

Pair poised to fill void left by Brandon's departure

By Jayson Jacoby
Emerald Sports Reporter

Andre Collier and Johnnie Reece are not the two luckiest guys in the world.

It's not because they're both new to Oregon, to the men's basketball team and to Pacific-10 Conference competition.

It's because these two guards for coach Don Monson's Ducks are facing an even less enviable task: replacing Terrell.

And Terrell, as everyone knows, is Terrell Brandon, now the starting point guard for the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers. Brandon, last year's scoring leader and Pac-10 Player of the Year, became a legend in only two years of wearing a Duck uniform.

"You're not going to see a guard out there this year doing the things Terrell did," Monson said.

But Collier and Reece do not enter the Duck program without impressive credentials.

Collier is a 5-foot-10 junior from De Anza Junior College in Cupertino, Calif. He was an all-state selection for the college last year and was named MVP of the Coast Conference after averaging 19.5 points and eight assists per contest.

Reece is a 6-1 freshman just out of Manual High School in Denver, Colo. He was named Colorado's high school player of the year, Scholastic Coach's Rocky Mountain Region Player of the Year and a Best in the West pick last year. He poured in 35 points and dished out more than eight assists per game last year in leading Manual to its third state title in four years.

Collier is the starting point guard, and Monson said his experience has a lot to do with it.



Andre Collier (left) and Johnnie Reece will try to fill the shoes of Terrell Brandon this year at Oregon's point guard position.

"His experience is a strength," Monson said. "Plus he's a gritty little guy. Andre's a bit ahead of everyone else, and he's a more pure point guard (than Reece)."

Collier is taking his job of replacing Brandon in stride.

"I don't feel any pressure," Collier said. "I'm here to play basketball. I'm

going to play my game, and hopefully, everything will turn out fine."

Monson said he is worried a bit about Collier's height, and that he might have trouble with opposing guards posting up on him. But Collier said he is used to playing at a height disadvantage.

"It's a matter of what you have in your heart," Collier said. "If you're will-

ing to come out and use your ability, it makes up for your height. I've always played against people who are bigger than me."

Reece is making a bigger jump, coming straight out of high school to one of the toughest conferences in the country.

"We have a lot more things to work on in practice," Reece said. "But I'm trying to adjust. The atmosphere here has been really nice."

Monson said one of Reece's biggest adjustments has been moving from a main scorer to playmaker.

"He's real concerned right now with running the offense and trying to take good shots," Monson said. "He just needs time and experience at this level."

Monson said Reece will likely see some time at off-guard as well, to take advantage of his scoring ability.

"He's a pretty pure shooter," Monson said. "And he's got great range."

Reece said he definitely feels the presence left by Brandon.

"It's a great honor to try and fill someone's shoes as good as Terrell Brandon," Reece said. "I'm going to try and do the little things to help the team do well."

Both players said they felt the team was coming together well for so early in the season.

"We're really progressing," Collier said. "We've improved drastically as a team since the start of practice."

Monson said it was obvious this year's team would have a different look without Brandon.

"We relied on Terrell so much," Monson said. "We're probably not going to score as much. I don't think we can come down and shoot the ball so quickly."

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first possession, but the Ducks tied it shortly with Huber's first goal. Moments later, Bernecker took a pass from Matt Kay at midfield and slid the ball past the goalie on a bounce.

Bob Paige's unassisted goal with 1:30 left in the quarter made it 3-1, and the rout was

on. The Ducks built a 7-2 lead by halftime on two Huber goals, one by John Bunce and a shorthanded score by Stringer.

Oregon used ball control to stay on top — an impressive feat, considering that all but two of the 20 penalties called were against the Ducks.

The third quarter marked Oregon's biggest offensive burst as the Ducks scored six times, in-

cluding Huber's and Springer's final two goals.

Oregon will travel to Chico, Calif., this weekend for a tournament with Chico State, California-Davis, Whitman College and Oregon State.

In other Oregon Club Sports news:

- The Oregon Tae Kwon Do club team competed in the Northwest Open Martial Arts

Tournament at Portland State on Nov. 2 in full contact fighting competitions.

John Taylor was first in the heavyweight black belt division, Gary Martin was second and Marvin Davis third in the middleweight black belt division. Kouessan Abaglo was third in the heavyweight blue belt.

- The Oregon men's club soc-

cer team will host Mt. Hood Community College Saturday at the South Bank Field at noon.

- The Oregon club ice hockey team hosts Colorado State at Lane County Ice at 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Fans attending the game will get a dollar knocked off the admission price if they wear Freedom Bowl memorabilia.

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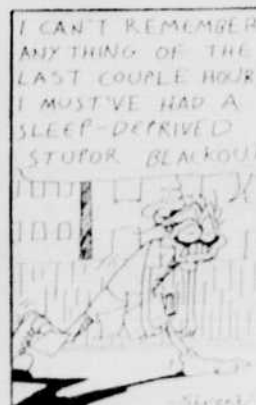
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