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Laura Smit Emerald

Forward Brienne Meharry looks for a celebratory hug after beating Washington.

## Meharry

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ways come off the bench," she said. "And I'm always the one where if someone gets hurt or someone gets in trouble, I'm in. That's just been my role. I'm the kind of the person who wants to be in the game in the end, when it really matters."

"She's willing to take whatever role we've given her, and she's never complained," head coach Jody Runge said. "She's always done what's best for the team."

Perhaps Bri's disappointment this season stems from the fact that she's never known the meaning of failure. She won two Pac-10 championships as a Duck, and in four years at Oregon City High School in Gladstone, her team lost just two games. Her four state championships and three USA Today national titles helped her become an All-American during her senior year.

"She has a winner's mentality," Dion said of her freshman roommate. "I don't think she'd have it any other way; she wouldn't let it be any other way. She's a person that thrives off success."

Of her four years at Oregon, Meharry said living with Dion at the University Inn was one of the most memorable experiences.

"Definitely rooming with Lindsey — I'll never forget that because our freshman year was crazy," Meharry said. "We hated each other."

Both Meharry and Dion said living with another person for the first time was hectic, especially because Dion was "ultra clean," Meharry said, while Bri was "the whole oth-

er extreme," Dion said.

"It's a funny story because we're such good friends now," Meharry said.

Along with a couple of championship trophies, Meharry has solidified her place in the Oregon record book. She recently became just the 15th player in school history to reach the 1,000-point plateau.

"I just try to play hard every minute and hope that everyone else will do the same," she said.

Senior Jenny Mowe, known for her playful demeanor with teammates, said she can't help but have a good time with Meharry.

"I've really enjoyed playing with Bri," Mowe said. "She's always turning around to me; we'll be battling some team, and she'll just turn around and say, 'Let's just have fun, Jenny, let's just have fun.' She's the kind of player who does everything with a smile. She fouls with a smile. She always says stuff like, 'Jesus!' And she's got a big grin on her face."

Philosophically, Meharry said she just wants to take advantage of the time she has as a basketball player, which may be extended with a shot at the WNBA, but before shooting for the big league, Bri will get married this summer.

"Life's too short and college is too short to be unhappy when you're out on the court," Meharry said. "So no matter what happens, I'm always telling Jenny 'Hey, have fun.' Especially this year, our last year in college and our last year with the fans."

The fans may get one of their last chances to see Bri smile at 7 p.m. tonight in McArthur Court against Arizona State, when the Ducks will decide their postseason fate.

### Brienne Meharry



**Year:** Senior

**Position:** Forward

**Home town:** Gladstone, Ore.

**2000-01:** Picked up 15 points and 11 rebounds in a career-high 39 minutes against USC. Scored a season-high 21 points at Oregon State Jan. 5. Recorded 16 points and 10 rebounds vs. Arizona. Is third on the team in points (9.8) and rebounds (5.0) per game.

**1999-2000:** Earned All-Pac-10 Honorable Mention honors for the second straight season, scoring in double figures 17 times. Was third on the team in scoring (10.3) and rebounding (5.7).

**1998-99:** Averaged 9.9 points and 5.1 rebounds, playing in all 31 games. Won the Doyle Higdon Memorial Trophy, given to an Oregon sophomore student athlete for excellence in athletics and scholarship.

**1997-98:** A Pac-10 Freshman of the Year candidate before she went down with a season-ending injury Jan. 24. As a regular starter, led the team in scoring (13.1) and rebounds (6.0) prior to the injury. Recorded career-highs in points (24) and rebounds (14) against USC.

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