

What's so horrible about chasing your dream?

No more mouthpiece dangling out of his mouth. No more of his energetic smile. No more amazing passes or impossible Jordanesque jumpers with opponents in his face. Simply put, no more Terrell.

Less than a month after being named Pacific-10 Most Valuable Player, Terrell Brandon, Oregon's 5-foot-11, do-everything floor general, made all the rumors official during a press conference at McArthur Court Thursday; he dropped out of school and declared himself eligible for the NBA draft.

Terrell said he opted for the NBA to fulfill a life-long dream and because the timing was right.

As the possibility of Terrell's leaving increased, so did the number of opinions across the country that he should stick around for his senior campaign. After all, he had everything to gain and nothing to lose by staying in school.

Anybody who shares that opinion is missing the point.

What it boils down to is whether he is good enough to play in the NBA. Period. End of discussion.

People who say Brandon should stay in school to raise his stock are demonstrating more greed than they accuse Brandon of having.

"I can't believe you're leaving early to grab the money when you could stick around a year and grab a



From the Sidelines
by
ROBERT WEBER

lot more money," seems to be the main credo of people against undergraduates coming out early.

The only real reason to argue for athletes to stay in school is the pursuit of a college degree. In Brandon's case, the threat of becoming academically ineligible was something that couldn't be ignored.

Since sitting out his freshman year due to Proposition 48, Brandon has worked hard at school, but said Thursday that balancing basketball and books was difficult.

Whether he makes his bid for the pros now or a year from now, Terrell's success will depend on his playing ability and little else.

The book on Brandon says he's too short, doesn't play enough defense and suffers from a lack of experience. Since he has probably reached his full height and understands that defense is more hard work than anything else, lack of experience seems to be his big-

gest obstacle.

Why stick around for the experience when scouts are telling you that teams are interested right now? Brandon said he has been told by numerous NBA scouts that he will be drafted, probably near the end of the first round or early in the second.

A favorite comparison lately has been between Brandon and former Oregon State star Gary Payton.

Payton's success as a senior, after resisting the temptation of turning pro, was the major reason the Seattle SuperSonics made him the second pick in last June's draft. It may have worked out for Payton, but Brandon's game is more developed scoring-wise than Payton's is even now.

At 26.6 points a game, it's obvious that Brandon is a scorer, but more importantly, he is a shooter. The majority of his points came from the perimeter, unlike Payton's, making him a more attractive prospect.

Instead of getting bogged down in the reasons why Terrell is leaving, Duck fans should concentrate on what he did when he was here and wish him well.

Hopefully when people look back at Terrell's career at Oregon, they will concentrate on what he did with a basketball and the class he displayed both on and off the court.

I know I will.

Coaches react differently over Brandon decision

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Editor

Several basketball coaches expressed mixed reactions concerning Oregon guard Terrell Brandon's decision to forego his senior season of eligibility and enter the NBA draft.

While University of Portland Coach Larry Steele and Portland's Grant High School Coach John Stilwell, Brandon's high school coach, supported Brandon's decision, UCLA Coach Jim Harrick had a much different opinion.

"Honestly, I am disappointed with his decision to go," Harrick said of Brandon. "He's certainly not ready for the NBA."

Steele, who recruited Brandon when he was a star point guard under Stilwell, said he supported Brandon's decision largely because of Brandon's close consultation with his family on the matter.

"I echo Coach (Don) Monson's reply," Steele said. "When Terrell was in high school and we were recruiting him, I met his parents and was impressed that all of his decisions were made after discussing the matter thoroughly with his family."

"If the situation was reversed, I'd say the same thing," he said. "I feel good about what he's doing. I wish him all the luck in the world even though we don't have to play them anymore."

Stilwell, a close personal friend of Brandon and his parents, agreed with Steele that Brandon's decision should receive only support, not criticism.

"I am sad that there are things that he won't be able to accomplish at Oregon and that he can't complete some of the things he helped start there," Stilwell said. "(But) he made his decision and all you can say about it is that if it's great for Terrell, it's a great decision."

No coach has been more against players leaving college early for the NBA than Harrick.

Earlier this season, when UCLA came to Oregon on Jan.

Turn to REACTION, Page 15



With our Coursebook Guaranteed Program, you can rest assured knowing you won't have to go to class empty-handed.

OUR GUARANTEE TO UO STUDENTS AND FACULTY

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS...A UO instructor submits his/her book order by the UO Bookstore's specific due date. The Bookstore guarantees to have the qualifying coursebooks on the shelf the first day of class. Qualifying texts will be listed under the "GUARANTEED" header on bookshelf tags. If we fail to have a qualifying text, we will make photocopies of assigned reading from this text, (based on pre-purchase of the book, at no expense to you, until your book arrives. (Books delayed by natural disaster, transportation strikes, imported books, or books out of stock at the publisher are exempt from our Guaranteed Book Program.) Deadlines to qualify are:



STUDENTS: APRIL 10 deadline for SPRING term special orders.

FACULTY: APRIL 12 deadline for SUMMER term faculty special orders.

Questions? We'd Be Glad to answer them!

UO Bookstore

13th & Kincaid M-F 7:30-6:00 SAT 10:00-6:00 346-4331