

Cougar's Winkler provides leadership by example

It is not often that one reads about the opponent. If ever, it is usually something abstract, statistical or vague. But this opponent is different. He goes under the category of role model... maybe even hero.

When most people are asked to name someone who influences them, they are likely to blurt out a familiar name like JFK or Magic Johnson. Personally, I have always been tentative to say who my role model is because others might not understand. This time I will try to explain.

Reporters Notebook

By Joe Arndt

Chris Winkler plays basketball for Washington State University. That's right, those same guys who beat us by one point Sunday afternoon, dropping the Ducks Pac-10 record to 1-5. It wasn't simply his ten points — six of them via long range jumpers — that prompted me to disclose this well-kept secret. It's much more than that.

Ever since seventh grade, Chris has been respected for his achievements on and off the court. Besides being the finest all-around athlete I've ever seen, he is one of the finest leaders I have ever known. He was popular in school but not in the adolescent, social sense. He was popular because he is personable, outgoing and intelligent. He leads by example.

At Oregon's McMinnville High School, he developed into a talented three-sport athlete. He could throw a football farther, shoot a basketball better and toss a baseball faster than anyone I've ever witnessed. Rumor has it that he also could have been an excellent

collegiate swimmer. He has the instincts, natural ability and mental toughness the majority of us only dream of.

While winning several athletic awards in high school, Chris continued to maintain a high academic standard and an interest in extra-curricular activities. He was the student body president when I was a junior, and he helped persuade me to run the next year. Though I never compared myself to him, there was always a sense of pride in following in his



Chris Winkler

footsteps. As a leader, he had the tact and confidence I wished to possess. He taught me a lot.

When it came to choosing a university, Chris opted for WSU. He decided to concentrate his athletic abilities on basketball, and he has both started and come off the bench enthusiastically since his freshman year. I remember watching Chris for the first time as a Cougar. I don't even think he played, but I recall he was the only one on the bench standing and waving a towel to cheer his teammates. That is the quality of person Chris is.

Recently Chris has had his ups and downs. Last winter, while sledding on a snowy mountain, he separated his shoulder, which forced him to redshirt last season. He came back for his senior season "thanks to a good surgeon." Chris is now the sixth man for the

Cougars, a role he aptly fulfilled Sunday by providing scoring and defense that kept the Ducks behind the Cougars.

Chris will graduate this spring with a chemical engineering degree. What is so impressive is that when he speaks — whether it be about school or basketball — he never tries to impress. He speaks to people, not at them. But right now, the Pac-10 season is first on his mind.

"Things for me are great," Chris said with his characteristic smile. "This team has played well at times though our record (2-4 in conference play) can be improved on."

Why didn't Chris come to Oregon?

"At that time they (former coach Jim Haney and staff) didn't want me," he said. "They wanted Bryan Trendell (then a senior at Marshfield High School)."

The Ducks got Trendell, but the recruit never panned out. After his freshman season, which he spent mostly on the bench, Trendell left coach Don Monson's squad in December 1983.

After five Pac-10 games, Winkler has produced some substantial numbers. He is averaging 11.8 points coming off the bench, shooting at a .549 clip. Add to that 19 assists in five games and a .750 free throw percentage.

What is so impressive for the nonstarter is that he is second on the team in conference minutes played with 181. Maybe Chris should be starting.

"Really, I don't mind not starting as long as I contribute," said Winkler. "It's not who starts but who finishes."

That's why I chose a young man to emulate. Chris Winkler is both realistic and optimistic, and his accomplishments are substantial — excellent qualities of an ideal role model. It's just too bad he plays for the other team.

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Grapplers lose tough one

By Tony Ahern
Of the Emerald

The last two weight divisions proved disastrous for the Oregon wrestling team Saturday.

The Washington State Cougars scored the maximum 12 points in the final two matches to edge the Ducks 21-20 in Richland, Wash. for their first win over Oregon since 1969.

After 177-pounder Mike Harter drubbed Tim Eyman 16-4 for a superior decision, it appeared the Ducks, leading 20-9, had their 17th-straight win over WSU locked up.

Mike Sudduth, however, riddled Oregon's James Terry in the following 190-pound match, 19-4, to earn a technical fall and six points for the Cougars.

Sudduth's big win clinched the meet for the Cougars as Oregon, who lost heavyweight Joe Rissone for the season with a knee injury last week, had to forfeit his division, handing WSU another six points — just enough to pull out the upset.

Head coach Ron Finley, who called the loss "a heartbreaker," was handed his first defeat ever by WSU in his 16 years at the Oregon helm.

The loss, leaving the Ducks with a 4-5 dual-meet record, overshadowed some excellent individual efforts.

Oregon's two freshmen standouts, Shon Lewis and George Johnston, both posted impressive wins at 126 and 150 pounds respectively.

Oregon's Glenn Jarrett edged Ted Parker 4-2 at 134 in the evening's tightest match. Jarrett and Parker, noted Finley, are in a "battle for the number one seed in the Pac-10 Conference tournament," which takes place March 2nd in Pullman, Wash.

In need of a heavyweight, the Ducks will entertain Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m.

The meet will be the last home appearance for the squad this year, and the last ever for seniors Terry and Harter, who is chasing his own single-season win record of 45 this year with a 23-5-1 record to date.

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