

OREGON 100, ARIZONA STATE 61

Wolvert dominates Sun Devils

Angelina Wolvert scored 26 points in Oregon's 100-61 win over Arizona State

By Alex Pond
Sports Reporter

The basket was open, Arizona State had been placed inside and the Ducks were peering in, ready to pay their last respects to a hapless foe.

With a 46-27 halftime lead Saturday afternoon at McArthur Court, the Ducks just needed to slam the lid shut.

Angelina Wolvert happily obliged, scoring 21 of her game- and career-high 26 points in the second half as Oregon buried the Sun Devils 100-61.

Wolvert also added a career-high 12 rebounds and shot 10 for 15 from the field in a modest 24 minutes.

The 6-foot-3 center's performance couldn't have come at a much better time for the Ducks, who were left thin in the post when another freshman standout, Brienne Meharry, was forced to leave the game just 40 seconds into it with a knee injury.

Wolvert "stepped it up," as coaches like to say. It was a bonus in a blowout win, but may be needed more down the road with Meharry

out for the rest of the season. "I guess it's kind of like that old saying, when you close the door a window opens," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said. "Maybe that's what the deal is with Ang. "[Wolvert] is so gifted, athletically and offensively in particular ... She has great offensive moves to get to the basket and does some very good things."

Wolvert showed many of those moves and displayed her entire offensive arsenal in wowing the 3,640 fans in attendance, her teammates and likely most of the Sun Devils, who fell to 7-9 overall and 3-4 in the Pac-10.

There was a couple of nice turnaround jumpers in the middle of the lane, including one after a pretty spin move that gave Oregon a 30-point lead with 16 minutes, 50 seconds remaining.

There was a strong muscle move to the hoop with Sun Devil defenders draped all over her, in which she made the basket and was fouled, prompting a joyous pump of the fist from Wolvert.

There were a number of strong, quick cuts to the basket where she received timely passes from assist-hungry teammates — and she didn't disappoint.

There were a number of strong

rebound baskets when Wolvert used her size and strength to overpower the Sun Devils.

For the game, Wolvert pulled down seven offensive boards.

"She's a strong lass," Oregon point guard Natalie Hughes said. "She makes some great post moves when you get it into her and gets some great rebounds."

During one stretch midway through the second half, Wolvert scored 15 straight Oregon points.

"It was fun," Wolvert said. "It was a lot of fun. I think the whole team needed a game where we could come out and play, do the things we needed to do, execute and just have some fun. That's exactly what happened."

To top it off, Wolvert also connected on six of seven free-throw attempts. Prior to Saturday's game, she was shooting 61.8 percent from the line.

Her previous career highs were 16 points at California on Jan. 2 and eight rebounds against Kansas on Dec. 29.

"She did awesome," Meharry said. "She hustled, rebounded, put easy shots in and everything."

That about sums it up. Oh, yeah, she also added two assists, a block and did not commit a turnover.

Meharry: Freshman joins Mowe on injured list

Continued from Page 7

now," head coach Jody Runge said after Saturday's game.

Surgeons will reconstruct the tendon in Meharry's knee with parts of other tendons in the same knee, Crist said.

It will be at least a month after the surgery before Meharry will be able to walk again. After six to eight weeks she can begin light jogging, and after two to three months she will be able to start heavy running, Crist said. She should be 100 percent by August, Crist said. Practice officially starts for next season on Oct. 15.

Mowe and the University will seek a medical hardship from the NCAA in May, but Meharry's season is lost. She will have three seasons of eligibility when she returns to the team.

"I just feel really bad for her," Runge said Sunday night. "She's had a great year."

Meharry injured her knee 40 seconds into Saturday's 100-61 Oregon win when she was driving to the basket and fell to the ground.

"When I did it, it hurt pretty bad," Meharry said told reporters after the game. "They were taking me off, and I said, 'OK, it's better, let's go [back in the game].'"

Meharry said another player fell on her leg and the lower portion of her leg (below the knee) went one way while her thigh went the other.

"Whenever you see one of your players go down like that, obviously there's a lot of anxiety and concern for their well being," Runge said Saturday. "But like Bri said,



NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Meharry is helped up after falling and injuring her knee.

whatever it is, is what it is. There's nothing we can do about it."

The injury is the first of any significance in Meharry's career, including high school.

The loss of Meharry and Mowe leaves the Ducks with just two true post players for their final 10

games of the season.

"We're just trying to look at the glass as half full," Runge said. "Everyone is going to have take on a greater load. It's obviously a great loss, but it's not something we can't handle. We'll find a way to make the best of it."



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