

# 'Shrivel' no shrinking violet

■ Freshman point guard Kourtney Shreve may not be big, but fans have noticed her anyway

## PAC-10 NOTES

By Mirjam Swanson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It seems to be the first question anyone who's been to an Oregon women's basketball game this season asks: "Who's No. 5?"

Which is usually followed by, "That girl is crazy."

And then, "That girl is good."

She isn't crazy, but freshman Kourtney Shreve is good and getting better.

Apparently good enough to be impressive even in limited minutes, playing behind star sophomore Shaquala Williams and consistent junior Karen Piers.

The 5-7 point guard has appeared in 11 of the Ducks' 17 games and is averaging 5.7 minutes. And although she's only averaging one point per outing, Shreve's somewhat frenetic play has been a spark for Oregon.

"She's gonna be a great one, without a doubt," head coach Jody Runge said.

"She has great quickness. She can flat-out shoot it like [Williams]; she has the confidence like Shaq. [Kourtney] just needs to get stronger."



Like most freshmen, Shreve — "Shrivel" to teammates — will gain strength as her career progresses. She'll also gain important experience necessary to succeed in the intense world of big-time college basketball.

"I knew you had to be committed," Shreve said. "But there's so much that you're not ready for and you don't know about. But you have to go through it to understand it."

Runge and Shreve agreed that her game is improving, but there's still plenty of potential left to tap.

So much so that the Ducks could likely find themselves with a surplus of capable point guards.

No problem. Runge said she can easily foresee Shreve running the point and Williams playing shooting guard.

"That's a possibility," Runge said. "Put Shaq at the two-spot and let her shoot a little more than she gets to at the point. Actually, sometimes she comes and asks me if she can do that."

### So she's no Cruella DeVil

Sunday's Register Guard included a heartfelt letter-to-the-editor about the Ducks' head coach, concocted by Eugene resident and former Oregon tennis coach Tom Greider.

He wrote about a "particular Sunday evening, just 24 hours after their tough game against Stanford" when he was watching the Kidsports basketball team for which both his daughter (Kelsey) and Runge's niece play.

"The game was winding down

when one of Kelsey's teammates took an elbow to the stomach. ... This poor little girl couldn't get her breath back and was hyperventilating. ... Jody goes all the way over to the other side of the gym, gets down to eye level with this 9-year-old and helps her regain her composure. ... Jody takes the time to comfort her and shows the grace and compassion that makes her not just a wonderful coach, but a great person ..."

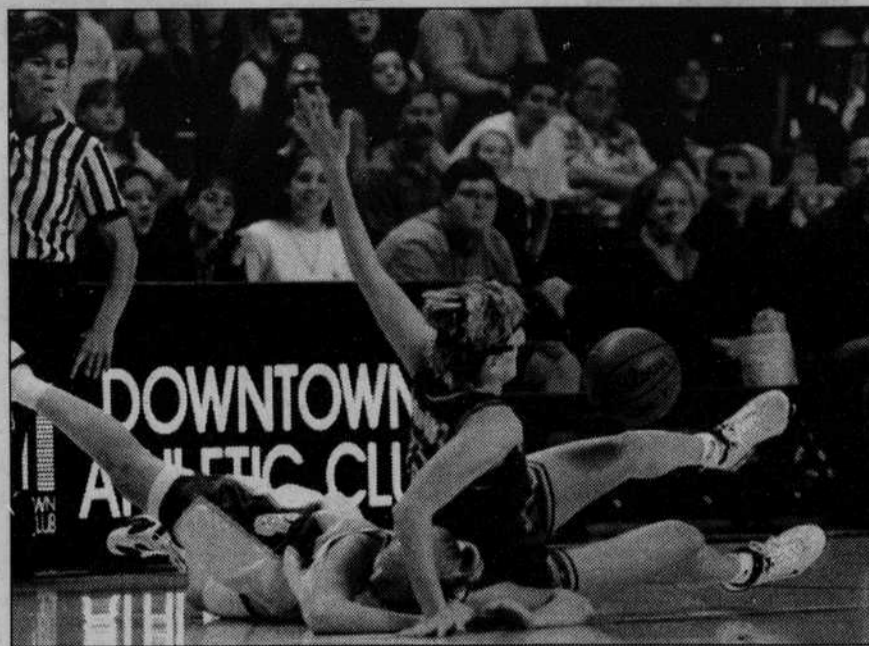
Characteristically, Runge did her best to play the whole thing off.

"I've seen plenty enough of that in practice, I'm just glad I could help," she said. "[The letter] was almost embarrassing. I guess my Cruella DeVil reputation is going right down the tubes, isn't it?"

And that, said Greider, is exactly why he wrote.

"A lot of people see her on the sidelines and portray her to be some evil monster," he said. "But she's not. She's a very nice, articulate young lady."

"I've seen it. I've seen her be introduced to girls and not just walk away, but talk to them, ask them about their basketball, actually



Jeffery Stockton Emerald

Freshman point guard Kourtney Shreve is developing into a good player and a crowd favorite.

have a conversation. My feeling is that if you can come away saying you had an impact on just one kid, then you've really done a lot. It's not about how many NCAA championships she wins, [it's that] she's a terrific role model."

### M.I.A.

For the first time in nearly six years, Kirstin McKnight wasn't on hand for an Oregon women's basketball game during the past week's homestand.

Instead the former walk-on and current assistant was at a conference in New York, representing the University's Warsaw School of

Sports Marketing and chatting with the likes of NBA commissioner David Stern and WNBA commissioner Val Ackerman.

McKnight also fielded job offers from both Major League Soccer and the NHL.

"I want to coach," McKnight said. "But if the date comes that coaching isn't ... then I can get into the management side of sports."

Beside, she might not be able to handle missing the Ducks' games.

"It was so hard for me. I didn't even have a laptop to get scores, so I called my dad who had on broadcast.com and he stuck the phone up, and I was getting updates that way."

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