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Salim so sweet



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“I practice that shot every day.”

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— UA senior guard Salim Stoudamire after last night's game winner

BREAKDOWN

Salim's dream still alive:
Stoudamire does it again

By Roman Veytsman
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

ROSEMONT, Ill. — Senior guard Salim Stoudamire's shot with 2.8 seconds left to beat Oklahoma State brought Lute Olson's wife to tears.

Stoudamire dribbled left, pulled up and released a perfect parabola from the left wing about 15 feet away.

He had no doubt.

"I had no doubt at all," Stoudamire said.

Neither did anyone else. Stoudamire's game-winner was his third this season, first at home against UCLA and then again on the road versus ASU.

"I thrive in those situations," Stoudamire said. "That's what I live for, and that's why I play basketball because I think big time players step up in big-time situations. I see myself as one of those type of players."

After hitting his first 3-pointer and scoring eight points in the early going, Stoudamire picked up two fouls and played only 10 minutes in the first half. He went almost 28 minutes without scoring a point.

Then he exploded, unleashing a stretch where he scored 11 points in the last six minutes.

None were bigger than the ones that came on his last shot.

Arizona fans have become accustomed to seeing Stoudamire with the ball in his hands and the game on the line.

He was in that situation last year in Stanford and he failed. Yet more often than not he has succeeded.

Usually Stoudamire has the ball on the top of the key and either gets a screen from senior center Channing Frye or waves off the screen and takes his defender one-on-one.

This time, Stoudamire set up shop on the left wing and waved off Frye before crossing over to his left hand.

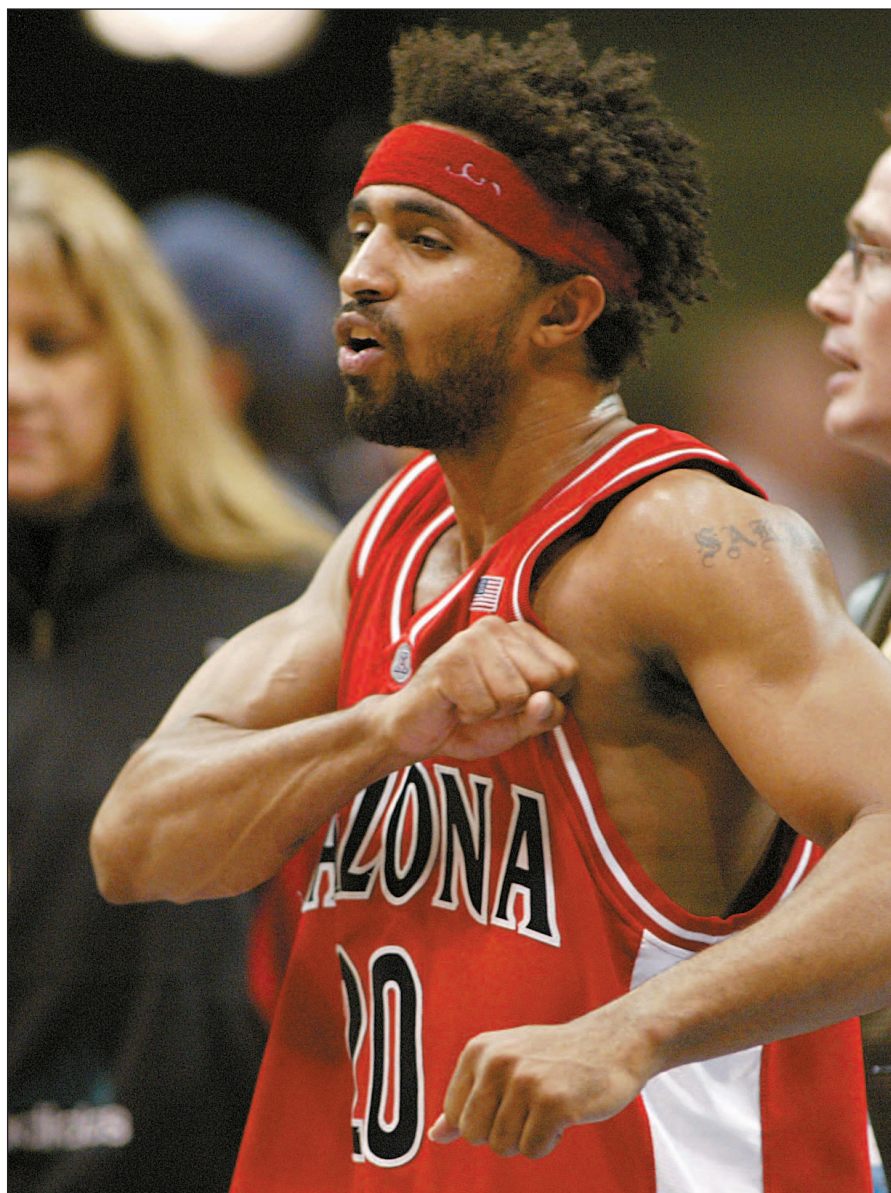
"That was definitely designed," Frye said. "They had to respect both (sophomore forward) Ivan (Radenovic) and (junior forward) Hassan (Adams) because of the passing that me and Salim had been doing. It was a good sign because it was working and they never stopped it, so we just kept doing what we were doing."

Stoudamire said that he didn't want the screen because he prefers to take his man one-on-one without the possibility of being double-teamed.

Still, Frye came up to set the screen and when Stoudamire drove left, Frye dove to the basket looking for a possible rebound attempt.

"It was just going to be an on-ball screen, and Salim was going to come off and kick it to me or he was going to create for himself," Frye said. "But (Oklahoma State's Daniel) Bobik turned his head to see where the screen was, and Salim just crossed over and did his thing, and that's just big buckets."

While Stoudamire was on the floor with the



PHOTOS BY KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat
TOP: UA senior guard Salim Stoudamire celebrates after knocking down the game-winning shot last night as the No. 3 seed Wildcats defeated No. 2 seed Oklahoma State, 79-78, in Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Ill. BOTTOM: Stoudamire's teammates celebrate at midcourt after the clock ran out, sending Arizona to an Elite Eight matchup with No. 1 Illinois tomorrow.

Cats set up showdown
with top-ranked Illinois

By Amanda Branam
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

ROSEMONT, Ill. — It came down to the last shot.

Luckily for Arizona, Salim Stoudamire was there to take it — again.

The senior guard hit a jumper with just under three seconds remaining to elevate the No. 3 seed Wildcat men's basketball team over No. 2 seed Oklahoma State 79-78 last night.

With his shot, the Wildcats advance to the regional final tomorrow against top seed Illinois.

OSU forward Joey Graham scored a jumper with 19 seconds left to give the Cowboys a 78-77 lead, after a similar shot by Arizona senior center Channing Frye. Graham finished with 26 points and eight rebounds.

"We just wanted to make sure we had our two seniors who have started for four years making that last decision, and Salim hit it," said Arizona head coach Lute Olson. "The shot before, Channing hit a big time shot."

Against a tough OSU defense, the Wildcats were able to shoot 66 percent (31-47) from the floor and 50 percent (7-14) from 3-point range.

Until a free throw with six minutes left brought the score to 65-66 OSU, Stoudamire had not scored a single point in the second half.

A minute and half later, he drove the lane and put in a layup to make the score 67-69, then drained a 3-pointer to bring the Wildcats within two.

He scored 11 of the last 15 Wildcat points in the game and ended with 19 points.

"I'm happy, but I want to get to the Final Four, because I haven't been there," he said.

Junior forward Hassan Adams kept the Wildcats in the game for much of the second half with nine second-half points, to pick up the slack when Stoudamire wasn't scoring.

Adams had a double-double with 19 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks.

"You lose you go home, that's what it's about," he said. "I'm laying it on the line right now."

Frye also had a double-double, scoring 15 points and adding 10 rebounds.

After trading baskets over the last five and a half minutes of the first half, Graham tied the score at 38 on a layup with 25 seconds left.

Adams made a 3-pointer at the top of the key as time expired to give the Wildcats a 41-38 halftime lead. Adams went 4-for-5 from the floor and 2-for-3 from 3-point range for a team-high 10 points in the first half.

OSU went on a 12-3 run to take a 32-30 lead on a pair of free throws by Graham. The Cowboys tied the score at 30 on a lay-in by Daniel Bobik with 5:27 remaining.

Junior guard Chris Rodgers put the Wildcats back on top, 34-32, with a jumper.

Several Wildcat players got in foul trouble early, as Stoudamire picked up his second foul in the game's eighth minute and played only 10 minutes in the first half.

Sophomore center Kirk Walters got his second foul with 7:39 remaining in the first half, and sophomore guard Mustafa Shakur picked up his second foul with 2:44 remaining in the half.

See BREAKDOWN/15



ELITE EIGHT

TOMORROW • 5:05 p.m.
CBS • 1290 AM/107.5 FM

