jones	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
Mains	1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	2	0			
Weyand	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>32-68</b>	<b>10-13</b>	<b>8-36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>83</b>			
Percentages: FG .471, FT .769, 3-Point Goals: 9-18, 500 (Mannion 4-7, Green 2-2, Baker 2-5, Smith 1-3, Gettings 0-1). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: None.										
Blocked Shots: 6 (Koloko 2, Smith 2, Lee, Nnaji). Turnovers: 13 (Nnaji 4, Gettings 2, Smith 2, Green, Jones, Mains, Mannion, Weyand). Steals: 7 (Green 2, Smith 2, Baker, Mannion, Nnaji).										
Washington State								31	31-62	
Arizona								29	54-83	
A:	13.052	(14.644)								

## PAC-12 ROUNDUP

# Last-place U-Dub shows fight in beating ASU

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEMPE — Nahziah Carter sized up the 3-pointer and never hesitated, letting it fly with confidence. Washington hasn't been able to finish many games for wins during a frustrating season but this time it was different.

Carter's shot splashed through the net and it helped the Huskies close out a 90-83 victory over Arizona State on Thursday night. The Pac-12's last-place team is trending in the right direction with one game remaining in the regular season and the conference tournament approaching in Las Vegas.

"We're not defeated and we don't feel defeated," Carter said. "We still have aspirations of winning (the Pac-12 Tournament). We're going to take it one game at a time. This was a start."

Carter scored 23 points, Jaden McDaniels added 16 and the Huskies won for the second time in three games. The good stretch of basketball comes on the heels of a nine-game skid that knocked Washington's once-promising season off course.

"It's a cannibal league, everybody's eating on each other," Washington coach Mike Hopkins said. "There are so many good teams. That's what makes it great. It's one game — so we played well — we've got to come back and play



DARRYL WEBB / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington's Nahziah Carter, left, says the last-place Huskies think they can win the Pac-12 Tournament next week in Las Vegas.

another good game and use it as momentum."

Washington looked like it was headed to another disappointing loss for a big chunk of the night.

The Sun Devils led by four at halftime and stretched the advantage to 61-49 early in the second half. But Washington responded with nine straight points and tied the game at 65 with about 10 minutes left. Isaiah Stewart's dunk with 8:15 left put the Huskies up for the first time in the second half.

Washington (14-16, 4-13 Pac-

12) went ahead for good, 73-72, with 5:17 left on McDaniels' layup. Carter's big 3-pointer with 1:51 left pushed the Huskies ahead 83-74 to essentially end Arizona State's hope for a rally. Stewart finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Arizona State (19-11, 10-7) lost its third straight game. Rob Edwards led the Sun Devils with 23 points but leading scorer Remy Martin had one of his worst games of the season, finishing with six points on 2 of 14 shooting from the field, including 1 of 10 from

3-point range.

"I think we could have gotten better shots, especially my shots," Martin said. "They've been going in a good amount of time this year, but it just wasn't falling. I just need to find something else if it's not falling to try and affect the game."

Arizona State led 45-41 at half-time after making 6 of 11 shots from 3-point range. Alonzo Verge Jr. and Edwards both had 11 points for the Sun Devils before the break. Verge finished with 19 points.

Arizona State coach Bobby Hurley said his team didn't do a good job of getting back on defense when Washington rallied in the second half.

"At home, you've got to win these type of games this time of year," Hurley said. "You can't afford to lose these games. But credit to Washington — they have the players and a great coach."

### NO. 13 OREGON 90, CAL 56

EUGENE, Ore. — Payton Pritchard led five Ducks players in double figures with 20 points and No. 13 Oregon used an early scoring outburst to pull away from California in the first half and cruise to a victory Thursday night.

The win moved the Ducks (23-7) back into a tie with UCLA for first place in the Pac-12 at 12-5 with the regular season ending

Saturday.

Pritchard added nine assists in Oregon's 21st consecutive home victory, including all 16 home games this season. He shot 6 of 8 overall, including making all three of his 3-point attempts.

Oregon shot 63% from the field overall, including 71% (12 for 17) on 3s as Anthony Matthis added 17 points on 5 for 6 shooting from 3-point range. Will Richardson and Addison Patterson each had 13, and Shakur Juiston chipped in 10.

Matt Bradley led the Bears (13-17, 7-10) with 15 points. Grant Anticevich added 10.

### OREGON STATE 68, STANFORD 65

CORVALLIS, Ore. — On a night when Tres Tinkle became Oregon State's all-time leading scorer, the senior forward scored 23 points to lead the Beavers to victory over Stanford on Thursday.

Tinkle needed six points entering the game to pass Gary Payton atop Oregon State's career scoring list with 2,172 points.

Ethan Thompson added 15 points for the Beavers (16-13, 6-11 Pac-12), who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Bryce Wills scored 16 points to lead the Cardinal (20-10, 9-8), whose four-game winning streak came to an end.