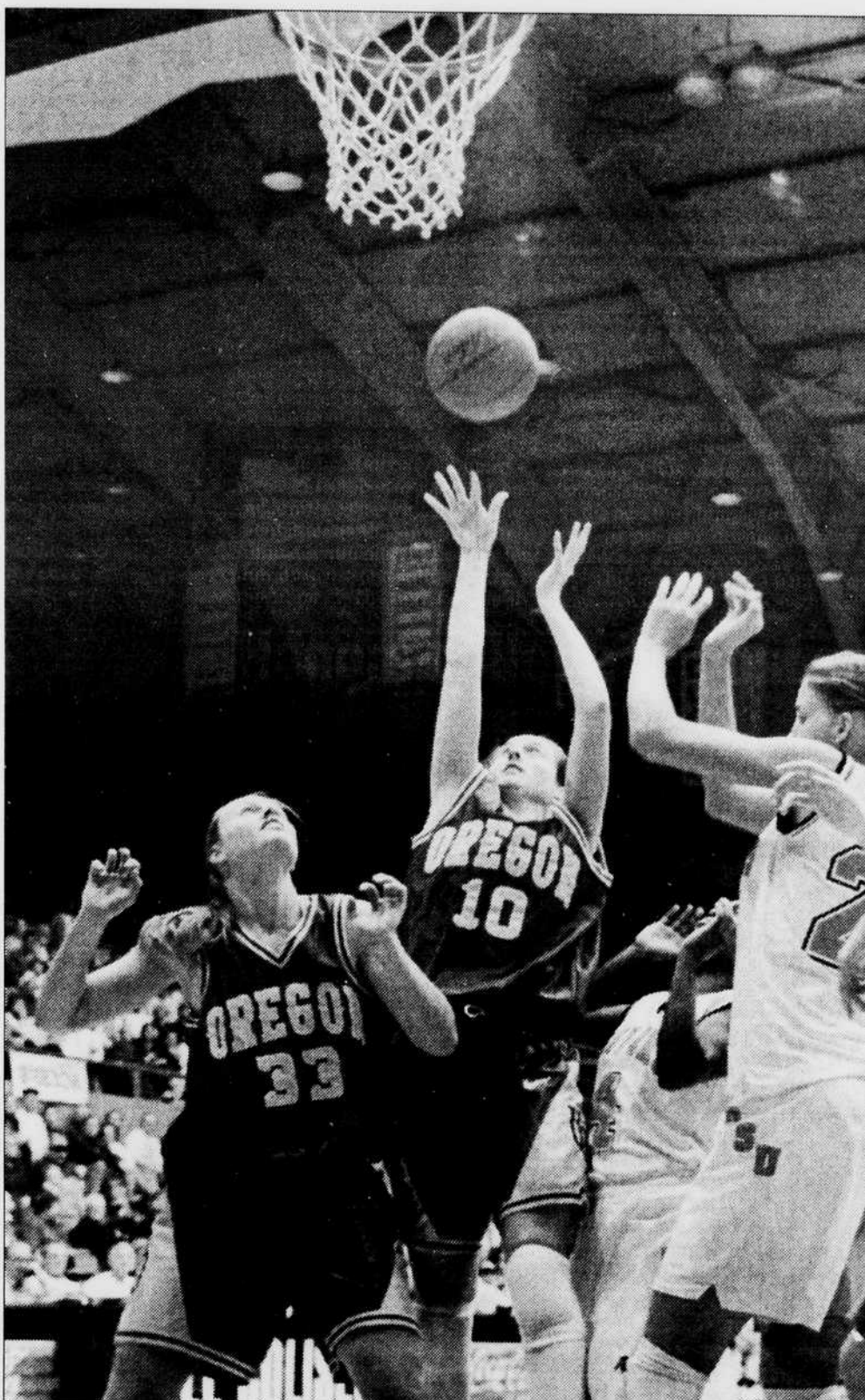


OREGON 80, OREGON STATE 57

Pac-10 Standings

	Pac-10		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Stanford	8	1	11	5
Arizona	7	2	13	4
Oregon	7	2	11	6
UCLA	7	2	11	6
Washington	3	5	12	5
Washington State	3	5	9	8
Arizona State	3	5	7	10
USC	3	5	8	9
California	1	7	5	13
Oregon State	1	8	6	12



Win: OSU didn't execute

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all jumpers, and finished with a game-high 24 points. She hit nine of her 14 shots and connected on all five of her free-throw attempts.

"Nat came to play tonight," Runge said. "She did a great job of handling the offense. She wanted the ball."

Junior Sonja Curtis, one Duck who is being asked to help replace the loss of Meharry inside, hit five of seven attempts from the field and five of six attempts from the line to finish with 16 points.

"Sonja is very capable of doing those things," Runge said.

Junior Natasha O'Brien continued her recent hot streak by scoring 14 points on a four-of-seven shooting performance. Freshman Angelina Wolvert added 11 points.

Shooting guard Lisa Bowyer was the only Oregon starter not to score in double figures.

The Ducks' balanced scoring is something Runge said they will need to continue to win in Meharry's absence.

Oregon started Thursday's game with a scoring spurt, jumping out to an 8-0 lead before the Beavers stormed back to within four, 13-9.

The Ducks then went on a 14-4 run to lead 27-13 five minutes later, and after another brief Oregon State scoring spurt, the Ducks ended the half on that 20-5 run to lead 47-24 at the break.

Over the final seven minutes, 28 seconds of the half, the Beavers hit only three shots from the field. On the other hand, in the first 11 minutes of the game, Oregon hit 11 of its first 14 shots from the field.

"They were hitting everything," said Oregon State head coach Judy Spoelstra. "They came ready to play."

Oregon State was successful, at times, with its high-low game that helped sophomore center Sissel Pierce score 19 points on a nine-of-18 performance from the field before she fouled out with just under two minutes left to play.

The problem, Spoelstra said, was the game plan was to get the ball inside 90 percent of the time — which didn't happen.

"Our guards let us down," Spoelstra said. "I think the problem was our four guards who strayed from their game plan."

The Ducks open the second half of conference play at UCLA next Friday and at Southern California next Sunday.

NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Hughes goes up for two of her game-high 24 points during Oregon's 80-57 win over Oregon State in Corvallis. Hughes hit her first four shots from the field.

Ducks: Inside players play well in win

Continued from Page 11

"It just keeps us going," said point guard Natalie Hughes, who led all scorers with 24 points. "We're on a roll right now, and it was good that we played so well and beat them by a lot because it shows we can play without Bri."

Sonja Curtis, a 6-foot-2 junior, stepped into Meharry's starting power forward position and gave the Ducks 27 productive minutes, scoring a season-high 16 points on five for seven shooting from the field.

If the pressure to replace Meharry affected her, Curtis didn't show it against the Beavers.

"I felt pretty good," said Curtis, who nailed her first three-pointer of the season midway through the second half. "I'm pretty happy with how I played but there's still a lot of things I could improve on, like I could have gotten on the boards more."

Curtis finished with just four rebounds for the game.

The win was important for the psyche of the Oregon players, who were a bit unsure of what life without Meharry on the court would be like, Curtis said, espe-

cially before heading into the second half of the Pacific-10 Conference season.

"I think it was good for us to have a warm-up game to just get our confidence up and know that we can survive and we can play," Curtis said. "We were kind of unsure. In practice we were doing fine, it's just you never know until a game situation. I think this was a great game to get all the bugs worked out."

The win also sent a statement to the rest of the Pac-10 that the Ducks will be a force to reckon with, even without Meharry, Hughes said.

"Everyone thinks we suck, to put it nicely," she said. "I think [other Pac-10 teams] are going to look past us because we don't have Bri, so hopefully that'll help and we'll be able to stomp on some people that think we aren't good enough."

Since Meharry's injury last Saturday, Oregon players and head coach Jody Runge have said they would need the posts to collectively improve their games a bit.

The Ducks got solid contributions across the board from their

inside players Thursday night.

In addition to Curtis' production, center Angelina Wolvert pumped in 11 points, and small forward Natasha O'Brien contributed 14 to continue her improved play of late.

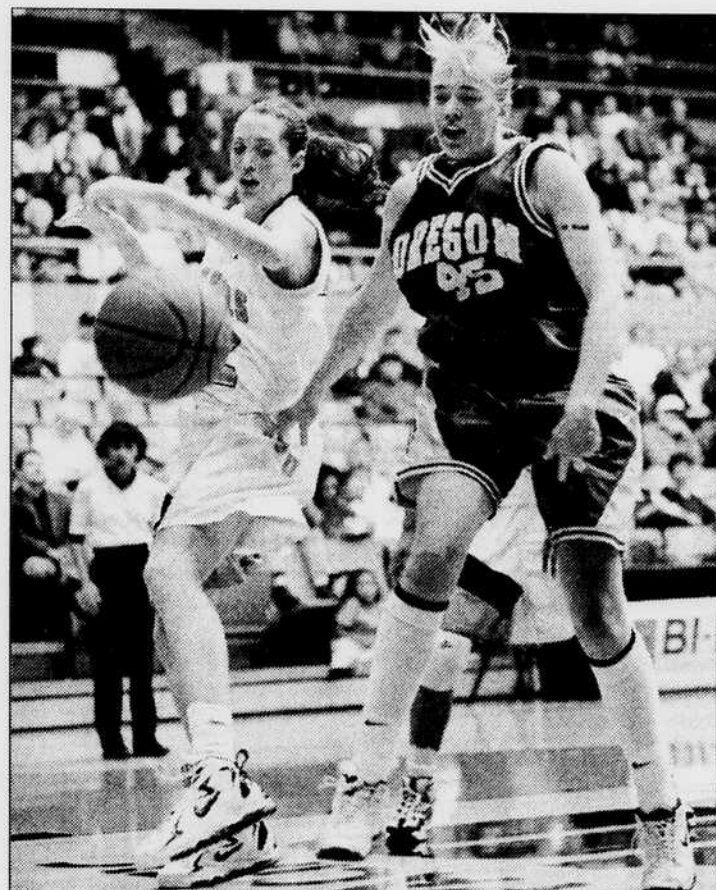
Down to only two true posts on the roster, Runge has been adamant about the fact that Curtis and Wolvert need to stay out of foul trouble. For the most part, they did that Thursday.

"Both [Curtis] and Angelina are very aware of having to play without getting in foul trouble," Runge said. "I thought they did a very good job of that. With the exception of Angelina's first foul, in which she was kind of out of position, I thought the fouls that they got were acceptable fouls."

Wolvert ended up with four fouls on the night, but three of those came in the second half, long after the game had been decided.

In fact, the game was basically over just 10 minutes into it after Oregon jumped out to a double-digit lead.

Without Meharry on the court, life does go on.



NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Curtis had a big game in Meharry's absence, scoring 16 points and hitting five of seven attempts from the field.