

# Center: Mowe has more confidence

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She had offers from Connecticut and Georgia, both Final Four regulars, but she chose Oregon so she could help continue to lead a program from the middle of the pack in the conference to a program that sets the pace.

As a freshman last season, Mowe looked to Fegent and Edwards for leadership and direction. The high expectations were there for Mowe in her first season, but at the same time, she was guarded by the fact that she was a freshman still making the transition.

But that transition time is over. No more freshman mistakes or excuses that she is just learning.

Now it is Jenny Mowe's time to be looked to for leadership and direction.

"That is what I like," Mowe said. "I think we've got a team now that is really going forward."

If this team is to go forward and improve on their second-place finish in the Pacific-10 Conference from a season ago, Mowe will have to play a leading role.

With the loss of their top two scorers and rebounders from last season, she will have to replace much of what Oregon lost.

In making her transition from the competition of 1A high school basketball in Powers, Ore., to Pac-10 competition last season, Mowe averaged 14.5 minutes a game, yet was Oregon's fourth-leading scorer with 6.9 points per game.

Like most first-year players, Mowe's season was full of ups and downs.

Against Stanford, the nation's No. 1 team for much of the 1996-97 season, in Maples Pavilion, Mowe had a career-high 17 points on seven for nine shooting.

But against Gonzaga earlier in

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**Jenny Mowe**  
UO center

the season, she played only five minutes and didn't score a single point. Throughout the first part of the season, she was often taken out of games for her lack of attention to defense or her propensity to foul, which earned her three disqualifications.

Early in the season, her uncomfortable nature on the court was clearly visible. She was more used to turning and shooting a four-footer against a 5-foot-8 player, as she did in high school, than she was to running a complicated defensive scheme against some of the nation's top teams.

After a season of transition and a summer spent with the Women's Junior World Championship Team in Brazil, her sometimes apparent timidity is not likely to return.

"I have more confidence," Mowe said. "I don't have to think as much, where everything last year was new. Every aspect of the game was new."

"This year I basically know what I'm trying to do and what I need to do and what the competition is going to be like."

Which is a must, considering the Ducks' forced reliance on her.

Edwards was expected back for her senior season this year, but be-

cause of an illness in her family, she decided not to play, leaving Mowe as the only true center.

"It puts more pressure on me because I don't have a backup to come in and help me out," Mowe said.

But Edwards will also be missed for her presence off the court as well.

"Sandy helped me out a lot mentally last year," Mowe said. "She was always making me laugh."

The loss of Edwards means the days of Mowe playing 15 minutes are long gone. Head coach Jody Runge told Mowe she expects 33 to 38 minutes a game from her, which Runge said is possible if she can stay out of foul trouble.

Not such an easy plan for Mowe.

"That's a heck of a lot," Mowe said. "I don't know about that. I think I could play 30, but more than that depends on the type of game we are playing."

Mowe may be the only true center on the Oregon roster, but she will not be expected to fill the role by herself.

Power forwards Sonja Curtis, a 6-foot-2 junior, and Angelina Wolvert, a 6-foot-3 freshman from Oregon City High School, will allow Mowe at least some time to rest.

Despite her youth, Wolvert can contribute to this season, Mowe said.

"I don't know how many people have seen [her] play, but the girl can board," Mowe said.

And she's not to bad offensively either, according to Mowe.

"I think she's even better than [Arianne Boyer]," Mowe said, comparing Wolvert to Oregon's leading scorer and rebounder last season.

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