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Women: Oregon leads Civil War series 38-19

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is averaging 9.1 points and 3.9 rebounds, will take Meharry's place in the starting lineup tonight, the season's first edition of the Civil War.

"I think I'm ready for it," Curtis said. "I'm just going to do whatever I can to fill in that role, or gap [left by Meharry]. I'm probably going to have to do a lot more scoring and get more physical on the boards, rebounding-wise."

Runge said the lack of depth inside puts more pressure on Curtis and Wolvert to improve. Wolvert is averaging 8.1 points and 3.2 rebounds and is coming off career-highs of 26 points and 12 rebounds against the Sun Dev-

"Obviously, they're going to share a lot of responsibility with regard to improving and staying out of foul trouble," Runge said. "Our perimeter defense is going to have to really improve [as far as the guards'] ability to defend drives and put pressure on passes to the interior to help take the pressure off our inside game.

Runge said 6-foot senior Mendy Benson will also play more in Meharry's absence.

If the Ducks think they have problems, they should consider trading places with Oregon State.

The Beavers have lost four straight games after last Saturday's 84-58 blowout at the hands of then-No. 7 Arizona. They have lost nine of their past 10 games and currently reside in the basement of the Pac-10 standings.

During the recent losing streak, the Beavers have been outscored by an average of 14.5 points a game. Conversely, the Ducks have outscored their opponents by an average of more than 15 points during their winning streak.

Monica Watts leads Oregon State in scoring with an average of 13.3 points and also grabs 5.3 rebounds a game.

"[She's] doing a great job for them," Runge said. "She's playing inside, she's playing outside, she's rebounding, she's scoring, she's playing great defense. She's going to be a great challenge for us at the [small forward] position."

Oregon State head coach Judy Spoelstra said she is concerned about the Ducks' Australian trio of point guard Natalie Hughes, shooting guard Lisa Bowyer and small forward Natasha O'Brien.

'[Hughes] is so calm and sees the floor so well and just delivers," Spoelstra said. "I think she's the real floor general on that team and the real leader. Bowyer's playing well and moving her feet very effectively on defense, and now they have O'Brien hitting all the outside shots that they need. They just have a lot of scoring opportunities, a lot of scoring punch.

O'Brien broke out of a seasonlong slump last weekend, averaging 19.5 points on 15 for 24 shooting from the field in the Ducks' two wins.

The Ducks and Beavers will be meeting for the 57th time in the series, which the Ducks lead 38-19. Oregon swept the series last season, but Oregon State has won 30 of its past 40 games in Gill

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