

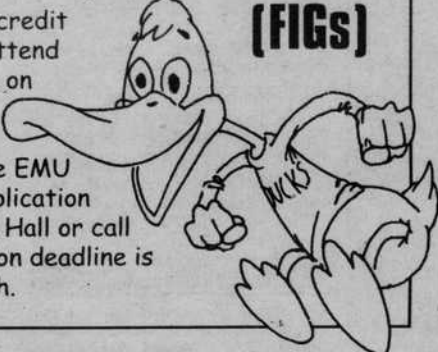
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(FIGs)

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Women

continued from page 7A

with another jumper from near the top of the key.

And so it went. Strange hit again. Williams buried a 3-pointer. Sophomore forward/guard Jamie Craighead canned a shot. Then Strange hit again.

Less than three minutes into the half, Oregon was up 41-35, much to the delight of the 5,367 in the house — who got loud during the run and then louder when assistant coach Fred Litzenger surprisingly leaped out of his seat and vividly besought the fans to crank up the volume.

"That's when the crowd helps you, when you make a few good plays," Litzenger said. "That's when they gotta get on their feet and start screaming and go crazy so the other team can't get going

again. That's why I was trying to get them going."

The sudden burst of energy by the Ducks and their crowd was too much for Washington State. Jen Kerns, the Cougars second-leading scorer coming in, scored 12 points but fouled out with 11:57 to go. Alke Dietl led Washington State with 20.

Meanwhile, all of Strange's 10 points came in the second half. As did 14 of Williams' 20.

And Washington State couldn't contend with Oregon's 6-foot-3 forward Angelina Wolvert, who had a "heyday" all game, finishing with 19 points on eight-of-11 shooting.

After pulling adequately away, Runge took the chance to exercise her team's depth. Several reserves

got playing time, and, Runge hoped, valuable experience.

"We said we were going to try and get them in there in a game situation," she said. "Once they settled down they did a better job. We have to get them in those situations more so they can have confidence."

Alyssa Fredrick played nine minutes and had a block and three rebounds. Alissa Edwards, Ndidi Unaka, Kourtney Shreve and Courtney Moore all played significant minutes as well.

Their play could be of especially important from now on, because regular starting guard/forward Lindsey Dion may have suffered her second concussion in as many weeks in collision with a Cougar player after chasing down a loose ball.

"I don't know if she'll be out, but if she is, then our depth is going to have to step up," Runge said.

Concussion

continued from page 7A

flared things up a little," Shepherd said. "Now we're back where we were a few days after the [California] game."

Dion won't play against Southern California on Thursday, and her status for Saturday's game against UCLA is unknown.

If it had been another concussion, head coach Jody Runge said a third would have ended Dion's junior season.

"I'm like, 'Lindsey, don't dive in there with your head first,'" Runge said. "But she doesn't have any control over that. That's just how she plays. She just went in

there headlong, and you're not going to change that about her."

On Thursday Dion played 17 minutes against Washington. But when she wasn't running the court it was obvious that something was wrong. She appeared unsteady standing on the sideline or on the bench. And when Dion took a hard fall to the floor during the first half, she was visibly shaken.

After the win over the Huskies, Dion admitted to experiencing some discomfort.

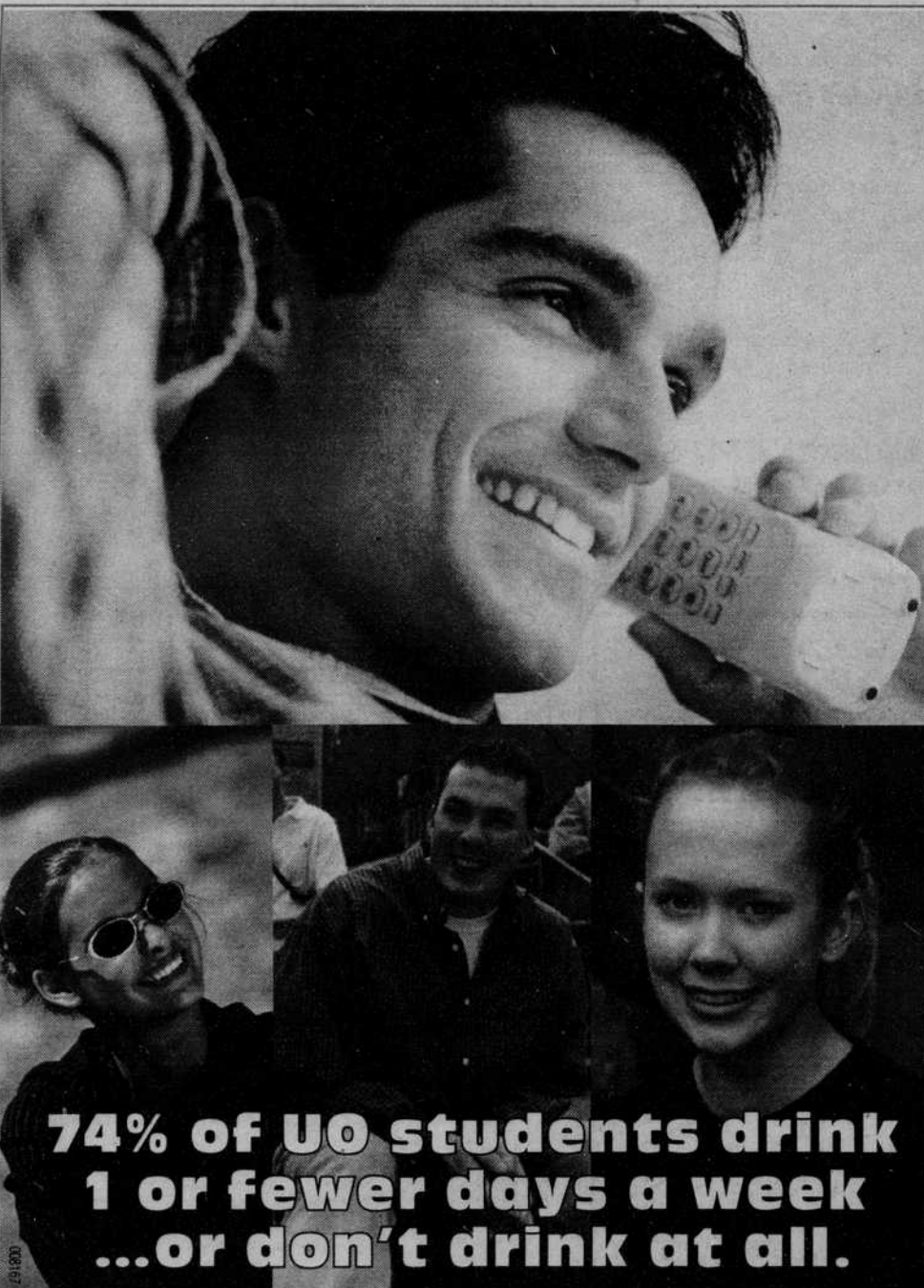
"Through the most part I think I was all right," she said. "There were moments out there where I, for lack of a better word, had a lack of focus. [I was] a little loopy, I guess."

Point guard Shaquala Williams said she thought Dion's condition was OK before Saturday's game.

"Lindsey is one of those people where if she's hurt, she's not gonna tell anybody," Williams said. "She's just gonna try to play through it. She wants to play basketball that bad."

Shepherd is confident that, after Saturday, Dion will be honest with the Ducks about her condition.

"The two of us had a big discussion about that," Shepherd said. "How you're only hurting yourself by holding the truth. If anything, [Saturday's game] woke her up a little bit to just how serious this kind of a thing can be."



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