

Rival guards have mutual respect for each other

■ Duck Shaquala Williams and Beaver Felicia Ragland lead their respective teams in scoring this year, with different styles

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

CORVALLIS— With 43 seconds remaining in regulation, Oregon State's Felicia Ragland hit two free throws to tie the score at 74. That was all the senior guard could muster for the rest of the contest, allowing Oregon to escape Gill Coliseum with a Civil War win, thanks to a heroic shot off the glass by Oregon's Edniesha Curry.

As she has done throughout the season, junior point guard Shaquala Williams led the way in scoring for the Ducks in the 84-83 overtime win. Williams finished with 20 points and four assists, while Ragland, the Beavers' star guard, netted 23 points to go along with a career-high 17 rebounds and seven assists.

In what could be her final Civil War meeting (the two teams may meet in the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament), Ragland earned her 17th career double-double and fourth consecutive against Oregon. Because it was her last contest against Oregon in Corvallis, Ragland said that the pain of the loss is more than usual.

"It hurts a lot," she said. "This being my last home game here — it's our rival game, too — and it just hurts a lot to lose by one point. I thought we fought hard to the end but came up a little short."

Though Williams sat out all of last season because of a knee injury, the rivalry between two of the Pac-10's top scorers has been

fierce. Despite their intense competitiveness, the two guards have maintained a strong respect for each other.

"She shot better than I did and was more aggressive I think," Ragland said. "I think we're pretty equal, but she is a little better at certain things than I am as far as shooting and ball handling. I thought she played a good game today."

"We are different in that she is more of a slasher, a rebounder. And me, I'm kind of a shooter, penetrator. Even through we can both put the ball up and score a lot of points, we kind of do it in different ways."

Shaquala Williams
junior point guard

Williams had nothing but praise for Ragland's game, too.

"Felicia Ragland showed everybody what she can do on every end of the court tonight," Williams said. "Twenty three points, 17 rebounds and seven assists — she played great in every facet of the game. She is the kind of player that if it comes down to it, she is going to show up, and she did that for her team."

Because Williams is a point guard for the Ducks and Ragland a shooting guard for the Beavers, they did not guard each other during most of the game. Their different positions lead to different roles on the team, but both have the

ability to influence the outcome of a game.

"We are different in that she is more of a slasher, a rebounder," Williams said. "And me, I'm kind of a shooter, penetrator. Even though we can both put the ball up and score a lot of points, we kind of do it in different ways."

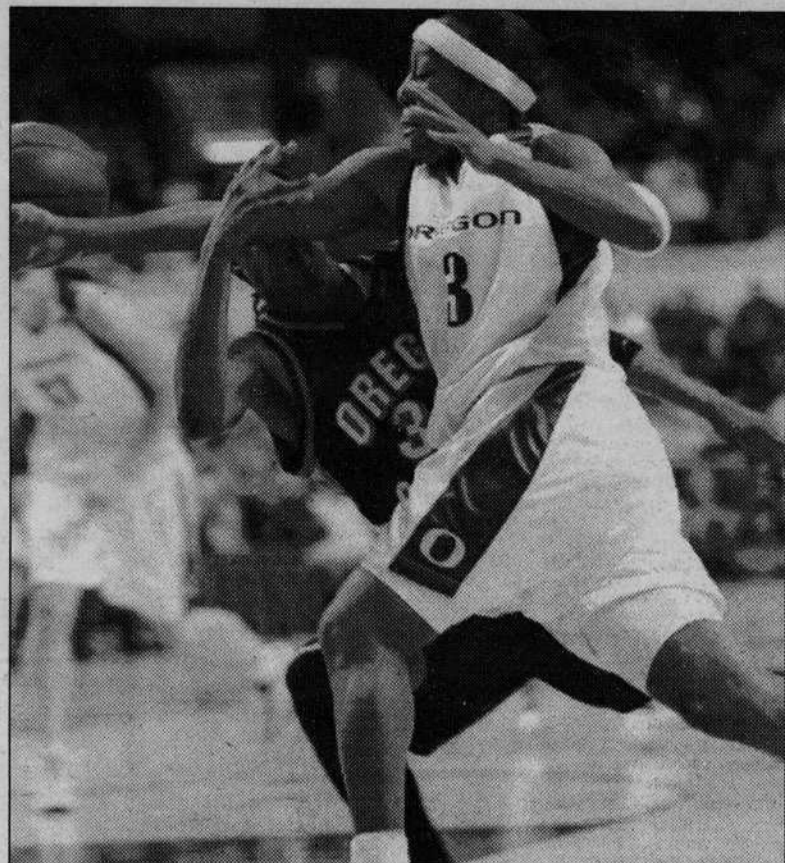
Williams and Ragland also both know how to utilize their teammates and realize that they can depend on them.

Ragland began the game passing to her teammates, saying after the game that she wanted everyone to get involved in the offense. One of those recipients of her passes was Hollye Chapman. Coming off the bench for Oregon State head coach Judy Spoelstra's squad, Chapman netted 24 points to go along with 10 rebounds.

Oregon's offense was more evenly distributed than its in-state rival's, as every Duck player to put up a shot scored at least one point. Along with Williams's 20 points, sophomore forward Cathrine Kraayeveld scored 16 and senior center Alyssa Fredrick dropped 13. Williams' unselfishness was no more evident than in the final possession of the game.

With the score 83-82 in favor of Oregon State and time winding down, Williams passed up a potential shot to kick the ball across the court to Curry, who was able to head-fake Ragland out of position to clear a lane for her game-winning bank shot.

"My teammates having confidence in me, especially Shaquala giving up a shot to kick it over to me for me to hit the game-winner — I think it really shows a lot about the character of this team



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon's Shaquala Williams drives into Oregon State's Felicia Ragland at McArthur Court on Jan. 19. This was the Beavers' first win against the Ducks at Mac Court in nine years.

and how much we've grown and how much we trust in each and every individual on this team to take those big shots when the game is on the line," Curry said.

A senior, Curry said that her winning shot over the Beavers was the biggest of her career and she has appreciated competing against Ragland and Oregon State over the years.

"I really enjoy playing against

Oregon State, especially the competitiveness in Felicia Ragland," Curry said. "We have friendly sportsmanship words on the court. She congratulates me saying 'good job' and 'way to work hard' and I tell her the same. I really appreciate playing against people like that. It really shows a lot for her character."

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Curry batted down the Beavers' inbounds pass to seal the Oregon win.

"It was really sweet because they beat us on our home court, so we wanted to pay them back and beat

them here, especially on senior night," Williams said.

The Ducks took a 74-65 lead on a Kraayeveld layin with 4:50 to play in regulation. But it turned out the be Oregon's last bucket before overtime.

Oregon State's Hollye Chapman scored seven straight points, in-

cluding a three-pointer, in a two-minute stretch to bring the Beavers within two. Ragland, who had 23 points, 17 rebounds and seven assists in the game, sank two free throws with 43 seconds left on the clock to tie the game at 74.

"It seemed like the team to make the fewest mistakes would win the

game," Oregon State head coach Judy Spoelstra said. "We just didn't quite make our last possession count, and they converted."

The Ducks shot 50 percent in the game, including a 56 percent clip in the second half and overtime. Oregon shot a season-worst 23 percent from the field against

Oregon State on Jan. 19.

"We needed (to win) because we're in a sticky spot in the Pac-10 and we want to improve our seeding for the Pac-10 Tournament," Williams said.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 18). You're undergoing a transition this year. You're going from analytical to emotional, from left brain to right brain. Your experience goes against what you had thought to be logical. Trust your experience.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - It's perfectly natural for you to experience a letdown after an adrenaline rush. Besides, the sun is going into Pisces - it's the start of your annual penance phase.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - A person who's been difficult to deal with is losing importance in your eyes. You're starting to care less about what he or she thinks. Keep asking those tough questions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - All of a sudden you're surrounded by work that should have been out yesterday. Should you have been working instead of having fun? Heck no! Having fun is important. Reschedule, and call to let folks know if you'll be late.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - You're getting stronger. Can you feel it? New friends are standing by, watching to see what you need. You'll be able to follow through on promises recently made.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - Time to get back to business. A stern taskmaster wants to know if you're really solid. Prepare to answer a few tough questions. Prove your intentions are honorable, and really mean it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - All that work you've been doing hasn't gone unnoticed.

New opportunities are arising. All the work you still have to do is in the way, however. It'll be down to a dull routine in no time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - You're entering an intensely creative phase. It'll be fun and satisfying, but also a lot of work. You may also have to stick to a budget. For you, that's annoying, but it can be done. Prepare.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - Is there any way you could hand the reins over to somebody you trust? Let somebody else fight your battles for a change. You'd do the same for them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - You're moving into a more contemplative phase. You'll be using all those plans you've made to actually produce results. At first it may seem as if none of them work, but you'll find a way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - You're getting stronger, smarter and even more creative. You're also very stubborn. The person who tries to talk you out of your earnings now will be sadly disappointed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - This is the letdown after the big rush, the hangover from going on a mental binge. It may be hard to convince your boss that you ought to stay home and sleep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - The more you learn, the more of what you know gets reassessed. It's a natural part of the growing process. Be willing to abandon some old assumptions.

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