

UCLA 69, ARIZONA 64

ANOTHER ROUGH NIGHT IN LA



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CARLSON / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UCLA's Cody Riley, middle, battles for a rebound between Arizona's Christian Koloko, left, and Dylan Smith during the second half. UA led 62-58 late but was outscored 11-2 down the stretch to drop its third straight game. Arizona ends the regular season this week with home games against Washington State on Thursday and Washington on Saturday.

Cats let late lead slip away in loss to Bruins

By Bruce Pascoe

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

LOS ANGELES – If the Arizona Wildcats didn't already have enough to play for Saturday at UCLA, coach Sean Miller gave them another in the second half.

But even though Arizona gained some initial momentum after Miller was ejected with 12:28 left, they ultimately fumbled away a 69-64 loss to UCLA at Pauley Pavilion on Saturday, their latest failure in late-game clutch late-game execution this season.

Arizona (19-10, 9-7 Pac-12) coughed up three turnovers in the final 1:49 to give away any chance at a late rally while the Bruins outscored the Wildcats 12-4 over the final 4:49 to win their seventh straight game.

That "was obviously big," said UA guard Nico Mannion, who led the Wildcats with 19 points and six assists. "You turn the ball over and you can't get a shot off. But it is what it is. We had a couple of bad ones at the end. I had one. We've just got to be better."

The game was tied at 62 entering the final minute after Chris Smith had erased a four-point deficit by scoring twice near the basket, his second shot sandwiched by turnovers at the other end from Stone Gettings and Dylan Smith.

Then UCLA guard Tyger Campbell threw in a layup as he fell backward on the left baseline, giving the Bruins a 64-62 lead with 49 seconds left.

On UA's next possession, Max Hazzard was credited with the turnover when a pass from Mannion went off his legs and out of bounds, giving UCLA the ball back with 33 seconds. Jalen Hill was fouled, then hit both free throws to give UCLA a 66-62 lead and the Bruins hung on to two-possession leads the rest of the way by hitting free throws.

But while Mannion took



UCLA guard Tyger Campbell shoots over Arizona forward Stone Gettings during the second half. Gettings had four points and four rebounds in 23 minutes in the loss.

part of the blame himself, so did associate head coach Jack Murphy, who took over for Miller when the Wildcats held a 48-47 lead.

"Some of the sets I called and some of the things I did as acting head coach, I probably made some mistakes," Murphy said. "It's not on the guys. They did a great job all the way getting us in that position. I have to help them when I'm in that

position to finish it off and I just didn't do that."

Murphy said he didn't talk to Miller as he was being ejected but apologized to him afterward.

"I felt like I let him down and, as a Wildcat alum, let myself down," said Murphy, the former head coach of NAU. "You're up four with two minutes to go – you should be able to bring that one home."

Miller was tossed in the second half for saying something to official Tony Padilla and walked off the floor calmly.

He was much more visibly upset in the first half, when he argued extensively with the other two members of the officiating crew for what he believed was a foul on Cody Riley while defending a basket from Mannion.



UCLA guard Chris Smith drives to the basket past forward Ira Lee during the first half. UA fell to 19-10 with the loss.

UP NEXT

- **Who:** Washington State (15-14, 6-10) at Arizona (19-10, 9-7)
- **When:** 8:30 p.m. Thursday
- **TV:** Fox Sports 1
- **Radio:** 1290-AM, 107.5-FM

Asked if Miller was purposely trying to get ejected, Murphy said:

"I'll say this: After being a head coach for seven years, I don't know if any technical are on purpose, but they certainly come from a good place," Murphy said. "I just think tonight coach was in was in a good place when it came to what he was discussing with the official!"

After Miller went to the locker room, UCLA's Smith hit both ensuing technical shots, cutting UA's lead to 47-46. The Wildcats then responded to Miller's ejection by going ahead 52-46 after Christian Koloko dunked and Mannion hit a 3-pointer.

Another dunk from Koloko and a 3 from Dylan Smith later gave UA a 57-51 lead and a corner 3 from Hazzard gave UA a 60-56 lead with 4:39 left.

But then UCLA fin-

ished the final four minutes strongly and even after its final three turnovers, Arizona's desperation attempts to win it were also flawed. Stone Gettings missed a 3-pointer with 20 seconds left and Zeke Nnaji missed the front end of a one-and-one with 11 seconds left – and after Koloko rebounded the missed shot, he missed his ensuing putback attempt.

The Wildcats had plenty of reason for motivation Saturday. Among them was a 13-point loss to UCLA at McKale Center three weeks earlier, Miller's ejection and the loss of starting wing Josh Green, who at home nursing a sore back.

There was also the fact that half of the Wildcats' playing rotation has Southern California roots, including Hazzard, who was allowed to play Saturday after missing Thursday's game with what UA called a "personal issue."

Also, the standings mattered, too.

The loss dropped Arizona to into a three-way tie in the loss column for fifth place in the Pac-12, with only home

See WILDCATS, BC2



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CARLSON / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Arizona forward Zeke Nnaji walks down court during the second half of the Wildcats' 69-64 loss to UCLA. UA averaged only 58 points per game in its two meetings with UCLA this season.

WILDCATS

Continued from Page BC1

games Thursday (against Washington State) and Saturday (Washington) remaining.

UCLA improved to 19-11 and 12-5, in a first-place loss-column tie with Oregon atop the Pac-12. The Ducks are 11-5 in conference play.

The Wildcats led 33-27 at halftime thanks in part to 12 points from Nnaji, but it was Mannion who heated up early in the second half. Over the first five minutes of the second half, Mannion hit all three shots he took, while hitting a 3-pointer and an and-one, helping Arizona keep pace and leading 43-37.

In the first half, Nnaji had 12 points and four rebounds to lead Arizona to a 33-27 halftime lead.

Arizona held UCLA to just 23.1% in the first half while outscoring them 18-4 in the paint, though the Wildcats made just 2 of 10 3-pointers.

Arizona took a 20-13 lead when Mannion stole a UCLA inbound pass and made a layup. But Miller was called for his technical foul, first arguing with official John Higgins, who assessed the technical, and

then turning to official Eric Curry for an appeal. UA assistant coaches surrounded Miller as he cooled down slightly.

Smith hit one of the two ensuing technical free throws and UCLA went on to take a 25-24 lead when Jules Bernard blocked Nnaji's shot under the basket and then hit a 3-pointer on the other end.

But Arizona ran off six straight points at the end of the half, the last a jumper in the paint from Hazzard as the half ended to take a 33-27 lead.

The Wildcats held UCLA scoreless for nearly five minutes at the start of the game but couldn't take more than 5-0 and 8-7 leads in the first eight minutes because of their own shooting struggles.

They went over three minutes without a field goal midway through the half while allowing UCLA to take a brief 7-6 lead on a short jumper from Smith.

But Gettings scored four straight points to give UA a 10-7 lead and after Hazzard made a layup on a goal-tending call, Smith made it 15-7 with a 3-pointer.

Nnaji also made a 3-pointer, his first since Feb. 20 against OSU, to give UA an 18-9 lead before Miller's technical foul.



Nico Mannion shoots over UCLA's Jalen Hill during the second half. Mannion had 19 points and six assists in 37 minutes.

UCLA 69, ARIZONA 64												
Arizona	Min	FG	M-A	FT	Reb	O-T	A	PF	PTS			
Gettings	23	14	2-2	2-4	1	4	1	4	4			
Lee	15	1-4	0-0	0-4	0	3	2	3	2			
Nnaji	31	6-9	3-9	3-5	2	4	1	16	16			
Mannion	37	6-13	5-5	0-2	6	1	4	19	19			
D.Smith	29	2-9	0-0	2-8	1	5	2	6	6			
Hazzard	22	3-4	0-0	1-4	2	2	2	7	7			
Baker	20	0-3	0-0	0-3	1	1	1	0	0			
Koloko	20	4-7	0-0	2-3	0	4	0	8	8			
Jeter	3	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	2	2			
Totals		200	24-54	10-16	10-33	13	26	64	64			
Percentages: FG .444, FT .625, 3-Point Goals: 6-21, .286 (Mannion 2-6, D.Smith 2-7, Hazzard 1-2, Nnaji 1-2, Baker 0-1, Gettings 0-3).												
Team Rebounds: 3. Team Turnovers: None.												
Blocked Shots: 2 (Koloko 2). Turnovers: 12 (D.Smith 3, Lee 3, Koloko 2, Baker, Gettings, Hazzard, Mannion). Steals: 5 (Mannion 2, Baker, D.Smith, Hazzard). Technical Fouls: coach Sean Miller, 2.												
UCLA	Min	FG	M-A	FT	Reb	O-T	A	PF	PTS			
Olesinski	2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	1	0	0	0			
Hill	23	0-3	6-8	0-5	0	2	6	0	6			
Ali	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0			
Campbell	36	1-11	5-6	1-3	8	3	7	3	7			
C.Smith	35	5-15	5-8	2-6	0	3	17	3	17			
Jaquez	34	4-10	2-4	3-7	1	1	11	1	11			
Riley	21	2-3	7-8	2-4	0	4	11	0	11			
Singleton	20	1-3	2-2	0-1	1	1	4	0	4			
Kyman	16	3-5	0-0	0-4	0	2	8	0	8			
Bernard	12	1-1	2-2	0-0	0	1	5	0	5			
Totals		200	17-51	29-38	8-31	10	17	65	69			
Percentages: FG .333, FT .763, 3-Point Goals: 6-18, .333 (Kyman 2-4, C.Smith 2-5, Bernard 1-1, Jaquez 1-3, Singleton 0-2, Campbell 0-3). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: 1.												
Blocked Shots: 5 (Jaquez 2, Bernard, C.Smith, Riley). Turnovers: 7 (C.Smith 4, Ali, Jaquez, Riley). Steals: 3 (Bernard 2, Jaquez).												
Technical Fouls: None.												
Arizona									33	31-64		
UCLA									69	42-69		
A: 11,567. Officials: Tony Padilla, John Higgins, Eric Curry												

PAC-12 ROUNDUP

USC stops ASU to finish sweep of Arizona schools

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
LOS ANGELES — Jonah Mathews delivered when it mattered most for Southern California.

After Arizona State trimmed its deficit to 54-53 midway through the second half, Mathews scored eight straight USC points to push the lead back to seven.

Mathews finished with 23 points and Daniel Utomi added 19 and 10 rebounds to lead USC to a 71-61 win over Arizona State on Saturday.

The Trojans (21-9, 10-7) swept the Arizona schools at home this weekend and have won four of their last six games.

"We knew they would come back with a punch. At that point, I just wanted to solidify the win," Mathews said. "I just made plays and my teammates found me. I just happened to make plays as a senior. Coach (Andy Enfield) put the ball in my hands, and I had to produce."

Remy Martin had 22 points for the Sun Devils (19-10, 10-6)

USC went on to a 11-3 run early in the second half to build a 12-point lead at 54-42 with 12:57 left. During that run, Onyeka Okongwu had a three-point play and reserve Quinton Adlesh had a steal that led to him making an open 3-pointer on the other end. The Sun Devils answered with an 11-0 run to pull within three points with 9:04 left. Taeshon Cherry capped the spurt with a 3 and, after a timeout, he stole the ball and Remy Martin made a layup to



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
ASU's Remy Martin, left, is defended by USC's Elijah Weaver during the first half of the Trojans' 71-61 win that pushed them to 10-7 in the Pac-12.

make 54-53 with 8:49 left.

That's when Mathews did his thing.

Mathews stopped the run with a three-point play and USC hung on from there. The Sun Devils never led in the second half.

Mathews was still recovering from a nasty stomach virus during Thursday's game against the Wildcats. It was the worst sickness he said he'd ever experienced.

"For him to get through that and bounce back so quickly," Enfield said. "I was shocked he was so good against Arizona. I expected him to play well (against Arizona State) because he had two days to recover. He's just been playing super basketball."

Utomi was 4 of 5 from 3-point range in the first half. The Trojans shot 59.1 percent in the first half and outrebounded the Sun Devils 21-11.

Arizona State missed eight of its first nine shots and Utomi made a 3-pointer from the left wing with 11:24 left in the first half to give Southern Cal a 24-11 lead. The Sun Devils trailed USC 41-36 at halftime despite 14 first-turnovers by the Trojans.

Arizona State lost to UCLA on a last-second 3-pointer two days earlier, which ended a seven-game win streak.

"I'm proud of how we competed in both games," Arizona State coach Bobby Hurley said. "The

PAC-12 STANDINGS		
Team	Conf.	Overall
UCLA	12-5	19-11
Oregon	11-5	22-7
Colorado	10-6	21-8
Arizona State	10-6	19-10
USC	10-7	21-9
Arizona	9-7	19-10
Stanford	8-7	19-9
California	7-9	13-16
Washington State	6-10	15-14
Utah	6-11	15-14
Oregon State	5-11	15-13
Washington	3-13	13-16

first half we didn't defend them great in terms of their percentages shooting the ball. They're a very good team. Jonah Mathews is having a great career, a senior. He played a very good game as he did the first time we played ... I thought we were chasing. We couldn't make enough shots in a key stage."

CALIFORNIA 86, UTAH 79, OT
BERKELEY, Calif. — Matt Bradley scored six of his 21 points in overtime before fouling out, and California held on to beat Utah on Saturday.

Andre Kelly had 15 points, nine rebounds and a career-high five blocks, Grant Anticevich added 17 points and eight rebounds, and Paris Austin scored 15 with four assists for California (13-16, 7-9 Pac-12).

Timmy Allen had 26 points for Utah (15-14, 6-11), while Alfonso Plummer scored a career-high 23.

Bradley, who missed a desperate half-court heave at the end of regulation, scored California's first points of overtime then added two free throws with 1:07 left. He fouled out 18 seconds later then watched from the bench as the Golden Bears ended a three-game losing streak against the Utes.

The Bears outscored the Utes 17-10 in overtime.

Cal led by six with one minute remaining in regulation before Utah made a late push to force overtime. Plummer made a deep 3-pointer over the outstretched hand of Bradley with 10.3 seconds left, and Both Gach added two free throws with 2 seconds left after Austin missed one of two from the stripe.

Utah has lost five of six.

The Utes trailed much of the first half, then went on a 14-3 run to go up by four at halftime. Plummer had a pair of 3s and scored on a left-handed layup.

That helped the Utes make up for the loss of point guard Rylan Jones, who left the game early with an apparent head injury.

Jones and Bradley crashed into each other while going for a rebound. Bradley got the ball and scored but fell hard to the floor and stayed down before getting up and walking slowly off the floor. Jones remained flat on his back for several moments then was helped off the court and taken to the locker room.

He came back out and sat at the end of Utah's bench.