

Shaq leads Ducks past Pilots

■ No. 13 Oregon squeaks by Portland 68-57 to keep its young season perfect

By Mirjam Swanson
Oregon Daily Emerald

When fans of the No. 13 Oregon women's basketball team finally picked up radio play-by-play man Ray Martin, they heard him begin the delayed broadcast with a familiar and sensical adage:

The more you have, the more you have to lose.

Without a doubt, Oregon had a lot to lose against a weary, injury-ridden Portland team. A perfect season. A top-15 ranking. That hard-to-earn national attention.

In the end, the Ducks (4-0 overall) didn't lose.

But they certainly didn't win as convincingly as they probably should have, beating the determined Pilots (3-4) by 11 points, 68-57 in front of 585 at the Chiles Center.

And fittingly, it was the Ducks' two Portland-area players who led the way Tuesday night.

Sophomore point guard Shaquana Williams got off to a good start, eventually nearing her career-high of 31 with 26 points, including 15 first-half points. Last season's Pacific-10 Conference

freshman of the year went nine for 20 from the field and six for six from the free-throw line. She also had four assists.

Junior forward Brianne Meharry — a product of high school basketball powerhouse Oregon City — came through with a much-needed 16 points, four rebounds, nine rebounds and a block.

Nicole Strange, who had a career-high 21 points against Virginia Tech on Saturday, contributed nine

points while connecting on four of her five shots. The senior guard also had three assists and four rebounds.

The Ducks' other two starters, junior forward Lindsey Dion and junior forward/center Angelina Wolvert, both scored eight points.

But the only Oregon reserve who was able to dent the scoreboard was sophomore forward Ndidi Unaka, who finished with one point on a first-half free throw.

The Ducks shot 37 percent from the field and two of 10 from behind the three-point arc.

Thankfully for Oregon, its trusty defense came through yet

Oregon leaders

Scoring

Williams 26
Meharry 16
Strange 9
Dion 8
Wolvert 8

Rebounding

Wolvert 10
Meharry 9

Assists

Meharry 4
Williams 4

again.

The Ducks forced Portland into 26 turnovers.

After being tied 31-31 at half-time, the Ducks began the second half with a 14-2 run to put them ahead by 12.

It proved to be a valuable cushion, because Portland — which shot 45 percent on the night — fought back to within five with three minutes to go.

But the Ducks didn't concede, pulling away at the end to secure their fourth straight win.

The Pilots' leading scorer was their only senior, Sarah Green, who finished with 18.



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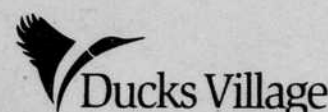
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