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Win: Ducks hit 23 of 27 free throws

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darn good basketball team," said Runge, obviously frustrated when asked if she felt it was an ugly win. "We had to play really well to win tonight. They did a good job of getting it inside, and they did a great job in their zone. We worked on zone all week and still had trouble with it."

The Cougars' zone defense especially gave Oregon fits in the first half, when the Ducks shot just 27.6 percent from the field and scored only 24 points.

Lucky for Oregon, Washington State was just as bad, if not a little worse, connecting on just 27.3 percent of its shots from the field and managing just 21 points.

The Cougars' Alke Dietel (two for two) and Oregon's Sonja Curtis (one for one) were the only players on either team to shoot better than 50 percent from the field in the first half.

Both teams picked up the pace a bit in the second half, when Ore-

gon outscored Washington State 37-30. The Ducks drastically improved their shooting after half-time, hitting nine of 19 field-goal attempts while the Cougars upped their shooting to 38.2 percent from the field in the second half.

The Ducks outrebounded the Cougars 24-12 in the second half after the teams were tied in that department with 19 each in the first half.

Bowyer led all players with nine rebounds on the night, eight of those in the second half.

One of the most impressive statistics of the night was Oregon's free-throw shooting as the Ducks made 23 of 27 attempts from the line.

Curtis led the Ducks there, making nine of 10 free-throw attempts in the game, including four straight in the final 3:18. She finished as the Ducks' second-leading scorer on the night, with 15 points.

With 4:17 left, Washington

State was down only seven, 52-45. But as a team, Oregon made nine of 10 free-throw attempts in the final four minutes to finally pull away from the Cougars down the stretch.

Yvonne Kunze, a 6-foot-4 senior, led the Cougars with 20 points, while the freshman Dietel chipped in 13.

Next up for the Ducks is No. 17 Washington, which comes to Eugene for a 7 p.m. matchup Saturday at Mac Court. The Huskies (16-5, 7-5) have won four straight after beating Oregon State 84-74 Thursday.

"We need to come to play," Runge said. "We need to play one of our best defensive games, we need to execute our offense and handle their change of defenses. I'm a little concerned about their inside players, especially Amber Hall on the boards."

Hall leads the Pac-10 in rebounding with an average of 11.6 per game.

Bowyer: Season-high nine rebounds

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19 rebounds apiece. But the Ducks dominated the boards in the second, scoring a 24-12 advantage, despite being out-sized down low by the Cougars' two six-foot-four post players, forward Alke Dietel and center Yvonne Kunze.

That it was the 5-8 Bowyer able to sneak under the basket and lead the game in rebounds surprised no one — except maybe Bowyer.

"I don't know where that came from," she laughed. "My girls kept telling me I was taking their rebounds."

Added Rhodes: "I was reading an article about Michigan State being blue-collar workers, and that's

what Bowyer is. She gets out and works hard and makes things happen."

Which explains why Bowyer is the team's best defender, always in her opponents' faces, diving for loose balls, providing the defensive spark that usually ignites the Ducks' offense. Thursday night it was no different.

"She's a gamer," Runge said. "She's the heart and soul and pulse of this team when it comes to getting things done."

Even if she doesn't look good doing it.

"I'm not the prettiest player out there," Bowyer admitted. "But I get the job done when I have to."

Civil War: Polkinghorn gets rematch with Orndorff

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vidual seedings. And of course, we want to win it for Finley."

This will also be the final match at McArthur Court for three Oregon seniors, each of whom has been an integral part of the No. 19 Ducks' success this season. And each will have key match-ups against the Beavers.

John Taylor, who missed Oregon's first six matches of the season with a leg injury, is healthier than he has been all season and close to the form that earned him an NCAA Championship appearance in 1996. The 118-pound senior is only 9-5 this season, but he recorded one of the Ducks' three wins over Oregon State on Jan. 16. Taylor gave Oregon the lead with a 20-10 major decision over Ben

Richards in the opening match.

Finley is looking for a similar start tonight.

"John has made a lot of improvements and is one of the best wrestlers we have right now," Finley said. "His match will be crucial and could set the tone for the whole night."

Jeremy Ensrud leads Oregon in wins with 26 and ranks second in pins with seven. The 134-pound senior missed the first meeting against Oregon State with a shoulder injury. Ensrud, who ranks No. 1 in the Pac-10 and No. 3 nationally at 134 pounds, will face Ryan Sugihara, who defeated Oregon's Mark Castle 8-2 on Jan. 16.

At heavy weight, Rich Polkinghorn will face Oregon State's Matt

Orndorff, who ranks No. 2 in the conference in his weight class. Polkinghorn dropped his fourth straight match to Orndorff earlier this season. A win over Orndorff tonight could give Polkinghorn a psychological advantage entering the Pac-10 Championships.

"I think the team is mostly focused on our individual matchups," 158-pound Sean Morgan said. "I haven't even thought about this being Finley's last home match."

Finley wouldn't want it any other way.

"I want to see our guys wrestle hard for seven minutes and stay tough and focused," Finley said. "This match is too important to be worrying about all the other stuff."

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