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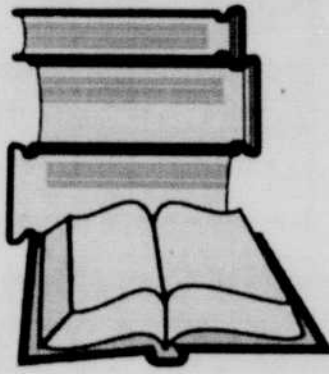
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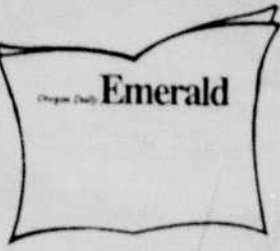
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**PARKER**

Continued from Page 13

been one of the more consistent performers on the Greenball squad. Parker hit five straight 3-pointers during the Arizona schools' trip to McArthur Court and has averaged 14 points and nearly five rebounds in Oregon's last four games.

"I knew for our team to be successful," he said, "I just couldn't concentrate on defense. I had to put up the numbers on offense as well. Since I've been practicing, I think I have as good a chance as anybody to make the shots."

Parker enrolled at Oregon to play basketball in 1993 after one-year stints at UC Santa Barbara and Mira Costa Junior College.

He played only a total of 41 minutes for UC Santa Barbara his freshman year, but credits the time he put in playing defense against the first team in practice for his successes at Oregon.

Seeking an opportunity for more playing time, Parker then transferred to Mira Costa Junior College for his sophomore campaign. The move turned out to be a positive one as he averaged 23.2 points and 8.5 rebounds per game. Parker also shot 61.4 percent from the field and blocked 50 shots in 1992-93, leading his team in both categories.

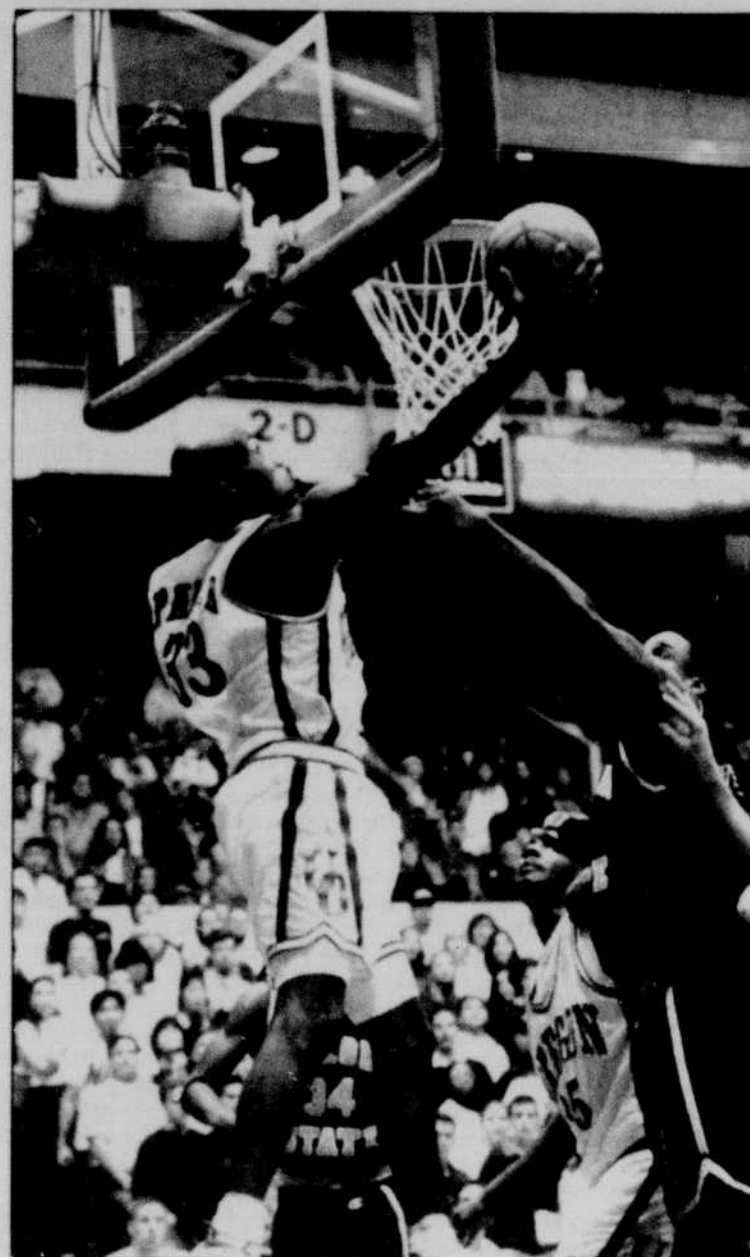
The successful stint earned him a unanimous selection on the all-Pacific Coast Conference team and made him one of 20 players selected out of 104 junior college teams to the all-state team in California.

Oregon assistant coach Bobby Braswell had recruited Parker out of high school when Braswell coached at Long Beach State, so it seemed a natural choice when Parker's phone rang again and Braswell was on the other end.

"I liked the school and knew that the Pac-10 was a very good conference so I decided to come (to Oregon)," Parker said.

"I knew they were rebuilding and were bringing in six new players and that I was going to have an equal chance of playing as anyone else."

Knowing that everybody was going to get the opportunity to show what they had, Parker was excited about his possibilities at Oregon.



Darryl Parker stepped up his play in the last four games, averaging 14 points and nearly five rebounds per game.

He turned those possibilities into realities by earning his way into the starting lineup 17 times in the 1993-94 season.

His defensive abilities set him apart from all others and helped Parker earn the John Warren Most Inspirational Player Award after only his first full season as a Duck. Parker was also a member of the all-conference newcomer (non-freshman) squad. All of which are startling achievements considering the 6-foot-6 Parker had played mostly on the inside during high school and at Mira Costa, and was forced to adjust to a more perimeter-oriented position. "As Parker is a prime example, the life of a basketball player playing on the major collegiate level isn't all it's cracked up to be.

"About 90 percent of the time

I'm either studying or in the gym playing basketball," the oldest of six children said. "Any other time is used relaxing and playing video games."

An average day will find Parker up at 8 a.m. and off to class, followed by four or five hours working at the gym, lifting weights and getting treatment on his knees. All this is followed by a trip to the training table and a visit to study hall.

He's the type of player who will dive after the loose basketball or take the charge from the opposing team's 245-pound center for his teammates. He's the type of player everyone wants on their side. He's a competitor and a winner and has found a happy home as an Oregon Duck.

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