

Women hoopsters support new three-pointer

Popular distance shot debuts as trend sweeps nation

By Gary Henley
Emerald Sports Reporter

Ask members of the Oregon women's basketball team what they think of the new three-point shot, and you'll get a variety of reactions, ranging from acceptance to overjoyed enthusiasm.

Head coach Elwin Heiny: "I don't mind it."

Sheila Sattiewhite: "I like it."

Vonda Anderson: "I love it." After making its debut in men's college hoops last

season, the National Collegiate Athletic Association decided to give the shot a try in women's basketball for the 1987-88 year. After all, the United States is caught up in "three-point mania."

The three-point line has made its way onto high school basketball courts (men's and women's), and little kids all over America are drawing three-point lines on their playgrounds.

The NCAA actually started experimenting with the shot six seasons ago, when various men's conferences around the

nation tried using the shot. The shot was officially added to all conferences in women's basketball this year after experiments with the shot last season.

The NCAA Rules Committee surveyed 742 men's coaches before the 1986-87 season, and found that only 35 percent favored the shot.

Despite the findings, the rules committee, headed by Springfield (Mass.) College professor and athletic director Edward Steitz, voted the shot into effect for all conferences and tournaments for the 1986-87 men's basketball season.

Steitz later said, "It's an integral part of the game. It will open up the game and put more excitement into it. It's what the fans want to see."

Sattiewhite, the Ducks' senior guard, said, "I enjoyed seeing it in the men's game and I like it since they implemented it into women's basketball."

"We had planned on using the shot a lot," she continued. "Amy (Pettersen) is a good shooter, and we have a couple other good shooters that we thought would be using it, but we haven't taken the shot as much as we thought we would."

Through research done by the rules committee, it was estimated that Division One teams would convert 39 percent of their three-point shots.

Sixteen games into the season, Sattiewhite has hit three of four attempts from three-point range, and the Ducks as a team are a not-so-bad 15-45 (33 percent).

Sophomore guard Michelle Eble has connected on five of her 10 attempts, including four against Portland on Dec. 8.

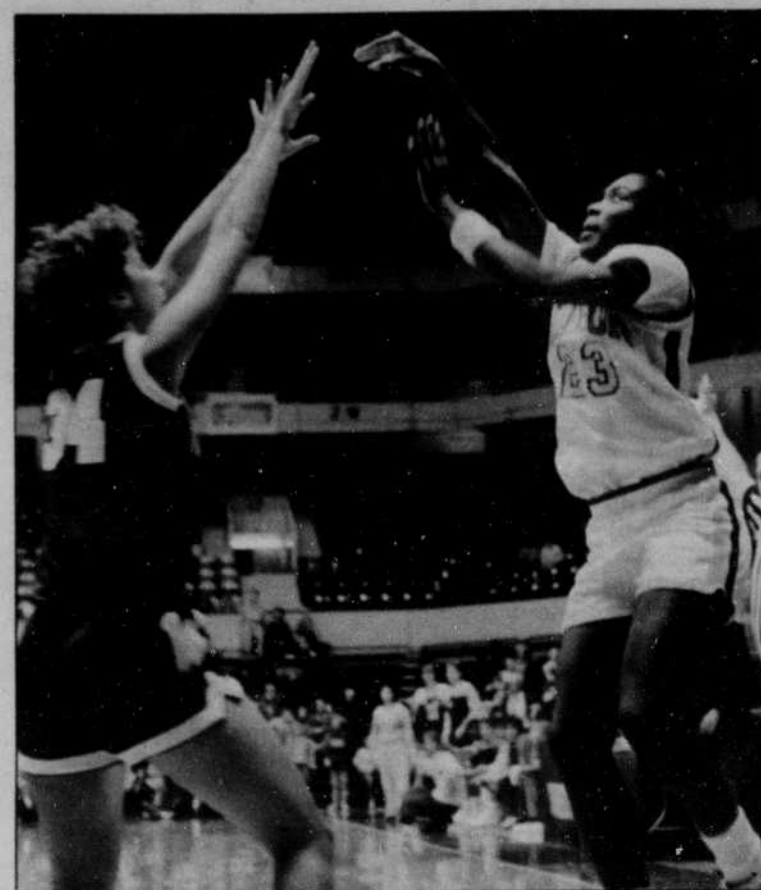


Photo by Bobbie Lo

Webfoot Vonda Anderson supports the three-point shot wholeheartedly, saying "I love it." The 5-foot-7 guard has attempted a team-high 25 treys this season.

percentage was up at the beginning of the season. I worked on it a lot this summer, and I was doing real good. Now I'm down to about 28 percent (7-25); but I should get better. My confidence is coming back."

With her 75 percent average, Sattiewhite remains the team's marksman, even though she's attempted only four of the long bombs.

"I don't get to put it up that often. We have a few players that are encouraged to shoot it, like Vonda and Brooke (Allen),

shoot out there anyway," Anderson said. "I'm strong enough now where I can shoot from out there."

The three-point shot also opens things up in the middle, as defenses have to guard against the sharpshooters from the outside. At least that's the way it's supposed to work.

"It would open things up if we were effective from the line," Heiny said, adding that a better idea would have been to just raise the basket. "Defenses have a tendency to collapse in the middle because of our big player inside. If you're making the shot, the defenses would worry about you taking it."

"The three-point shot changes the scoring and makes the stats different, and that's one thing I don't like about it," he continued.

University statisticians recently decided to count three-point shots as two points in individual stats.

Washington State's Lynda Clegg currently leads the Pacific-10 Conference in three-point shooting, hitting 18 out of 39 shots (46.2 percent).

The three-point shot appears to be here to stay, and at the current rate, the second-graders should be getting their chance to "pop some threes" by 1990.

'The three-point shot changes the scoring and makes the stats different'

— Elwin Heiny

Heiny said, "Eble has a pretty good shot, and Sattiewhite's done well with it. Vonda started off good, but she's dropped off, and it's affecting her shooting percentage because she's still shooting from out there."

Anderson, the 5-foot-7 freshman guard from Lakewood High School in Long Beach, Calif., agrees.

"I haven't been hitting it lately," Anderson said. "I've been rushing my shot because I haven't been squaring up. My

and the players with high percentages. I usually get to shoot it if we're desparate."

A big complaint by fans, players, and coaches last season was that the three-point line was too close, at only 19 feet 9 inches away from the hoop.

"The way other teams are making it against us, it's too close," Sattiewhite said. "I think it should be back another two or three feet."

"I guess I would probably

Cultural Forum Presents

MEAT PUPPETS

with
Tupelo Chain Sex



Tues, Feb. 2nd
Condon School
7:30 pm

The BALANCING ACT



Sat. Feb. 20th
EMU Dining Room
8:00 pm

Be on the
CRAZY 8's
new album
recorded live at the
EMU Ballroom
Feb. 18th
7:30 pm

Happy Hour! 3¢ Copies!

8½ x 11 self-service
8-10am and 4-6pm

Krazy Kats

884 E. 13th

With this coupon you
can buy a set of

GUITAR STRINGS for 1/2 PRICE

coupon good through Feb. 13, 1988

MUSIC CITY

380 East 40th • Eugene, OR 97405
Since 1957... purveyor of the very best in music

open evenings 'till 6
Limited to stock
Locally owned for 31 years

The Fresh Alternative SUBWAY Sandwiches & Salads

SALADS!



Campus Location
Open Late Every Night
10 a.m.-2 a.m.
13th & Hilyard • 484-6955



Peanut Buster Parfait Sale

99¢

Offer Good Through January 31st

Dairy Queen

13th & Hilyard

WEDNESDAY

6:00 AM - The Morning Stretch

6:30 AM - Cartoons - 1½ Hrs.

(Teddy Ruxpins, Heathcliff, Beverly Hills Teen)

10:00 AM - Movie "Young Joe, The Forgotten Kennedy"

7:00 PM - Mr. T and T

7:30 PM - D.C. Follies

8:00 PM - Movie "Making Love"

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27th

KLSR-TV
Channel 25

Eugene, OR