

# Women's

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from the floor and hadn't been to the foul line.

The Cardinal anticipated a miss. Former gold medal-winning Olympic coach Tara VanDerveer had two timeouts remaining. A well-executed set play could then tie the game, or win it.

Really, it isn't that complicated. But when Wolvert's first free throw bounced off the iron and into the hands of the Cardinal's Sarah Dimson, she paused.

So did point guard Milena Flores and VanDerveer. And the refs. Then Dimson dropped the ball and did nothing. Even the clock stopped with 4.1 to go.

For the briefest instant, Stanford had no clue.

Flores was the first on the floor to realize that Wolvert's shots were one-and-one — not the two-shot bonus — and with the clock restarted, seconds winding down and the ball sitting on the floor, the senior guard raced over and picked up the rock.

Error No. 2: Instead of using one of her two timeouts, Flores desperately hucked the ball downcourt toward the basket. The ball flew out of bounds, and rather than set her team up for a potential game-winning shot, Flores racked up her team's 19th turnover with .08 seconds left.

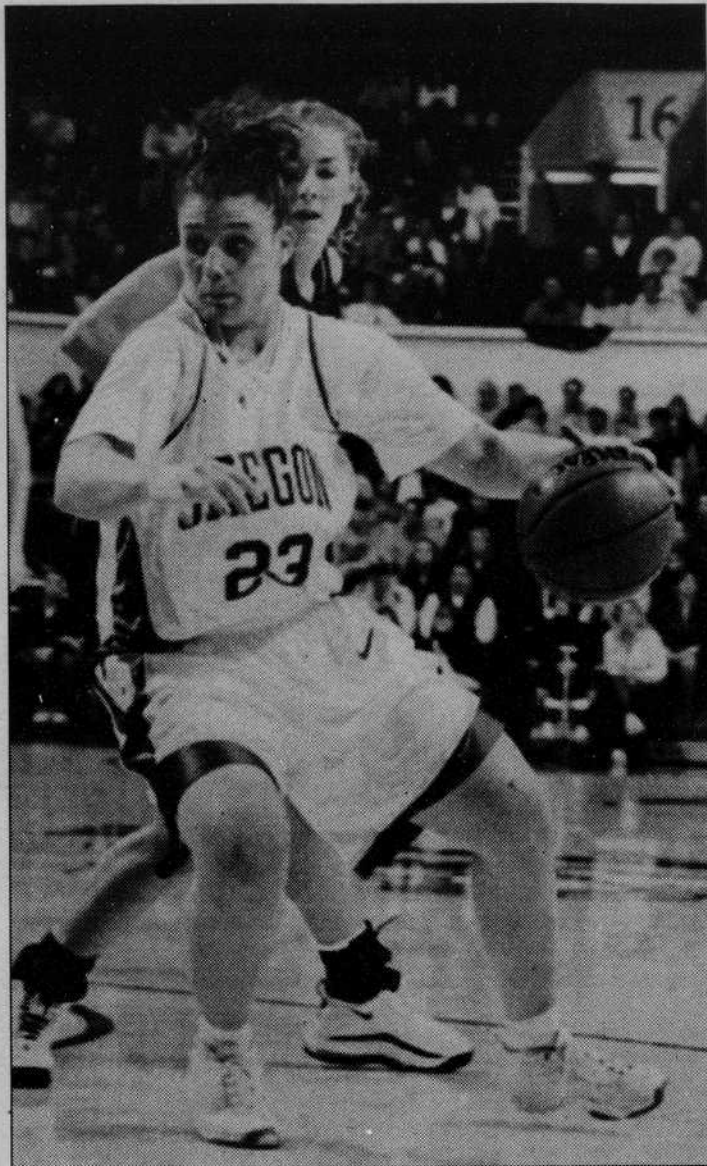
After that, it was over — almost. The Ducks inbounded twice, once after the clock started early and time expired illegally.

But Flores didn't waste any time on that second inbound pass. She fouled point guard Shaquala Williams before the ball even touched a player, giving Williams two free throws and Oregon two more points in a wild 61-57 victory in front of 5,944 at McArthur Court.

To say the least, it was a frustrating finish for the Cardinal.

"The ref signals one-and-one, we're standing there, I don't know," VanDerveer said. "Unfortunately, it didn't come down to that. We fouled to make her miss, and she missed, and we get the ball back, but people are just standing around, I have no idea. It's extremely frustrating."

Meanwhile, Oregon head coach Jody Runge was in a much better mood than her Stanford counterpart. She seemed tongue-in-cheek as she recalled the final seconds of regulation, saying she was fully aware that Wolvert was shoot-



Headache-free and loving it, Lindsey Dion takes it to the Cardinal Thursday night. Kevin Calame Emerald

ing one-and-one.

"I was way ahead of that," Runge said. "[Assistant coach Dan Muscatelli] handles the officiating, and if there was something that would have come out of it I needed to be concerned about, then he would have let me know."

Stanford's final breakdown was not the only lapse. With the first half winding down and the Ducks up 28-25, Oregon forward Lindsey Dion was nearly uncontested as she grabbed her own rebound, dribbled deep into the lane and beat the buzzer with a short jumper off the glass.

Dion continued to be a presence in the second half, finishing with a game-high 16 points, three assists and three rebounds.

Dion said the Ducks played partly for Betty Ann Boeving, a

former Duck who was in a car accident prior to the game. Also, Oregon hadn't forgotten its earlier bout at Stanford, when a 26-point lead turned into a 16-point loss.

"We had a lot emotionally attached going in. We were talking about how we went down there and embarrassed ourselves with a 42-point turnaround. We decided that wouldn't be the case when they came here."

The Ducks are looking for a sweep when they play California on Saturday at 7 p.m. Williams said it is a game that Oregon needs to keep in perspective.

"We've got to think about the next game," Williams said. "We can't get too high with the highs and too low with the lows. We've got to approach every game the same."

"How do you eat an elephant," head coach Jody Runge analogized. "One bite at a time."

If that's the case, Dion was in effect for Thursday's big one.

But she's always effective against Stanford. It's just a thing. "Coincidental" Dion called it.

Last season, it was her 14 points that led Oregon to its first triumph over the Cardinal in 11 years. Thursday night it was tying her career-high 16 that did the job.

Purely coincidence, sure. Interesting though, the non-statistical similarities that exist between Dion's game and those of former Stanford stars like Jamila Wideman and Kate Starbird, who Dion, like many young players, couldn't help but admire as she grew up.

Although Dion would never acknowledge such a likeness.

"Tonight was just my night to step up," Dion said. "And my teammates made the right pass, I just had the easy part of shooting the basketball."

Except that there was more to it. Typical, timely Dion things.

The Ducks took a lead into half-time because Dion wanted them

to. With seconds to go, she drove into the lane with an 'I'm-gonna-score' mentality, missed the shot, got the rebound and then the put-back. Ducks up five. Nice.

Then with less than two minutes left in the game and Oregon trailing 55-54, Dion did it again. Driving the lane, pump-faking, suckering three Stanford defenders into the air, banking home the shot and drawing the foul — which she converted to put the Ducks ahead by two. Of course.

And when Angelina Wolvert laid-in the deciding points a minute later, it was Dion who got the assist. No surprise there.

"I knew Lindsey was going to be an All-American tonight," Runge said. "She was really disappointed to not play in the game last time, and being the California kid, she just really wanted to make the difference in winning this basketball game tonight. She was certainly the difference in what happened last time and what happened this time."

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# Dion

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Traits that Stanford players have traditionally been known for. Characteristics that Oregon players are getting known for.

Dion returned the following Thursday against Washington, but she still wasn't herself, wobbling through 17 minutes of play — and still managing to score eight points and collect five boards. And saying afterward, that, yes, she had felt a little "loopy" out there.

Two days after that on Jan. 22, Dion chased down a loose ball, collided with a Washington State player and had to leave the game with what everyone feared was another concussion, but turned out to be post-concussion syndrome — which would keep her out of action for a week, including in the Ducks' loss to Southern California and then in the UCLA win.

But having missed that time doesn't matter now, because every game from now on is the biggest, the second-place Ducks (16-6, 7-3) will tell you.

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