

ARIZONA 68, CAL 52

# UA'S SHOTS FALL, FINALLY



BEN MARGOT / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona's Nico Mannion, right, drives the ball against California's Paris Austin in the first half of Thursday's game. Mannion finished with 10 points on 3-of-9 shooting and added five assists.

**BERKELEY, Calif.** — By the time Dylan Smith squared up for his fourth straight 3-pointer in Arizona's 68-52 win at Cal on Thursday, he saw nobody guarding him and popped it in.

That one was free. But the three previous others weren't, with Smith finally breaking up his slump of 18 straight missed 3s, dating back to early in UA's Jan. 30 win at Washington.

Meanwhile, center Zeke Nnaji helped the Wildcats break out of their inside slump, scoring 21 points on 8 for 13 shooting while also pulling down five rebounds.

The Wildcats had collectively hit just 3 for 19 from two in the first half of a loss to UCLA last Saturday.

This time, the Wildcats hit 54.2% overall from two-point range; for the game, Arizona shot 49.0% and hit 6 of 16 3s, while holding Cal to 38.2% shooting.

UA coach Sean Miller had considered removing Smith from the starting lineup, but started him Thursday and Smith hit two straight 3s early in the second half.

Smith's first 3 and a subsequent layup helped give UA a 32-24 lead early in the second half. Then after Cal scored eight straight points to cut the Wildcats' lead to one, just 33-32 after Grant Anticevich hit a long corner jumper with 14 minutes to go, the Wildcats went in-

side for two Nnaji baskets and got another 3 from Smith in the left corner.

UA went on to build a 45-32 lead while keeping Cal scoreless for four minutes until Matt Bradley hit a 3-pointer with 9:59 to go. Cal cut UA's lead to 47-39 on a layup from Antevich, but the Wildcats quickly pulled ahead by double digits and held the lead the rest of the way.

Smith's final 3-pointer came on a break when he paused on the right wing in front of the arc, then looked around to find nobody guarding him, and sank the ball in. At that point, UA led 59-43; Max Hazzard then hit a corner 3 to make it 62-43 and put the game of the Bears' reach.

Up 27-20 at halftime, the Wildcats took a 32-24 lead early in the second half.

The Wildcats shot 56.5% from two-point range but missed 6 of 7 3-pointers they took. Four players scored four or more points for UA — led by Nnaji, who had six.

Cal led the Wildcats 8-6 early but the Wildcats held them scoreless for over six minutes midway through the half to take a 15-8 lead. The Wildcats led by up to nine in the half but a driving layup from Cal's Kareem South with 1:02 left cut it to 25-20 and prompted UA coach Sean Miller to call a timeout.

UA guard Jemarl Baker then hit

## UP NEXT

- **Who:** Arizona (17-7, 7-4) at Stanford (16-8, 5-6)
- **When:** 8:30 p.m. Saturday
- **TV:** Pac-12 Arizona
- **Radio:** 1290-AM, 107.5-FM

a pullup jumper for the final score of the half, four minutes after his turnover-free streak of minutes played ended at 151.

— Bruce Pascoe

## Other Pac-12 scores

**Arizona State 74, Stanford 69:** In Stanford, Calif., Remy Martin scored a team-high 24 points and Alonzo Verge Jr. added 19 as the Sun Devils won their fourth consecutive Pac-12 Conference game.

The Sun Devils led by seven points at halftime and was not threatened for most of the second half.

ASU improved to 16-8 overall and 7-4 in Pac-12 play. The Cardinal (16-8, 5-6) will host Arizona on Saturday night.

**No. 17 Oregon 68, No. 16 Colorado 60:** In Eugene, Ore., Will Richardson scored 21 points, including 17 in the second half, as the Ducks came back from a 14-point deficit in the first half and 12 points in the second. They used a 12-0 run in the waning

minutes to overtake and put away the Buffaloes.

The Buffaloes struggled when the Ducks increased their pressure in the second half to spark their rally. The Ducks not only had 12 steals but four times Colorado had shot-clock violations when it was stymied.

Colorado coach Tad Boyle felt “we got on our heels offensively. In the first half we attacked their pressure. In the second half, we didn't attack their pressure.

Richardson also had nine rebounds. Payton Pritchard added 15 points, 11 rebounds and six assists for the Ducks.

Evan Battey and D'Shawn Schwartz each had 14 points for Colorado.

**USC 62, Washington 56:** In Los Angeles, Nick Rakocevic scored 19 points and Jonah Mathews added 16 as the Trojans snapped a three-game losing streak.

USC (18-7, 7-5 Pac-12) trailed 30-25 at halftime and were down 42-35 midway through the second half before going on a 16-4 run to take control. Mathews scored eight points during the run and Rakocevic added four.

The Trojans scored the first seven points during the run and held Washington scoreless for 7:10.

“We knew at halftime that we were going to have to win on the defensive end. The game is slower when you play Washington be-

## ARIZONA 68, CALIFORNIA 52

ARIZONA	Min	FG	FT	Reb	OT	A	PF	PTS
Gettings	26	3-6	0-0	1-3	2	4	7	
Nnaji	33	8-13	5-8	1-5	2	2	21	
Green	23	1-6	2-4	0-6	1	2	4	
Mannion	33	3-9	4-4	0-1	5	1	10	
Smith	31	5-7	0-1	0-5	2	3	14	
Baker	19	1-4	1-2	1-6	3	1	3	
Hazzard	14	1-2	0-0	0-3	0	1	3	
Lee	12	2-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	4	
Koloko	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	
Jeter	3	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	2	2	
Totals	200	25-52	12-19	3-31	15	17	68	

**Percentages:** FG .375 (Smith 4-5, Gettings 1-2, Hazzard 1-2, Baker 0-1, Nnaji 0-1, Green 0-2, Mannion 0-3). **Team Rebounds:** 1. Team Turnovers: None. **Blocked Shots:** 6 (Baker 2, Koloko 2, Nnaji 2). **Turnovers:** 10 (Mannion 3, Lee 2, Smith 2, Baker, Hazzard, Nnaji). **Steals:** 6 (Mannion 2, Gettings, Green, Lee, Nnaji). **Technical Fouls:** None.

CALIFORNIA	Min	M-A	M-A	OT	A	PF	PTS
Anticevich	27	4-8	0-0	1-3	0	3	8
Thiemann	12	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	3	0
Austin	35	2-10	1-2	0-0	2	0	6
Bradley	39	7-18	2-2	2-8	2	2	19
South	31	3-11	0-0	0-3	1	3	7
Kelly	26	4-6	0-0	2-9	0	3	8
Joe Brown	11	0-0	0-0	0-1	2	0	0
Thorpe	8	0-0	1-6	2-3	0	3	1
Klonaras	7	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	3
Kuany	4	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals	200	21-52	4-10	8-30	7	17	52

**Percentages:** FG .375 (Bradley 3-7, Klonaras 1-1, Austin 1-2, South 1-4, Anticevich 0-2). **Team Rebounds:** 7. **Team Turnovers:** 1. **Blocked Shots:** None. **Turnovers:** 14 (Austin 4, Bradley 4, Thiemann 2, Thorpe 2, Anticevich, Kuany). **Steals:** 2 (Kelly, South). **Technical Fouls:** None.

Arizona 27 41-68  
California 20 32-52  
A: 6,291 (11,877).

cause they play zone.” USC coach Andy Enfield said. “We had to manage our possessions.”

**Oregon State 70, Utah 51: in Corvallis, Ore.,** Kylor Kelley scored 16 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Beavers, who have won back-to-back conference games for the first time this season.

## SEEN AND HEARD AT HAAS PAVILION

### Gold out

Despite its best efforts, Cal couldn't quite pull off its “Gold Out” at Haas Pavilion.

The Bears gave out 2,500 free (and unsponsored) gold T-shirts to fans as they entered the arena, and a PA announcer tried to nudge fans who simply had them sitting in their laps when shown on the video board.

“Put the shirt on!” the announcer said. But there were a couple of errors with Cal's approach.

For one, the game wasn't even close to sold out, with more empty blue benches and bucket seats than gold-plated Cal fans.

The other problem? The Bears were hosting Arizona, which annually draws nearly four-figure crowds to games at Haas Pavilion every season.

That meant there was a lot of red scattered throughout all those gold (shirts) and blue (empty seats).

### The best roadtrip

Out of all the five two-game road swings the Wildcats take around the Pac-12, the Bay Area stop is the

favorite of team operations chief Ryan Reynolds.

Facing Cal and Stanford requires no flight between games, just a postgame bus ride of 40 minutes or so to the next place — and the team's hotel at Stanford is adjacent to campus.

While the Los Angeles trip offers similar ease getting between USC and UCLA, and an even shorter flight from Tucson, Reynolds has another reason to prefer the Bay area more.

“It's probably mental,” Reynolds said. “We have a better record here.”

The Wildcats swept their previous three trips to the Bay Area while they have been swept during two of the previous three trips they made to Los Angeles.

### Ghostbusted

The Wildcats also had the choice of staying nearby Cal at Berkeley's stately Claremont Hotel, but they haven't stayed there since the 2013-14 season, when reports broke that the NBA's San Antonio Spurs were spooked there.

In fact, ESPN ran an account of the Spurs' worries — which included Tim Duncan saying he “got chills” hearing a baby cry in a teammate's room, even though there was no baby — just as

the Wildcats were staying in the hotel that season.

“I remember Jordin Mayes was in the hallways freaking out,” UA trainer Justin Kokoskie said.

Nick Johnson and Brandon Ashley were among the many others making complaints, asking if they could leave the place immediately. But, with a game scheduled at Cal the next day, they stuck it out.

The Wildcats survived the hotel just fine but the next day was memorably bad for other reasons: They lost 60-58 and Ashley suffered a serious foot injury that kept him out the rest of the season.

That was enough of a curse.

### Valentine's Day 'love'

The Wildcats will make a rare exception to eat outside their hotel Friday evening, when they are scheduled to visit a steakhouse near their Palo Alto hotel for a Valentine's Day group meal. “Taking them out is my treat for the boys,” said Kokoskie, who is paying ... with a UA-provided credit card.

### Executive suite

Only three former Cal players are currently on NBA playing rosters:

Jaylen Brown (Celtics), Allen Crabbe (Timberwolves) and Ivan Rabb (New York Knicks, two-way) — but the Bears are well-represented in NBA front offices and coaching benches.

Bears legend Jason Kidd is an assistant coach with the Lakers, while former Cal standout Shareef Abdur-Rahim is president of the G League and Cal's former Kiwi big man, Sean Marks, is general manager of the Nets.

In addition, former Cal forward Theo Robertson has resurfaced as a player-development coach for the Warriors, and several former Bears are in G League scouting or development roles, including Marcus Lee (Sioux Falls Skyforce), Roger Moute a Biedas (Santa Cruz Warriors) and Stephen Domingo (Lakeland Magic).

### Golden (Bear) touch

Anyone glad the Oakland A's never left the Bay Area — or even fans of Levi's jeans — can tip a cap to Walter Haas Jr.

A former Cal tennis player (class of 1937) whose name is now on Cal's basketball arena, Haas Jr. took over for his father as president and CEO of Levi Strauss & Co. in the 1950s. He also bought the Oakland A's from Charles

O. Finley in 1980 for \$12.7 million, after Finley nearly sold to owners who might move them from the East Bay, including Denver oilman Marvin Davis.

“I'm having to leave because of the idiotic, astronomical, unjustified, salaries today,” Finley said upon announcing the sale. “But I don't think I could leave the team in better hands.”

Under Haas' ownership, the A's won five division titles and the 1989 World Series championship, and a trophy case of Haas' achievements with the A's and Levi's is in a booster dining area in Haas Pavilion.

In return, Haas left Cal not only with donations but also with some passionate words for the university that are etched on the wall in the dining room.

“My heart skips a beat every time I hear the Cal marching band strike up our sturdy Golden Bear,” Haas is quoted as saying.

### Big number

**730** Approximate maximum radius, in miles, from the UA campus that the Wildcats will play all their remaining games through the Pac-12 Tournament.

Bruce Pascoe