

Duo: Beavers' defense allows Hughes to drive and dish

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bounds. "I thought she did a good job of pushing Tina away from the basket and getting Tina as far away from the basket as possible," Spoelstra said. "She does a great job defensively, really moving her body."

For Hughes, it was her penetration and dismantling of the Beavers' 2-3 zone defense that caused the most damage.

"Natalie did a great job of taking the ball

to the basket," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said. "She just did a great job creating things in there to break their zone."

Spoelstra was equally impressed with Hughes' showing.

"The penetration killed us," Spoelstra said. "Her driving and dishing was excellent, it was very good. It was very tough for us to stop."

Hughes said the Beavers' defense allowed her to penetrate and pass.

"I was able to penetrate more when the wings were getting wide on us so I was able to get through the middle and get easy passes off."

But Hughes also said her driving was a result of her poor shooting. Hughes, a 38 percent three-point shooter, was 0-of-7 from behind the three-point line and shot just 5-of-15 for the game.

"As you could see, I couldn't shoot from the outside," she said. "My shot wasn't

falling, so I had to find some other way to help our team score, and that is what I did."

On the defensive end, Hughes had only one steal, but that one steal turned into a spectacular play.

With just over four minutes gone in the second half, Hughes stepped in front of an Oregon State pass, dribbled around her back to avoid an Oregon State defender, then dropped in a twisting-reverse layup.

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Civil War: Runge prays for home berth

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center to seven points and no rebounds in the final 20 minutes. Lelas scored her final two points of the night with six minutes still remaining and the Beavers being down by only four, 61-57.

"I thought [we] played very intelligent basketball for 35 minutes, but then the Ducks really picked it up," Oregon State head coach Judy Spoelstra said. "In the last three minutes of the game, we were standing there watching as [the Ducks] were moving."

Edamura's three-pointer was the beginning of a 10-point spree by the senior, who finished the night with 12. Boyer added five points, and Renae Fegent four, in the game-winning scoring run.

With their 21st win of the regular season, the Ducks must now wait until the seedings are announced on Sunday to see if their play was good enough to earn them a first and second-round home berth in the upcoming NCAA Tournament. Oregon won eight of its final nine games, with the loss being a three-point decision to then-No. 3 Stanford.

"I'm going to pray all weekend [that we earn a home berth]," Runge said. "I would hope that are chances are good. I think it would give us an advantage in the tournament."

Either way, the win marked the Ducks' first 21-win regular season since the 1986-87 campaign, a second-place finish in the Pac-10, and an assured fourth straight invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

Preview: Ducks are focusing on basketball

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important game because it's the next game. If it was Cal or UCLA or anybody else, it would still be a very, very important game. They've got to do the things they've got to, and I really don't think about that. All I'm thinking about is us playing a really good basketball team and trying to finish this season up strongly like we have the last two."

The game will also be the last

time five seniors will play a regular season game at McArthur Court. Green said Senior Night will be special for Kenya Wilkins, Jamal Lawrence, Rob Ramaker, Kyle Milling and Miguel McKelvey. But he said the team is concentrating on the Beavers.

"I think it's kind of one of those things that's bittersweet," Green said. "Sweet in the fact that you give your seniors recognition. It's the last time in regular season

they will play on this court. They've done a great deal for the University of Oregon on this basketball court."

"On the other hand, you can't get too caught up in it because you still have to play the basketball game; you still have shots that you've got to make. I think there is a concern that we play good team basketball, and the main focus is on the basketball game and second is the seniors."



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