

The Key To Romance

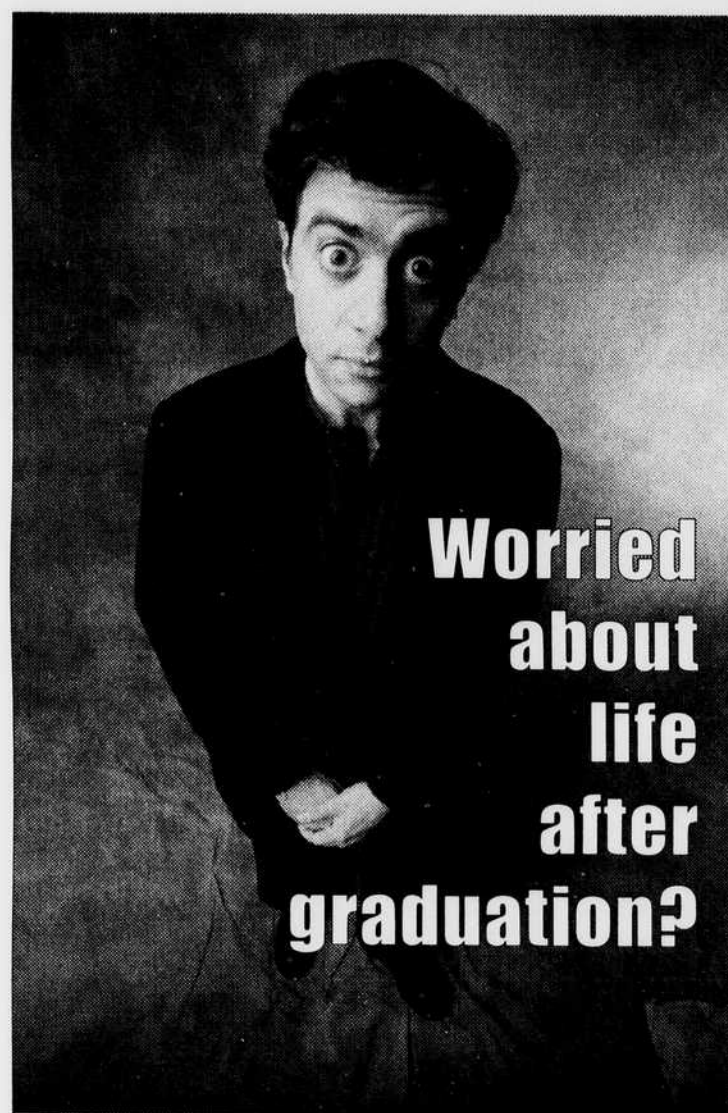
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Experience pays off down stretch

By Allison Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

Defeating the No. 7 team in the country on Thursday almost came back to haunt the Oregon women's basketball team on Saturday.

The Ducks struggled against a Southern California team that was depleted with injuries and Oregon's own depth may have been what saved the game down the stretch.

During the last eight minutes of the game, Oregon head coach Jody Runge went to her veteran players — Natasha O'Brien, Brianna Meharry, Angelina Wolvert, Nicole Strange and Lisa Bowyer — to get the Ducks the win.

Oregon committed 10 turnovers in the first 12 minutes of the second half and struggled to find its offense, scoring just 14 points to Southern California's 21.

But the five veterans managed to get Oregon back on track, led by Meharry, who had 15 second-half points. The Ducks outscored the Trojans 20-13 in the last eight minutes of play, outrebounded

them 10-5, and were six for seven from the free-throw line.

"Those five that were in there down the stretch did an excellent job of settling our team down," Runge said. "The experience was huge. They did a great job of getting the rebounds and things like that, and I think that's a credit to them."



After scoring 31 points in Oregon's victory against UCLA two nights before, freshman guard Shaquala Williams never quite got into the groove against the Trojans, converting just three for 10 from the field and missing both of her three-point attempts.

With just more than seven minutes remaining in the game, Williams took a seat on the bench, visibly distressed.

"It's difficult when you're coming off a big game," Williams said. "A lot of people put pressure on you to perform and I put a lot of pressure on myself, but I never have two bad games in a

row."

O'Brien, a senior, was substituted in for Williams and Oregon finished the game without its point guard.

"Our point guards were struggling a little," Meharry said. "When you're a freshman you're still getting used to Division I play. When you're an older player, the experience helps you deal with things. You're not timid."

Southern California had just eight players healthy and two of its starters, Carmen Krause and Tashara Carter played much of the second half with four fouls each. Whitney Houser fouled out of the game with just more than 10 minutes remaining.

The Trojans started three freshman, a sophomore and a junior.

Despite its youth, however, Southern California stymied an Oregon team that was riding high after a huge victory two days before. The Trojans shut down the Ducks' freshman point guard who had been on a roll, but Oregon's veteran players picked up the slack.

Women

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smaller team, it allowed me to get inside."

For the game, Oregon shot 52 percent from the field but failed to hit a three-point shot for only the third time this season. The Ducks had problems creating shots all night, Runge said.

"[USC] did a good job of pressuring us on offense," she said. "We did try to put the ball on the floor some, but it wasn't productive for us. We tried to create things offensively, but we got tentative."

Decimated by injuries this season, the Trojans (6-14, 2-9) had only seven players see significant minutes against the Ducks. Forward Tashara Carter and center Tiffany Washington each scored

17 points, while guard Tiffany Elmore pitched in 13 points on three-for-20 shooting. USC shot just 35 percent from the field.

After building a 37-27 lead at the half, the Ducks and Trojans traded buckets over the first eight minutes of the second half. USC cut Oregon's lead to seven points following back-to-back jumpers by Carter with 12 minutes remaining.

Four minutes later, Washington put USC even closer with a high-arching lay-in over two Duck defenders. Meharry was called for her fourth personal foul on the play and Oregon's lead was cut to just four points, 53-49.

But the Ducks went on an 11-3 run over the next 4:32 to build its lead back to 12 points. The cap-

per came when Meharry muscled the ball inside and fought off three USC defenders for a bucket and foul. Meharry sank the free throw and Oregon matched its biggest lead of the game with just more than four minutes remaining.

"I have to give a lot of credit to the five we had in there during the stretch run," said Runge of Meharry, O'Brien, forward Angelina Wolvert, guard Lisa Bowyer and center Jenny Mowe. "Rebounding, blocking out, that was huge for us. Those five did a fine job."

Oregon used its depth and considerable size advantage to out-rebound the Trojans both overall, 44-24, and on defense, 31-13.

SAPP Winter Seminars and Workshops

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EDUC 407
CRN: 26039
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Special life challenges, concerns and issues encountered by children, adolescents and adult children of alcoholic parents.



Resiliency

Sat, Feb. 20

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Judy Vergamini, family therapist, will examine various aspects of resiliency and strategies to promote it in oneself and others. Students will learn about interrelated affects of environment, nature and nurture in the development of resilient children.



Predicting Violence

Sat, Mar. 6

EDUC 407
CRN: 26049
\$40

Hill Walker, co-Director U of O Institute on Violence and Destructive Behaviors and nationally acclaimed expert on violence, will be the keynote speaker for this workshop. Dr. Walker and other experts will examine current theories, data, community response and practical solutions for predicting violent behavior.



The Sacred Art of Dying

Sat & Sun, Feb. 27-28

EDUC 407 507
CRN: 26035 26037
\$80

Students participating in this 2 day workshop, presented by Richard Groves, Ph.D. will examine a holistic approach to the life process. He will also examine case studies as a tool for learning to distinguish between psycho-social, religious, and spiritual care-giving issues.

