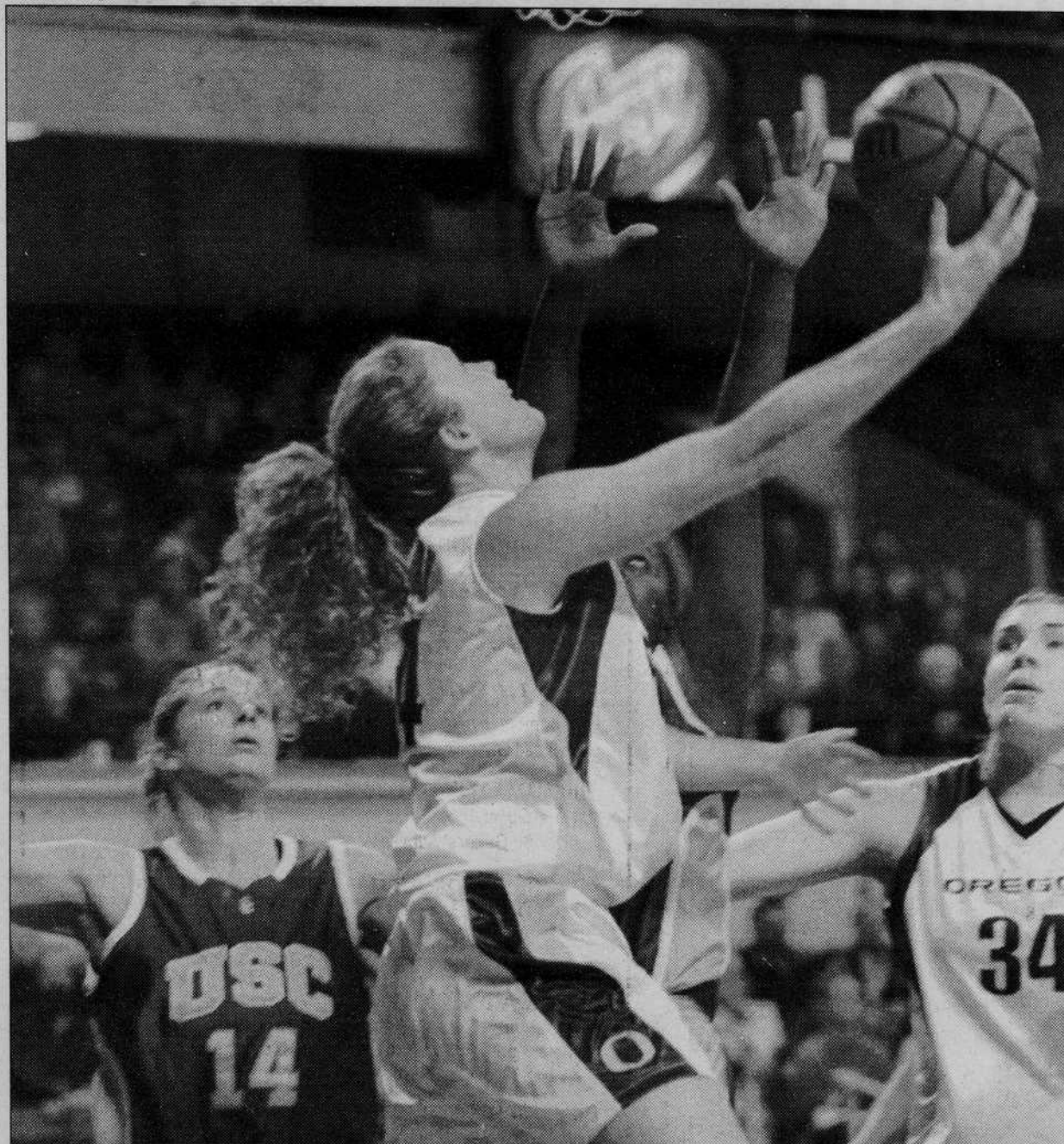




This girl just wants to have fun



Adam Amato Emerald

Senior forward Brienne Meharry has provided the Ducks with a consistent presence on the floor in a season that has lacked consistency.

■ Senior forward Brienne Meharry's health and consistent play have given the Ducks a boost during a rough season

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

In face of all the problems that the Oregon women's basketball team has seen this season, Brienne Meharry has been the bright spot.

The senior forward — surrounded by injuries, illnesses and tempers — has been one of the only Ducks who has consistently been on the court during this tumultuous season.

Her encouraging smile and successful attitude have lifted the Ducks in times of despair and given the team a shot at reaching an eighth-straight post-season tournament.

"It's been crazy," Meharry said of the season. "It seems like everyone's had some big thing happen to them."

Other than a minor ankle sprain that kept her out of two games in the preseason, "Bri" has played in every game and been one the Ducks' main contributors. In a career-high 39 minutes Sunday, Meharry scored 15 points and grabbed a season-high 11 rebounds. In Pac-10 play, she is averaging 11.1 points and 5.1 rebounds per game.

"Just to have that senior stability and leadership is a big part of a team's success," senior forward Lindsey Dion said. "I think it was frustrating for Bri to be the only one that was healthy and able to go 100 percent the whole time."

Oregon's sixth-place standing and now near-impossible goal of making the NCAA Tournament has taken its toll on the senior class, who expected nothing less than a third straight Pac-10 title this season.

"Because I am the most healthy of the seniors, I sometimes think maybe I should've done more," Meharry said.

Her status as a starter is not always certain, but Meharry has adjusted to the role of sixth-man.

"I've always been the sixth-man, I all Turn to Meharry, page 12

On Tap

Who: Oregon vs. Arizona St.

Where: McArthur Court

When: 7 p.m. tonight

“It's been crazy. It seems like everyone's had some big thing happen to them.”

Brienne Meharry senior forward

UO basketball ready to rumble with Arizona State

■ Oregon has little room for error when it tries to avenge its earlier loss to Arizona State in tonight's rematch

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Out of the 12 losses that the Oregon men's basketball team has endured this season, there's no doubt which one shook them up the most — and still does.

It was less than a month ago. The Ducks were coming off a superior 79-67 upset victory over then-No. 7 Arizona. Their confidence was sky high, and they spoke with sincerity about their newfound chances at making a run at the NCAA Tournament.

And then, it all blew up in their faces. The Arizona State Devils, who had won just one league game at the time, ran the embarrassed Ducks out of McArthur Court in a 99-72 laughter on Feb. 4.

Although to the Ducks, there was nothing funny about the cold reality that the NIT was their most likely destination.

But now, even that is in question, as Oregon prepares for its rematch with Arizona State at 6 p.m. tonight at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe, Ariz.

"I thought it was a very embarrassing game for us when we played them at home," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "That should be motivation enough. The biggest thing is we get a chance to redeem ourselves."

The Ducks (13-12 overall, 4-11 Pacific-10 Conference) are coming off a winless home stand and now must secure one more victory to be eligible for the NIT. Most likely, though, they will need to win two of their remaining three games to secure a postseason berth.

And to the players, there's no better team to try to get that first win against than Arizona State (11-14, 3-11). The one player who appears to be the most excited about tonight's game is Anthony Norwood, a Tucson native who has not let the 27-point defeat to ASU escape his mind.

"I know I am [excited]," Norwood said. "Because that last game was just horrible. It was like a nightmare. Personally, I want to go back and show them that that wasn't us."

"It's revenge."



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■ The Oregon women hope to kill themselves a giant when they take on Arizona State

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

As the Arizona schools prepare to play Oregon in the quake-riddled Northwest, perhaps they should be the ones shaking in their boots.

With three games remaining and its RPI rating at 67, the Oregon women's basketball team would love nothing more than to knock off ASU and Arizona, two schools which respectively sit in and near first place in the Pacific-10 Conference.

"We want to be the giant killers this year," senior forward Angelina Wolvert said. "We're obviously not going to win a Pac-10 title, and our chances to go into the tournament are getting slimmer — actually, they're probably not there anymore — but we want to be the giant killers this year now and go out and cause problems for people at the top."

That team on top is Arizona State, whom the Ducks face at 7 p.m. today at McArthur Court.

When Oregon traveled to the desert to

take on the Wildcats and Sun Devils early in February, the games' circumstances were different. The Ducks, ranked No. 22, held the Pac-10 lead, and appeared on their way to an eighth-straight NCAA postseason. Meanwhile, both the Arizona schools were unranked.

The tables turned, however, when Oregon lost both games.

Now, the Ducks are unranked, and — with a touch of irony — Arizona State is ranked No. 22, holds the conference lead and is heading to the Big Dance.

"They're a tremendous challenge for us and I think our kids feel confident about how we played them last time," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said. "We just need to put our best foot forward. I think if we play the way we played against USC and Washington, we have a great shot at it. Hopefully the home court advantage will help us out."

Arizona State is led by a pair of junior transfers. Guard Amanda Levens is averaging



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