

# Standout: Freshman Mowe follows Shaq's example

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body." Mowe's season-bests in scoring and rebounding came against Idaho State in the first game of the Pepsi Shootout Invitational in November.

The freshman finished the game with 15 points and nine rebounds.

But in the press conference following Saturday's game, she said this was her best performance of the season — after an approving nod from Oregon head coach Jody Runge.

However, Mowe's Saturday was not perfect.

"Yeah, I was pretty happy," Mowe said, "except for that free throw at the very end that I missed that could have put us up over the edge."

Following Fegent's three-pointer that broke the 57-57 tie, Mowe had a chance to put the Ducks up by five with only 1 minute, 50 seconds remaining, but missed the first shot of the one-and-one opportunity.

"I really need to work on my free

throws. I've got the Shaquille O'Neal-thing going right now," Mowe said.

Mowe was not only a force offensively on Saturday, but she also played a factor on the defensive end.

She helped force the Huskies' starting frontcourt into a combined 7-of-24 shooting performance and limited it to 11 points under its combined season average.

"I think they were scared of her a little bit. She has got some big elbows," Boyer said.

While Runge said Saturday's game was Mowe's best of the season, she also said that she expects more from her young prodigy in the future.

"I think as of right now, that is an OK performance for her," Runge said. "But I think she can catch the ball in there and score every time she gets it."

"If we can just get her the ball inside, I think that is the potential that she has. I think she can shoot over anybody, and she just needs to keep the ball high and put it in the basket. But for a freshman, I think she had some great things happen today."

In three Pacific-10 Conference games, Mowe has been introduced to two of the Ducks' most intense rivalries, the Huskies and Oregon State, who they played on Jan. 4.

"It seemed a lot more intense," Mowe said. "But just the crowd getting into it and the two bands playing back and forth, I thought it was pretty cool."

Despite playing more minutes than she has played in a game this season, Mowe stayed out of foul trouble until late in the game.

"She played without fouling again and that was a real positive thing for her confidence to be able to play that many minutes and not foul out of the game," Runge said.

With Oregon playing at Stanford on Jan. 16, Mowe's emergence could not have come at a better time.

And Fegent said Mowe's presence will continue to be felt.

"We should see more of it in the future," Fegent said.


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— Jody Runge  
Oregon head coach

If Mowe can maintain her level of play from the Washington game, it will be a welcome sight to Oregon fans — and a scary thought for the Ducks' future opponents.

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