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**Oregon Daily Emerald**

## Women

continued from page 7A

Saturday's battle also sets the stage for a rematch between last season's co-Pac-10 champions.

UCLA "is definitely going to be a grudge match, but we have to have USC first," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said. USC "is definitely the must-win for us this weekend. Fortunately that's first, and we can get that under our belts and feel good."

The Women of Troy have more athleticism than Oregon at nearly every position.

"We have to neutralize their athleticism; they're a way more athletic team than we are," Oregon point guard Shaquala Williams said. "We're going to really have to slow the game down and make it a fundamental game rather than a run-and-gun game. That's what they want to do, but if we try to play that game with them, we'll lose."

Senior forward Danielle Golay, a transfer from Seton Hall, is averaging 12.7 points per game and had 20 points against UCLA.

Point guard Erica Mashia, who missed the last three seasons due to injuries, has also joined USC's active roster.

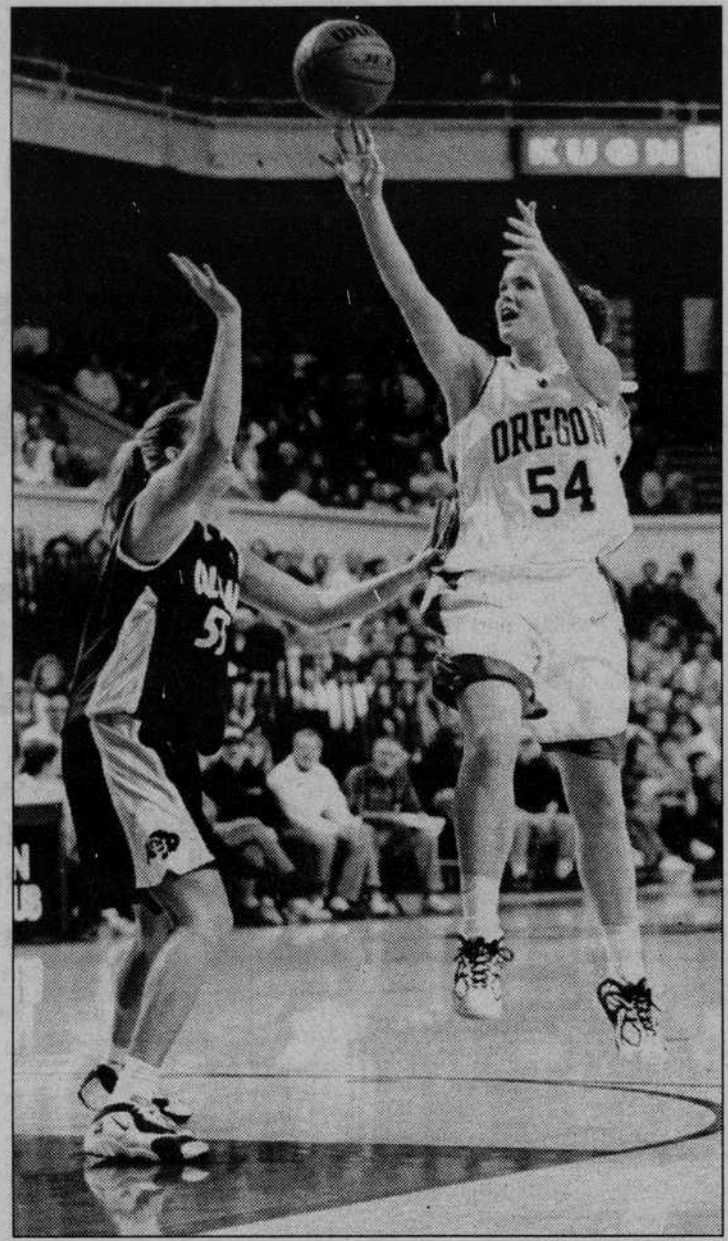
Mashia and Williams have squared off before, in the 1995 high school state tournament. Williams is looking forward to the rematch with the player whom she tried to emulate in high school.

"She was such a great player in high school," Williams said. "She was one of the first women from this area to really do some good things. I'm really happy to see her back healthy and playing again."

Oregon will be hurt by the absence of junior guard/forward Lindsey Dion who is suffering from post-concussion syndrome after taking an elbow from a Washington State player last Saturday. Dion didn't pass the required medical tests Monday, so she won't be allowed to play Saturday.

Runge is looking to sophomore guard Jamie Craighead and junior forward Brianne Meharry to fill Dion's role.

"Obviously we have to be prepared to play without Lindsey Dion, which makes our preparation somewhat difficult," Runge said. "You may see a little more



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Brianne Meharry may start in place of the injured Lindsey Dion tonight against USC.

zone out of us than man-to-man.

"I know the kids will be fired up about it. Hopefully, as in the Stanford game, we'll have another person step up like Alyssa Fredrick and Jamie did and really give us some spectacular performances down there."

Oregon is known to draw energy from big crowds, but the Ducks have to find an alternate source of inspiration against Southern California — which averages 516 fans per game.

"We really don't have that dependency on the home environment that some other teams do," USC head coach Chris Gobrecht said. "But I think the other guys might not play as well because they're not at home, and that's

where we might gain some benefit."

Another factor that won't be determined until game time is how the Ducks run their offense because opponents have troubled them with zone defenses all season long.

Gobrecht, however, is known for her man-to-man defense. By not going to the zone, Oregon — and especially Williams — will find more opportunities to drive up the middle or to get the ball down low.

"I'm gonna always do what I do, so that's not a problem for me," Williams said. "Everyone around me — the posts, the guards, everyone — has to step up and do their jobs."



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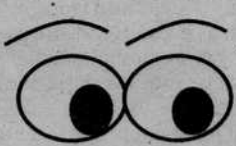
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