

Payton Continued from Page 3B

degree work done."

"It really hasn't been that different having Coach Anderson as the head coach," he added. "We knew what was coming and we're having more fun playing for him. Coach Miller was a strict person but we respect the different ways."

It might not be fun for opponents to watch Payton light them up every game, something he has done with great frequency.

Payton has scored 30 or more points in five games this season, including a school record 48 in a loss to Loyola Marymount. He hit for 39 points in an overtime win at Tennessee and had a school record 15 assists in a win over Arizona State.

Besides owning the school career assist mark, Payton is also the career record holder in steals and is third on the career scoring list. In fact, Payton could become Oregon State's all-time leading scorer, surpassing the likes of former Beaver greats Steve Johnson and Mel Counts.

Before going on to a career in the NBA, Payton feels he has some unfinished business to attend to, starting with Saturday's game against Oregon in McArthur Court, a game Payton feels won't be easy.

"They played well in the (Far West) Classic and their intensity will be up playing at their place," he said. "We just have to keep our composure and get consistent shooting and play great defense."

A key match-up in the game will be Payton and Oregon point guard Terrell Brandon, a player that Payton feels is a lot like himself.

"Nothing surprises me when a young player like him plays with as much heart as he does," Payton said. "When you first start to play at this level you have to want to play and have the attitude that you can play with anybody. He has that attitude and that's why he's been successful."

Payton would also like to go out with a Pac-10 title, something he doesn't have in his career.

"We want to win the Pac-10 and win it for Coach Anderson in his first year," Payton said. "That's something that's important to us and something I'd like to be remembered for is being a part of Coach Anderson's first team at Oregon State."

Payton will be long remembered at Oregon State as the one who started things for Anderson.

Brandon

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Monson said that Brandon's ability to create an up-tempo game has been his biggest contribution to the team.

"His ability to run the fast break and having a point guard that can control the pace of the game is very important," he said.

The one part of Brandon's game that was lacking earlier in the season was his inconsistency on the road. Despite being undefeated at home and 2-1 in the Far West Classic, the Ducks have yet to win on the road, and Brandon is only averaging 10.0 points on the road.

"With my family here I try and play good in front of them and for the community of Eugene because they're always supporting us," he said.

Probably the biggest challenge Brandon will face all season comes Saturday night when the Ducks meet Oregon State in Mac Court and Brandon hooks up with Beaver point guard Gary Payton.

"Before the Stanford game (where he had 21 points) I wasn't attacking the pressure and the coaches said I was being too cautious," Brandon said.

Brandon matched up with Payton in the final of the Far West Classic and hopes to hold Payton below the 30 points and 13 assists he had in that game.

"Payton's hard to contain and he will get his points and assists," Brandon said. "If I can get him down from his 30 points last time to 20 and his 13 assists down to eight or nine, a lot of people might not see that as a lot, but it's a definite plus."

It's a challenge few players could handle. But Brandon is used to challenges and winning.

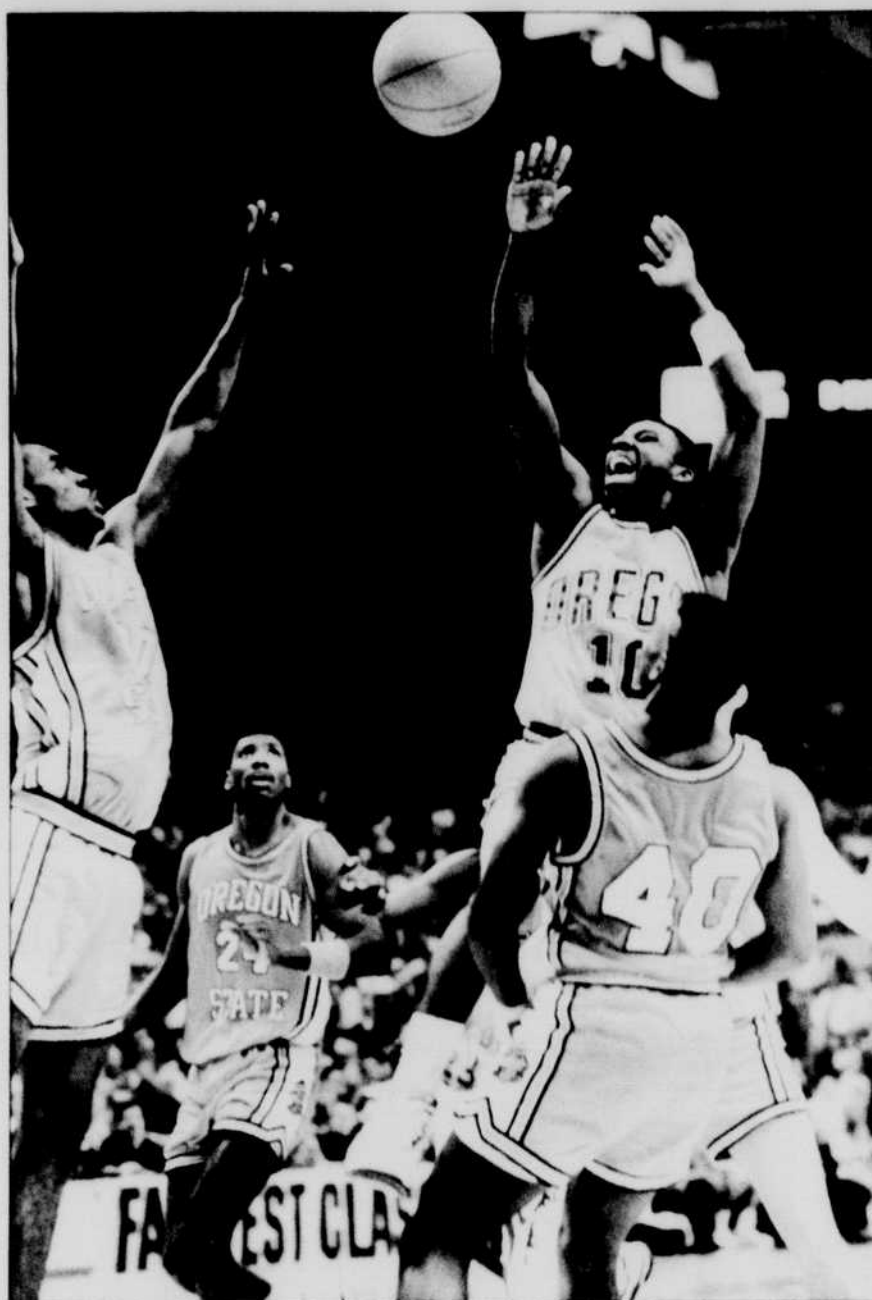


Photo by Mark Ylen

Point guard Terrell Brandon leads the Ducks in scoring with a 16.5 per game average, also the sixth best mark in the Pac-10.

Beavers, Ducks prepare for Saturday's Civil War game

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

If last month's Far West Classic final is any indication, then Saturday's Civil War match-up between Oregon (2-2 in the Pacific-10 play and 7-6 overall) and Oregon State (4-0 and 11-2, ranked 22nd by the Associated Press) should be one to remember.

In the Classic final, the Ducks overcame a 15-point second half deficit only to lose 71-68. Now having a week to prepare for each other rather than just one day at the Classic, both sides are looking forward to a good game.

"We have more of an idea what to expect now," Oregon coach Don Monson said, "but the other problem is that they've had that extra time to prepare for us. It's a two-way street in that helps us and helps them."

"We have to be ready for their multitude of defensive and offensive," Oregon State coach Jim Anderson said. "It's always tough to play down there and I've been going there for 30 years now as a player and coach, so I'm speaking from experience."

The battle starts with the two point guards, Oregon State's Gary Payton and Oregon's Terrell Brandon. Payton is unquestionably the best guard and player in the Pacific-10 Conference, while Brandon is widely considered as one of the best

point guards in the conference.

Payton scored 30 points and had 13 assists in the the Beavers Classic win and was named the Classic Most Valuable Player for the third year in a row. Brandon was also named to the all-tournament team and averaged 19.7 points in three Classic games.

Both players lead their team in scoring, assists, and steals and are responsible for getting their teams going.

"He's done an excellent job for them," Anderson said of Brandon. "Terrell Brandon does for them what Gary Payton does for us."

Monson is concerned about Payton and the Beavers fast break offense and hopes the Ducks are able to slow Oregon

State down.

"One thing we need to be concerned with is transition baskets," he said. "We have to be sure we get everybody back on their break."

"We have to handle their press because they put quite a lot of pressure on you," Monson added. "No matter who shoots and gets our offense going, we need to shoot over 50 percent as a team."

Brandon feels that playing the Beavers close in the Classic will help the Ducks Saturday.

"We didn't get crushed the last time we played them, so we showed we can play with them," Brandon said. "Payton is the nucleus of their team, but they have a lot of other fine players."

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