

Consistency from DOWN UNDER

Australian Renae Fegent has become one of Oregon's most reliable players, especially as a shot blocker and team motivator

By **Pete Schneider**
Sports Reporter

Oregon center Renae Fegent knows that the reason why Americans trust Australians is because of the accent thing.

"I get the accent thing a lot," said the 6-foot-3 senior from Melbourne, Australia. "That part is nice. Whenever I travel, I get very good treatment because people know that I am Australian. Americans trust and like Australians."

The Ducks have put their trust in Fegent this year, as she has emerged as one of the most consistent players on the team. Her steady play on the defensive end has been crucial in Oregon's recent three-game winning streak. Each of the Ducks' last three wins have been won with defense, including Friday's almost complete shutdown of Arizona, a team that ranked fifth in the nation in offense.

A defensive specialist, Fegent passed the 100 blocked shot milestone last week in the Ducks' victory over California. With 11 games remaining, she is fifth all-time (108) in that category and stands to pass Gabi Neumann, who has 111. The most impressive thing about Fegent's shot blocking total is that she has amassed all her blocks in only one and a half seasons — 45 games to be exact.

"Blocked shots really get the crowd going," Fegent said. "It's kind of an exclamation point type of thing. It gives everyone emotion. Shot blocking is pretty much about timing. If you've got it then it comes a lot easier, and I guess I've got it."

The shot blocking helps, but it was her offense that kept Oregon in many ball games this season. Combining a dependable 15-foot jump shot with tough, physical inside play, Fegent has averaged 13.9 points per contest this year. Consistency is the name of her game, as she has not

averaged less than 12 points or more than 15 points at any time this season.

Even though Fegent's numbers indicate her consistency this season, the perfectionist side of her personality comes out when she talks about her play this year.

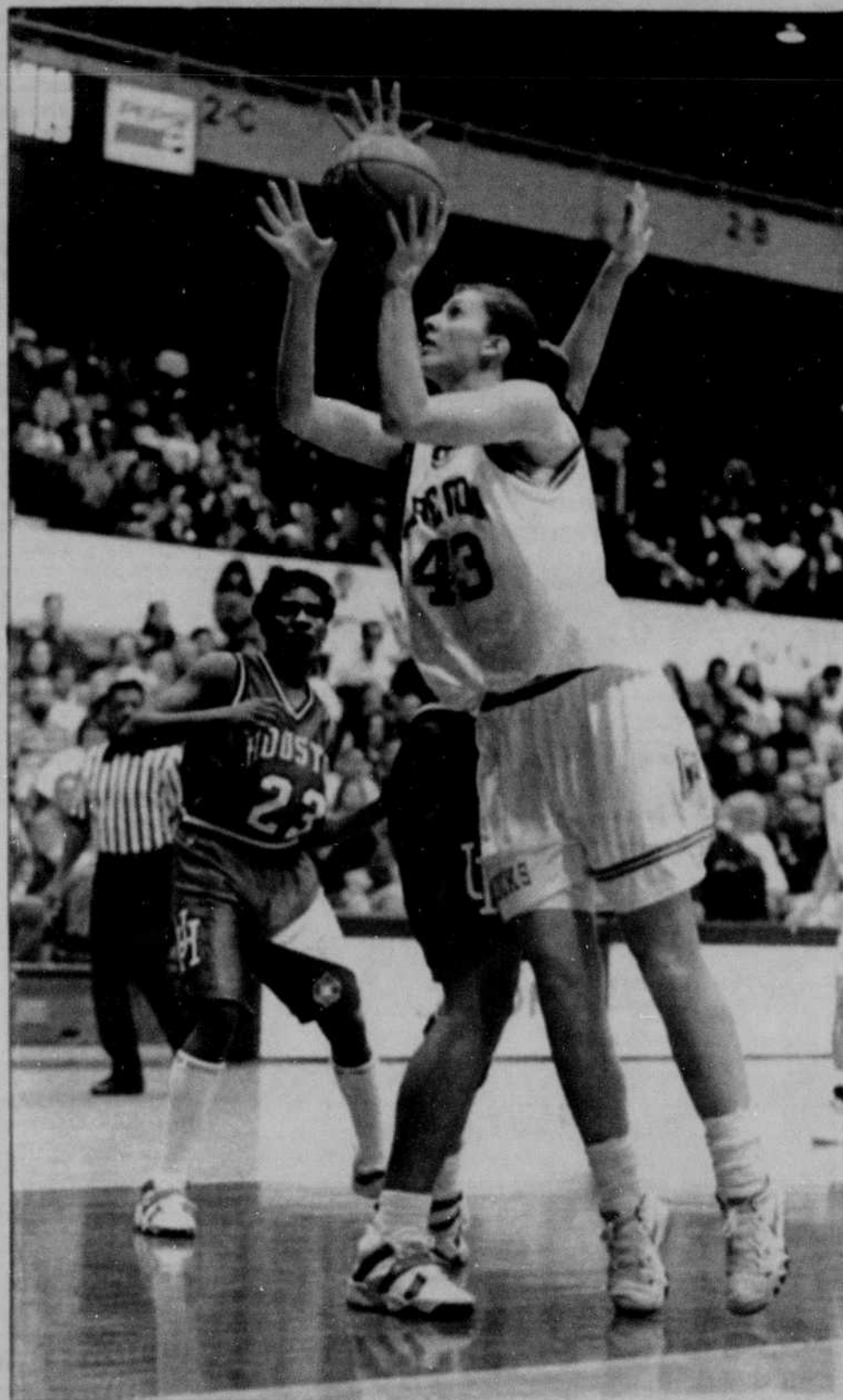
"I haven't been as consistent this season as I'd hoped," she said. "I need to lift my numbers a little more, but I still have to do the basic things that win games. I feel that my offense has been struggling at times and my defense has been more steady. If I keep working hard on defense, offense will just come."

Fegent said she sees herself as a blue-collar type worker underneath the basket who will shoulder the burden of doing the hard work while the other, more flashy players get the credit. Never satisfied with her game, Fegent is constantly working toward becoming a better post player.

As the oldest member of the team at age 24, Fegent finds herself as the elder statesman on the team. With the Ducks' 0-4 start in the Pacific-10 Conference and personnel problems caused by Arianne Boyer's suspension two weeks ago, Fegent found herself thrust into the role of keeping her teammates motivated.

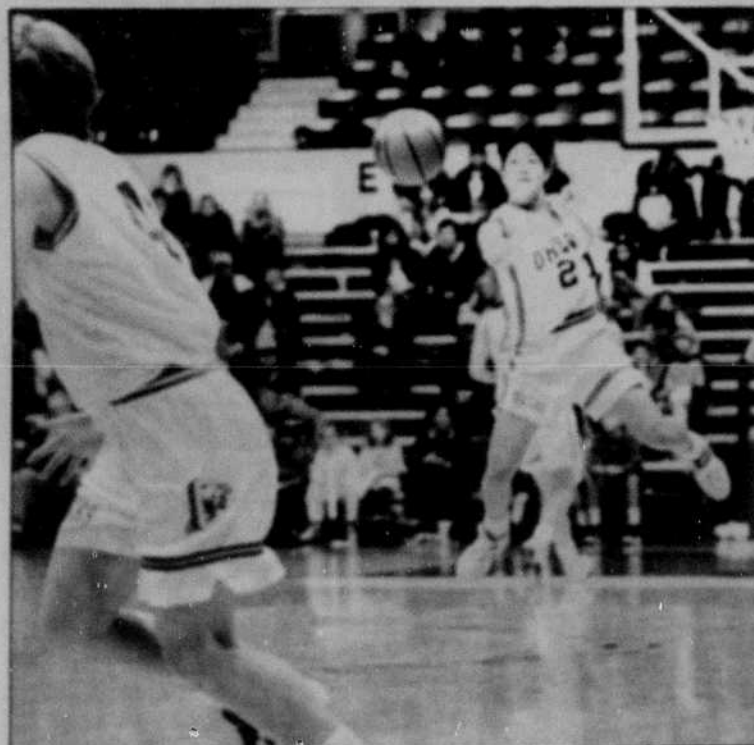
"I just had to keep people on track, considering all the adversity we've had," she said. "There have been a few people besides myself that have been in there, just trying to get everyone going and on the same page. We do have good chemistry this year, even with the problems we've had. Everyone's pretty much stayed together and I don't think that would have happened if we didn't get along so well."

It is basically luck that has enabled the Ducks to enjoy Fegent's hard work and leadership this year. Fegent first got a



Center Renae Fegent has helped the Ducks inside by averaging 13.9 points per game this year, and has pleased the crowd and her teammates with 108 blocked shots in 45 games.

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Guard Cindie Edamura will have her hands full against UCLA, as both the Bruins' guards average more than 10 points per game.

Upstart Ducks begin home stand

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Beginning with UCLA on Thursday, the Ducks have four straight home games

By **Trevor Kearney**
Sports Editor

Turnaround. That seems to be the buzz word surrounding the Oregon women's basketball team.

The Ducks' Thursday night home game against UCLA is a sharp turnaround from the last time the Ducks came back to Eugene to play at McArthur Court. In the midst of a four-game losing streak, Oregon was on its way to an 0-4 Pacific-10 Conference record to start out league play.

The Ducks were in desperate need of a win.

But that was the past and this is the present. And the present is the beginning of a four-game homestand. The present is the

middle of a three-game winning streak.

But most importantly, the present is the middle of a huge confidence booster.

"The win at Arizona was a confidence booster, finally," head coach Jody Runge said. "It is really important to this team because we are not happy with the 0-4 start. We are glad to be back at home and hopefully these next four games will be a real turning point for us."

The Ducks' winning streak has seemed to revive a team that has its sights set on a third-straight NCAA tournament appearance and has given it a 11-5 overall record and a 3-4 standing in the Pac-10.

"We went down there, on the road after playing a game on Sunday, and had three games in six days," Runge said. "To get two wins down there I think

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Thursday, 7 p.m.
at McArthur Court

Probable starters OREGON

| Pos. | Num. | Name | Ppg. |
|------|------|-------------------|------|
| F | #42 | Arianne Boyer | 17.2 |
| F | #32 | Betty Ann Boeving | 7.8 |
| C | #43 | Renae Fegent | 13.9 |
| G | #11 | Lisa Bowyer | 7.5 |
| G | #21 | Cindie Edamura | 6.3 |

UCLA

| Pos. | Num. | Name | Ppg. |
|------|------|-----------------|------|
| F | #30 | Tawana Grimes | 8.3 |
| F | #31 | Zrinka Kristich | 12.4 |
| C | #45 | Kisa Hughes | 12.9 |
| G | #23 | Nickey Hilbert | 18.0 |
| G | #10 | Erica Gomez | 11.3 |

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