



Nick Medley/Emerald

Bowyer drives through two Oregon State defenders at Gill Coliseum Friday.

## Bowyer

Continued from Page 9

the game she lost.

"It took longer than I thought to get back in sync," Bowyer says. "It wasn't until the trip to Washington where I really got back into things."

Against the Huskies in Seattle, Bowyer had eight points and five assists off the bench to help lead her team to an emotional 67-57 victory. That victory was one in a stretch of nine in a row, which has put Oregon on the brink of its first Pac-10 title and in the driver's seat to host the first round of the NCAA Tournament in two weeks.

"This whole season has been awesome, it's been incredible," Bowyer says. "Everyone is so close, we just haven't had any major problems this year. That's been the real key. People have stayed healthy, for the most part, and we have never lost sight of what we want."

Bowyer, a native of Adelaide, Australia, first toured the United States in 1988 with a high school-aged club team that was competing in the Northwest. Bowyer went to Seattle and Portland and fell in love with the atmosphere of women's college basketball in America.

Where college and high school games in Australia would seldom draw more than a hundred fans,

*"This whole season has been awesome, it's been incredible. Everyone is so close, we just haven't had any major problems this year."*

**Lisa Bowyer**  
Guard

Bowyer says she was "blown away" with number of fans who attended women's games in the States.

Shortly after she returned home, Bowyer told her family that she wanted to come to America to go to school and play basketball. But she didn't think she'd end up at Oregon. Bowyer originally wanted to attend Washington, which had an opening at the two-guard position until the Huskies' top recruit, Jamie Redd, was made eligible by the NCAA after passing her SAT test.

When Washington went with Redd, who this season became the school's all-time leader in points scored, Bowyer contacted an old family friend who was playing at Oregon. The friend sold Bowyer on Eugene and head coach Jody Runge's program and

convinced her to give it a shot.

"I think I made the right choice," Bowyer says. "I've been given an opportunity to play here and it's been great."

Bowyer's game is defense. It has been defense since the very first day she stepped into McArthur Court.

In high school, and on her various club teams in Australia, Bowyer was primarily a scorer.

But over the last four seasons, Runge and her staff have helped to transform Bowyer into the best defensive player on the best defensive team in the Pac-10.

"She has the heart of a lion," Runge says. "Lisa has worked very hard to improve her game. The team looks to her for leadership and for a calming presence down the stretch."

Bowyer says that being a leader has always come naturally. But defense has been something she has worked very hard to perfect.

"I watch their eyes," Bowyer says about her opponents. "I try to read where other players are on the court and anticipate who's going to get the ball. A lot of it is just being aggressive and just wanting it more than anyone else."

Which is why Bowyer plays as hard at practice on a Tuesday afternoon as she does on Saturday night when the whole world is watching.

## Agent for Rodriguez meets with Mariners

The Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — For a moment Tuesday, the heaviest hitting at the Seattle Mariners' camp wasn't in the batting cage.

Agent Scott Boras met with Woody Woodward, the Mariners' vice president of baseball operations, in their first face-to-face discussion of the spring over Boras' star client with the team, short-stop Alex Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is signed through the 2000 season, but so is star center fielder Ken Griffey Jr. Team executives have repeatedly said they want to keep both players in Mariner uniforms, but it still hasn't stopped speculation that the only way to afford Griffey in baseball's soaring marketplace is to trade Rodriguez.

"I don't see anybody tense here," Woodward said. "We'll talk through the spring and see what we can get done."

Woodward didn't say whether the talks Tuesday with Boras centered on a new contract for Rodriguez or even a trade involving any of the Mariner players represented by Boras. His clients also

include first baseman David Segui, who is signed through this season, and minor-league pitchers Cam Smith and Damaso Marte.

Besides meeting with Boras on Rodriguez and Segui, Woodward said the M's are talking with Griffey's agent, Brian Goldberg, plus the agents for pitchers Jeff Fassero and Jamie Moyer, whose contracts expire after this season. Rodriguez said he wasn't aware of any talks Tuesday between the team and Boras.

"He (Boras) has other players on this team, too," Rodriguez said.

Segui was part of serious trade speculation this winter as the Mariners sought pitching without getting involved in the free agent market. Segui's presence in a trade equation has diminished, but the Mariners still are pursuing help for the starting rotation, plus a left-handed reliever.

Besides Boras, also at the Mariners' camp Tuesday was Don Fehr, director of the players association, who held his annual spring meeting with the players.

## Sports Brief

### Emeralds head coach resigns due to illness

The Eugene Emeralds are in search of a new coach after the Chicago Cubs, the Emeralds' parent organization, announced Tuesday that Bob Ralston, who had only been with the team since last December, will resign because of health concerns within his family.

Director of Player Development Jim Hendry hired Tom Pratt and Damon Farmar along with Ralston on December 3rd. Ralston's resignation was unexpected by the team's front office.

"We were very much looking forward to having a manager the

caliber of Bob Ralston coming to Eugene in 1999," Emeralds President Bob Beban said in a released statement. "However, we would like to wish him the best and would hope that he could return for the 2000 season."

Hendry felt the same way. "I basically told him [Ralston] that he had no choice and that he had to do what was best for him and his family. He was depressed about giving it up, but he has to look at his family first."

Hendry is optimistic about finding a replacement.

"We should have one named by the end of the spring. We are in no hurry. We want to find the right guy, the best guy for the situation."

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