

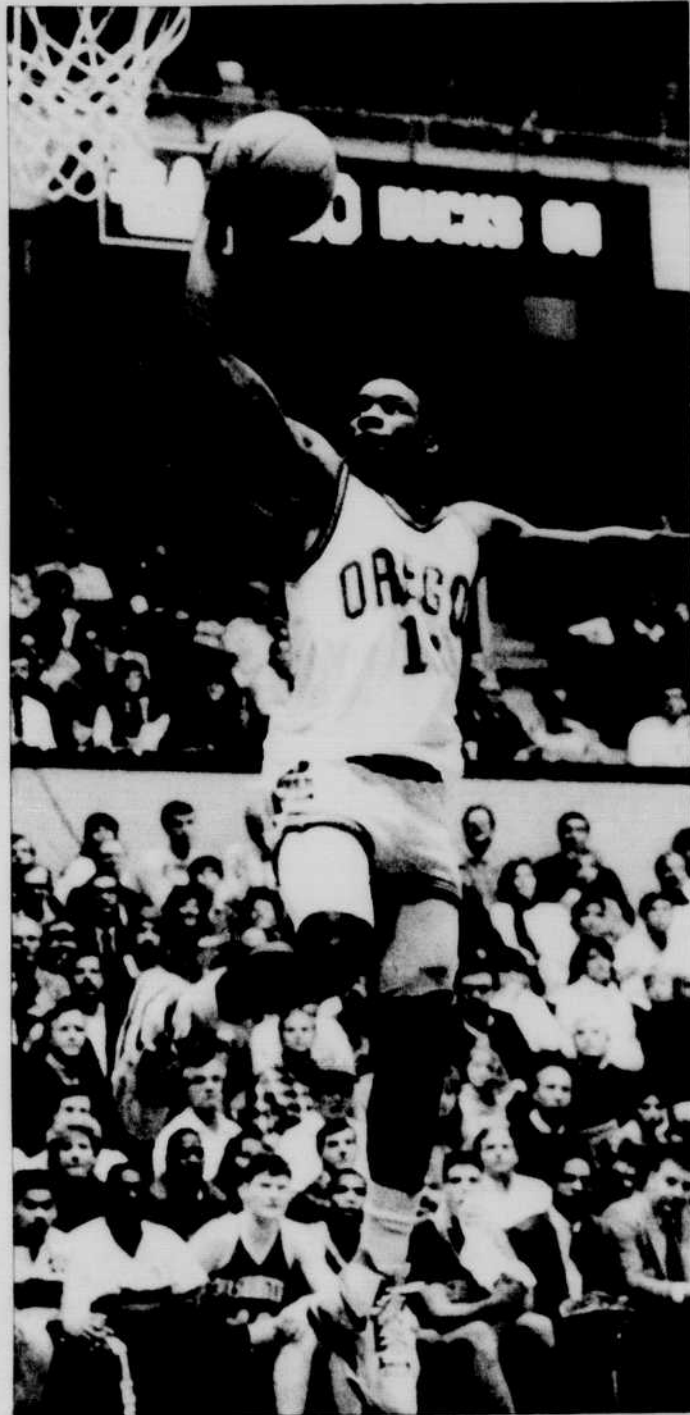


Basketball

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Oregon Daily Emerald

Basketball Program



Making a Point

Sophomore point guard Terrell Brandon will lead the Ducks into tonight's game with Stanford in Mac Court at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday's 3:00 p.m. encounter with California.

Photo by Martin Thiel

Fife drawing attention in first year Fans adopting 6-11 frosh

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

At 6-foot-11, it would be hard for anyone not to draw attention.

Maybe that explains why the fans in McArthur Court have adopted freshman Bob Fife as their favorite this season. It's hard to understand because the most striking thing about Fife besides his height and shot blocking abilities, is his quiet manner off the court.

"It's great coming out and seeing people with banners supporting you even though I don't know what I did to deserve it," Fife said.

"I get a lot of attention on the court but the people I hang out with like my friends don't think it's that big a deal that I'm a basketball player," he said.

With his easy-going, mild-mannered temperament, Fife carries himself as well off the court as he plays on it. Make no mistake about it though, Fife can be deadly on the court and loves to win as much as anyone.

In fact, Fife lists one of his goals as "just to kill Oregon State," before he leaves Oregon.

The home court fans have loved Fife since his first Mac Court game, an upset of then No. 2 ranked Arizona that had people believing in Oregon basketball again.

In that game, Fife played a major role off the bench, blocking two shots in the final minute to secure a 68-63 win.

Since then, Fife has continued improving with age and has worked his way into the starting line-up, starting the Ducks last six games and providing Oregon with some much-needed strength inside.

Coach Don Monson said Fife's inside play has been a pleasant surprise this season.

"Bob has a lot of potential in

this league," Monson said. "It's tough to come in this league and contribute right away, especially when you're an inside player."

"Bob has contributed some scoring, has scored 10-11 points in a couple of games," Monson said. "Just his presence to turn around and shoot at his height is a big factor."

Despite carrying only 195 pounds on his 6-11 frame, Fife has been a major force. Fife has blocked a team-leading 22 shots, setting a new freshman school record.

He is fifth on the squad in rebounding at 3.2 boards per game, and despite his defensive prowess and the more notable other offensive stars such as Terrell Brandon and Keith Reynolds, Fife has started to emerge as a scoring threat as well, scoring 4.9 points per contest.

"I just do whatever I can to help the team," Fife said.

If there is any one thing Fife needs to improve upon, it's probably adding weight and bulking up. Few big men in the Pac-10 weigh 195 pounds and both Fife and Monson see the need for him to get bigger.

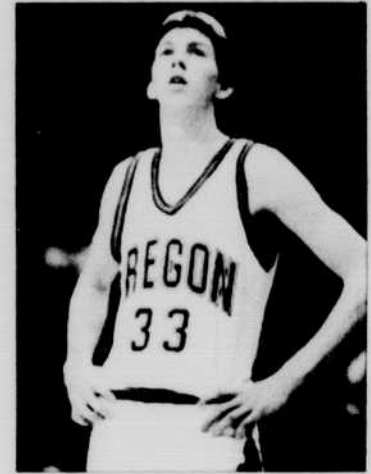
"By next year I'll need to put on about 20 pounds," Fife said.

"and by my senior year I'll need to put on about 30-35 pounds. Right now I'm supposed to take a weight-gain drink and definitely eat more — a lot more of the good stuff."

"I don't think there's any question that he'll get bigger," Monson said. "We have him on some liquid protein diets but that's kind of hard to monitor during the season."

Although Fife had an outstanding prep career at Mt. Diablo High School in Concord, Calif. — the same high school that produced former Stanford star Todd Lichti — Fife just hoped to fit in this season.

"I visited a few other Pac-10



Bob Fife

schools, but the people I saw and talked to at Oregon, that was where I felt the most comfortable," Fife said. "I was expecting to play (this year) but I thought all the playing would just be adjusting to things."

Monson has been pleased with Fife's play, but sees several things that need improvement.

"As most freshman he's been very inconsistent," Monson said. "He needs to be more aggressive, gain some strength. Every now and then he starts standing around, but I think that reverts back to high school when he was use to shooting over guys 6-4 and 6-5 instead of guys 6-10."

"He needs to concentrate more and not be so relaxed at times," he said. "He has good timing as evident by his shot blocking, but sometimes that's a detriment because he doesn't move his feet and gets out of position."

Fife also had some doubts about the Oregon program after the Ducks were 8-21 overall last season and 3-15 in the Pac-10.

"I had a lot of doubt because people were saying Oregon was the worst team in the Pac-10 and then a lot of papers picked us for last," he said.

Once Fife saw the make-up of the team he said he knew the

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Ducks head south with streak

By Cam Sivesind
Emerald Sports Reporter

A three-game winning streak is on the line as the Oregon women's basketball team travels south to clash with the Arizona schools tonight and Saturday.

The Ducks face the Arizona Wildcats tonight at 6 in Tucson. The Wildcats are 8-10 overall, 1-6 in Pacific-10 Conference action.

"Someone talked about Arizona trying to play like Loyola-Marymount (men)," Oregon coach Elwin Heiny said. "They have a couple of very good perimeter shooters and they move the ball up the court quickly

and get the ball to the shooters."

Loyola-Marymount is a Division I men's team that averages more than 120 points a game.

Arizona, currently on a four-game losing streak, is a much better team than its record shows. The Wildcats beat Oregon last year in Tucson and could be a better team this year, Heiny said.

Guard Timi Brown has returned from last season's foot injury to lead Arizona in scoring with 16.4 points per game. Guard forward Brenda Freese adds 13.7 points a game for the Wildcats while grabbing a team-high 6.1 rebounds an outing.

Oregon leads the series with

Arizona, 7-1. The Ducks blew out the Wildcats last year at McArthur Court, 87-67, but suffered a 92-78 drubbing in Tucson.

Arizona State is the Ducks' opponent Saturday night in Tempe. The Sun Devils are another team that is better than their record shows.

The Sun Devils are 9-8 overall and 1-6 in the Pac-10. Arizona State is on a two-game losing skid with their only conference win coming against Arizona.

"Arizona State, I would say, is an even tougher team (than Arizona), a physically tougher team," Heiny said. "And they

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Photo by Mark Ylen

Senior Michelle Eble hopes to continue lighting up the perimeter for the Ducks against the Arizona schools on the road.