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Photo by Mark Ylen

Mixon's precision jump shot has proven to be a strong offensive weapon for Oregon.

12.8 points per game. Mixon said he's had to adapt to not being the one scorer the team relies on.

"I came in a little too hyped up," he said. "I was putting a lot of pressure on myself to have the same statistics I had last year. I was caught up in that all-American hype and just had to settle down and come into my own."

With Brandon and Keith Reynolds shouldering most of the scoring burden, Mixon said he's had to do more of the little things that rarely show up in the box score.

"I have a different role," he said. "I need to set picks, get rebounds, look inside. I've always been a scorer and I was always taught to shoot first. When you've been a scorer it's harder to adapt and do the other things than the other way around."

Monson said he's been pleased with Mixon's overall game, mainly rebounding and defense, but believes he needs to go the basket more.

"He needs to be able to put the ball on the floor and create more," Monson said. "He never really had to do that before. He could be one of our best free throw shooters but he never gets to the free throw line."

"He's played much better defense after he started to work on it and his rebounding has been good," he added.

Mixon has been a big reason for Oregon's turnaround from an 8-21 season last year and an eighth place finish in the Pacific-10 Conference to a 11-9 overall record. The Ducks are currently 6-5 in the Pac-10 and look like a good bet to garner an NIT bid.

Mixon has enjoyed the success the Ducks have had this year and said the most important thing about the team is how well all of the players like one another.

"It's not as much the ability of the players, but that everybody is likable and everyone gets along," to make a team successful, Mixon said.

And Mixon hasn't had to adapt just on the floor. Take the snow that hit Eugene Tuesday, the first time Mixon had ever seen snow.



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