



Photo by Mark Ylen

Keith Reynolds overcame arthroscopic knee surgery earlier this year to captain the Ducks in his final season at Oregon.

Reynolds bounds back with high flying style

By Darin Linnman
Emerald Contributor

Keith Reynolds did not begin his senior basketball season as the team captain in the most ideal way.

After just four regular season games, the 6-6 forward injured his knee, forcing him to have arthroscopic surgery to remove torn cartilage.

However, judging by recent performance, it is difficult to tell Reynolds was ever injured.

"Earlier, my knee was really bothering me," Reynolds said. "But after surgery and rehabilitation, it seems like I never had a problem."

Reynolds is definitely playing like he never had a problem. His statistics hardly seem those of a player returning from an injury, averaging 12.6 points and 4.3 rebounds a game.

In addition, Keith has led the team twice in scoring and three times in rebounding, while finishing second three times in scoring and three times in rebounding.

After sitting out only three games, Reynolds returned to the line-up to lead the Ducks to a second place finish in the Fred Meyer Far West Classic, scoring 59 points and grabbing 20 rebounds in just three games.

"Before the injury, my knee was hurting me a lot. I couldn't move and rebound like I wanted to," Reynolds said. "Now I don't feel it at all."

For his efforts at the Classic, Reynolds was named to the all-tournament team, an accomplishment he admits he is proud of.

"Being named to the all-tournament team gives you a lot of confidence — you know you can play with the best," Reynolds said. "I was very happy with that."

Reynolds' career is filled with a number of feats he can be happy with. He began playing organized basketball as a sixth-grader in Springfield.

He went on to star at Springfield High School, capturing all-district honors his senior year. In addition, he was named to the all-tournament team at the post-season state basketball tournament in Portland.

"It was a goal for me in high school to attend the University of Oregon and stay in my hometown and play so my parents and friends could watch me," Reynolds said.

But instead of coming straight to the University, Reynolds opted for two years at Southern Idaho College. He helped the Golden Eagles capture the national junior college championship as a freshman in 1987, averaging 9.8 points and 4.0 rebounds.

As team captain in his sophomore year, Reynolds increased his figures to

13.2 points and 4.7 rebounds, and was named to the all-region team, despite missing 18 games with a broken hand.

Reynolds said he had no regrets about attending the junior college.

"It was an experience for me, leaving home for the first time," he said. "I really enjoyed myself there."

Following his standout junior college career, Reynolds attracted the attention of several nationally high-caliber college basketball teams, including Oregon State, University of Washington and Seton Hall. But Reynolds decided to follow his childhood dream of playing for the Ducks.

"When I came back my junior year I

Keith Reynolds' Oregon Stats

	G	FG	FT	PTS	PPG	R	RPG
1988-89 (Jr.)	27	134	56	333	12.3	98	3.6
1989-90 (Sr.)	10	51	24	126	12.6	43	4.3

was very excited to be home," Reynolds said. "It was like a dream for me."

Reynolds had an immediate impact in his first year with the Ducks, starting 21 games and averaging 12.3 points and 3.6 rebounds. Reynolds returned to the team this year as the top returning scorer and the team captain.

"It's really exciting being a leader. I was captain at Southern Idaho my sophomore year, so I am used to it," Reynolds said.

Head coach Don Monson realizes the value Reynolds has as both a player and a leader.

"As far as innate ability goes, Keith has as much or more than anyone we have. He can jump, run, get off a shot," he said. "We expect him to carry a large load for us, particularly offensively."

Reynolds also has gained the respect of his fellow teammates.

"Keith is very important, not only as the captain, but also as someone we can go to in the clutch," said sophomore guard Terrell Brandon. "He has taught me how to handle all the pressures. We need someone like that to be inspirational."

Reynolds came into his senior season with some very definite goals.

"Personally, I wanted to perform better than last year," he said. "I wanted to lead the team to a better season, and we've almost accomplished that already."

Reynolds also is well aware of both his own strengths and his limitations.

"I feel like I'm at my best when I just catch the ball and shoot, or when we're running," he said. "Now, I'm looking to score and rebound a lot more."

"I need to work on improving my rebounding," Reynolds continued. "Re-

Turn to Reynolds, Page 6B

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