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Oregon coaches announce the signings of top athletes

State's top tennis prospect a Duck

Several top athletes have signed letters of intent to attend Oregon during the last week.

• Damion Porter, a 6-foot-10, 270-pound post player from Rend Lake College in Ina, Ill., signed a national letter of intent with Oregon. Don Monson, Duck men's basketball coach, said Wednesday.

Porter averaged 9.6 points, 9.2 rebounds and 1.2 blocked shots while playing at Allen County Community College in Inola, Kan., last year. He also shot 51 percent from the field and hit 64 percent of his free throws.

This year, Porter is playing closer to his hometown of Chicago, where he attended Martin Luther King High School.

"Damion is a post player with the size and strength that our team has needed," Monson said. "At 6-10, 270, he adds a much-needed physical presence in the post position. His ability to rebound, score and defend will help support the progress this young team is making."

Porter is considered one of the top junior college prospects at the post position by several scouting services.

Ken Darting, Porter's coach at Allen Community College, believes Porter has the ability to be a force at the Division-I level.

"Sometimes big kids get lost in the shuffle at the junior college level since it is primarily a 6-5, 6-6 kind of league," Darting said.

"He's a force on the boards who is big and strong and can catch the ball in traffic. He can be a shot blocker and score in the middle, though he isn't a refined scorer yet. I know he'll be a good player for Oregon."

• Duck women's tennis coach Tom Greider announced the signing of the state's top tennis prospect, Elise Adams from

Lake Oswego, last Friday.

Adams, ranked fifth in the Pacific Northwest for girls age 18 and under, also represented the United States Tennis Association intersectional team for the Pacific Northwest. A semifinalist at last year's state tennis tournament for Lakeridge High School, Adams lost to four-time state champion Cisca Mok.

"Elise is the type of player who can have an immediate impact on the tennis program," Greider said.

"A player of her caliber signing with us shows the state of Oregon that our program continues to grow. She's a blue-chip player who has the capability to contend for the top spot next year. We have succeeded in keeping the top player in the state in state."

• Trina Salcido, a top shortstop from Sacramento, Calif., signed a national letter of intent with Oregon, softball coach Tami Brown announced Monday.

"Trina is excellent defensively with a great release," Brown said. "She is very sound and one of the most solid young players I've seen. She has good softball sense, is a strong hitter and a very good leader. She will be an impact player for us with the ability to play both shortstop and second base."

The product of El Camino Fundamental in Sacramento, Trina has been an all-conference selection since her freshman year. Salcido holds a 3.22 GPA and wants to major in pre-medicine.

Last year's team MVP, she was also named all-city by both the *Sacramento Union* and *Sacramento Bee* newspapers during her first three years of high school.

She added a fine season last summer playing with the Sacramento Breeze in the Amateur Softball Association. She hit .311 with 22 runs scored and had a .985 fielding percentage in 47 games.

CASANOVA

Continued from Page 9

tween Civil Wars of the '50s vs. the games of the '90s?

Casanova: I think there is a big difference in the atmosphere surrounding the game itself. In the '50s, we would hold huge rallies and bonfires, and we would have "noise parades," where everyone would drive through town honking their horn. I don't think students are quite as excited about the game today.

Regarding the football game itself, I think the biggest difference is the specialization of the players today. In the '50s, players had to be on both offense and defense. Most years, we would have around 40 players, far less than the amount that

are on present teams.

Coaches had to develop special tactics, like how to prevent your quarterback from wearing himself out on defense. Also, it was very difficult to pass often due to the rules imposed on offensive linemen in the '50s. Since then, the rules have been relaxed to allow for today's wide-open passing game.

ODE: Do you have any predictions for Saturday's game?

Casanova: I think it will be a difficult game. Sure, Oregon State has a poor record, but I don't think they are really that bad. Oregon hasn't played against an option team this year and it is impossible for the scout team to simulate the Beavers perfectly, so the Ducks may have trouble on defense. It will be a close game.

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