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Next home game: Saturday, Feb. 7th vs. USC at 3:05 p.m.

Destiny: Brown enjoys playing for Kent

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four at home against UCLA, including last season's stunning overtime victory on Henry Madden's last-second jump shot. Brown started and tallied 12 points in that game, but he should be an even greater factor this time.

Brown is coming off one of the best games of his career in which he scored a career-high 24 points and had six three-pointers against Oregon State on Saturday.

He has been playing his best basketball of the season since the Pac-10 schedule began, including a combined 42-point, 14-rebound effort against the Washington schools three weeks ago.

It will take more of the same from Brown if Oregon is to upset the Bruins once again.

UCLA is 17-3 overall and 7-2 in the Pac-10 and is riding the wave of a four-game winning streak.

The Bruins are led by a strong senior class that has played in the NCAA Tournament each of its last three seasons. All three, J.R. Henderson (19.0, third), Toby Bailey (17.1, 11th) and Kris Johnson (16.8, 13th), are among the Pac-10 leaders in scoring, and Henderson is fourth in rebounding average with more than eight per game.

UCLA also features the best young backcourt in college basketball. Last season's Gatorade national high school player of the year, Baron Davis, is third in the conference with five assists per game, and both Davis and fellow freshman Earl Watson are among the top five in steals.

"This is definitely the biggest game of the year," Brown says. "If we get this one, that'll give us

plenty of confidence going into the USC game, and we've got that one at home, too. Things'll be clicking and rolling, and we'll be able to go up to my home state, Washington and well ... we're going to go up there and play real well against them."

Brown attended Mercer Island High School in a suburb of Seattle, where he was the state's leading scorer as senior with almost 26 points per game. In his first season at Oregon, Brown was named to the Pac-10's all-freshman team and quickly established himself as a crowd-pleasing three-point specialist.

Brown's 61 three-pointers in his freshman season was the seventh-highest single-season total for an Oregon player, and his total of 100 after two seasons placed him fifth on the Ducks' all-time list.

Now in his junior season, Brown has taken on a new leadership role on the relatively young Oregon team. While new Oregon head coach Ernie Kent says Brown has not fully refined his leadership abilities, his love of basketball is never in question.

"To Terik's credit, he always comes ready to play in terms of being excited about being here," Kent says.

Brown is becoming well known for his intensity in warmups.

"I've tried a lot of different approaches to the game," Terik Brown says, "being relaxed and trying not to get too pumped up, but sometimes that hasn't worked out. The games that I've played the best are the times when I do get pumped up in warmups and

really get focused and get a good sweat going."

One of the things Brown says he is pumped up about is playing for Kent, who has a decidedly different coaching style from former coach Jerry Green.

"Coach Kent has given me a lot more confidence as far as shooting the ball and playing within myself," Brown says. "The main difference is the type of encouragement. Coach Kent really tries to build you up and give you enthusiasm. It seems like he's more on your side, and you're playing with him, not for him. For coach Green, I felt more like we were playing for him and not with him."

"Sometimes a lot of the good programs do have that, like Indiana for example, where they play for coach [Bobby] Knight. Sometimes it's good and sometimes it's bad, and in this situation it's a good thing that we actually play with coach Kent."

Not only is Brown looking forward to playing with Kent again next season, he also hopes to assume an even greater leadership role in his fourth and final season.

He said he hopes to be named a team captain, but in the event that doesn't happen, he will still be a role model.

With his solid basketball background, it would seem Brown was raised to perform well on the court, too. It is something the Bruins should be wary of tonight, and something the rest of the Pac-10 should be prepared for in the future.

After all, who wants to mess with destiny?

UO: UCLA game key to second half of season

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showing in the first half. How could she not be?

The problem for her now is the next nine games.

Not only do the Ducks have to face the Pac-10 teams again without the services of Mowe, but they must also go on without leading scorer and rebounder Brianne Meharry, who was injured Jan. 24.

"I'm really happy; I'm just a little nervous about the second half," Runge said.

The following is a look back and a look ahead to what the conference holds for the Oregon women.

Backcourt

The backcourt play has been the most steady part of the team thus far in conference play.

Starting guard Lisa Bowyer hasn't quite had the offensive production that she has in past seasons, but her defensive efforts have been superb.

Point guard Natalie Hughes slumped slightly through the first part of the conference season but has come around as of late.

"I think the backcourt has picked it up and is playing more consistent, and I think that is what Coach

Runge wanted us to do," Hughes said.

Frontcourt

This is where the loss of Mowe and Meharry has hit hard.

However, freshman Angelina Wolvert and junior Sonja Curtis have the potential to replace much of what was lost.

"Ang has had some outstanding games and continues to improve," Runge said.

"Everybody knows what we have to do," Curtis said. "We don't have a lot of bodies."

Second-half expectations

The Ducks have won 15 of their last 18 conference games, but it could be hard for Oregon to match its 8-1 mark in its final nine games of the conference season last year.

Oregon plays five of its final seven games in McArthur Court, where it has won 80 percent of its games at home under Runge's direction.

Ryan Frank is the sports editor for the Emerald.

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