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Women

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"They have some inexperience as far as replacing players, but they're a very good shooting team, they're big inside and they play hard."

They'll probably play even harder knowing the Ducks went to Boulder, Colo. last year and won 75-63 behind Lindsey Dion's 10 points and six rebounds.

"Anytime you beat a team on their home court and they get a shot at you, it's gonna be in the back of their minds," Meharry said. "And that's what's gonna be motivating them. We have to make sure that we don't get complacent with where we are right now."

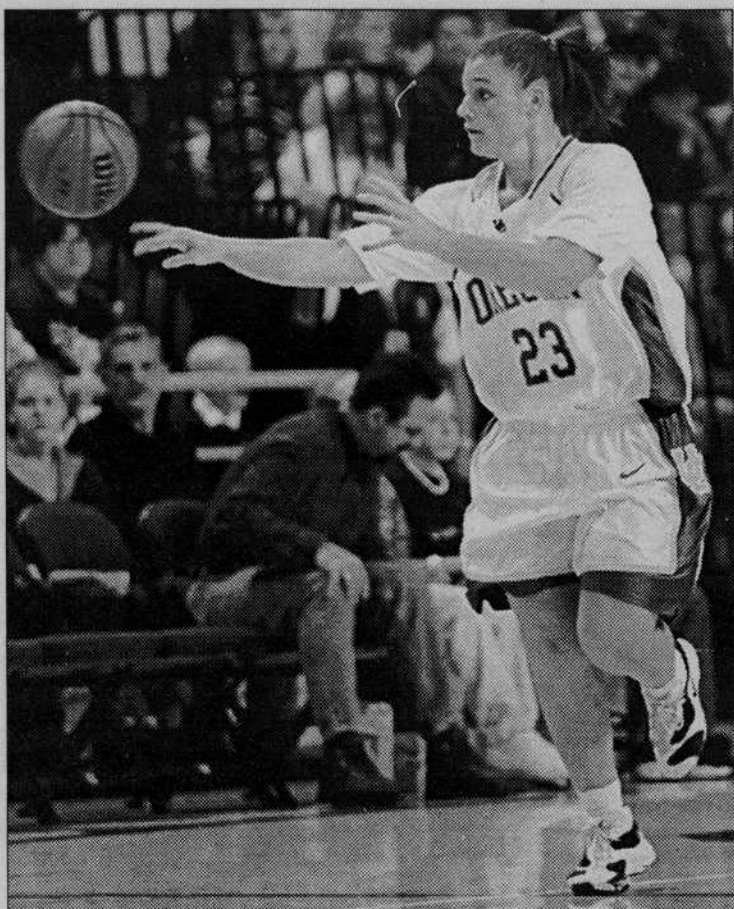
Especially because that type of nonchalance was likely what hindered Oregon against Portland.

"I don't think our team respected them as much as we could have," said sophomore point guard Shaquala Williams, who helped secure Tuesday's win with a game-high 26 points. "We didn't play as hard as we could."

"Colorado is pretty young right now, but we can't look past them. It will be a challenge for us because they run the triple-post and a lot of movement, and that will really test our defense."

A defense that — as expected — has played a major role in the Ducks' four wins. Opponents are shooting 36 percent from the floor against Oregon and averaging less than 53 points per game. The Ducks are shooting almost 42 percent and scoring 71 points.

But no one is quite satisfied with either of those sets of statistics.



Forward Lindsey Dion had 10 points and six rebounds at Colorado last season.

"We need to work on our rebounding and on going up strong, getting fouled and making three-point plays," Meharry said. "And of course on improving our defense."

Another point of emphasis rests with the bench, which accounted for a single point against Portland. The Ducks need more production

from reserves in order to finish the nonconference schedule without a loss, which they're hoping to do.

"I was not pleased with our bench play," Runge said. "With the exception of [junior point guard] Karen Piers, I thought our bench was not ready and did not do as good a job as they had in the past."

Sports brief

Fein, Hartmann earn Pac-10 awards

Senior Steve Fein of the Oregon men's cross country team is the Pacific-10 Conference's men's cross country athlete of the year, the conference announced Thursday.

The Lenexa, Kan., native won both the Pac-10 Championships and the NCAA West Regional. He also took third at the NCAA Championships.

And the honors don't stop there for the Ducks. Freshman Jason Hartmann is the newcomer of the

year after finishing 15th at the Pac-10s, tops among freshmen. The Rockford, Mich., native also finished 27th at the NCAAs to earn All-American honors and help Oregon to its fifth straight top-10 finish as a team.

On the women's side, Stanford freshman Erin Sullivan swept the awards. The Jericho, Vt., native was just the second freshman to win the Pac-10s and finished seventh at the NCAAs.

Arizona's Dave Murray and Arizona State's Walt Drenth are the men's and women's coach of the year, respectively. Murray directed the Wildcats to their third Pac-10 title of the 1990s, and Drenth guided the Sun Devils to their best Pac-10 finish at second place.



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