



Pat Johnson is all smiles these days as he is just now beginning to realize his full potential on the track and off.

WILLING & ABLE

After realizing his full capabilities, freshman Pat Johnson lobbied to forgo Spring football practice in favor of concentrating on track

Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

Having already shown potential to become one of the Oregon football team's most potent offensive weapons, freshman Pat Johnson, who doubles as one of the Oregon track and field team's fastest sprinters ever, could have easily chosen to focus first and foremost on football this spring.

But after Johnson realized what he was capable of doing on the track, he also realized that taking on football full time would jeopardize his track duties. And for Johnson, that just wouldn't do.

"When I'm out for football, I'm 100 percent dedicated to football," Johnson said, adding that it was the same way for anything he does. "That's the type of person I am."

So instead of participating in spring football drills, Johnson practices with the track team five days a week while taking 19 credits and balancing football meetings and catching 50 to 100 footballs a day in his spare time.

That kind of schedule, however, doesn't overwhelm the freshman from Redlands, Calif.

"It has to be done, I don't have a choice," he said, adding that he likes being active. "That's just part of being a dual sport athlete. I'd rather be busy than not busy."

Johnson's decision has turned into what Oregon sprint coach George Walcott, who was the last Oregon sprinter to go to the NCAA Championships and the school's only Pacific 10 Conference sprint title holder, describes as a gift from God.

"He is a godsend athlete to us right now," Walcott said. "I've been around here a long time and he is probably one of the most special track athletes I've

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THURSDAY

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NCSA/USA Today softball poll

1. UCLA
2. Arizona
3. Cal State Fullerton
4. Fresno State
5. Nevada-Las Vegas
6. Southwestern Louisiana
7. Cal State Sacramento
8. Cal State Northridge
9. Michigan
10. California
11. South Carolina
12. Missouri
13. Florida State
14. Hawaii
15. Nebraska
16. Illinois-Chicago
17. Nicholls State
18. Oklahoma State
19. Washington
20. Oklahoma
21. Notre Dame
22. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
23. Princeton
24. Iowa
25. Kansas

Women sign guard

Elsa Oliveira, a 5-foot-7 guard from Foothills Jr. College, signed a letter of intent Wednesday to play basketball for the Oregon women's program.

A two-time all-Coast Conference selection and two-time team MVP, Oliveira is a shooting guard who will have two years of eligibility left when she joins the Ducks.

Oliveira averaged 15 points, 7.4 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 4.1 steals per contest last year.

Rams granted move

DALLAS (AP) — NFL owners voted today to allow the Rams to leave Southern California and move to St. Louis.

At a special meeting, owners reversed a decision last month that barred the move.

ON THE TUBE

April 13

■ 1 p.m. ESPN Sailing, America's Cup.



Challenger and Defender finals, at San Diego

■ 1 p.m. USA — Senior PGA Golf, Seniors' Championship, first round, at Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

■ 5 p.m. TBS — NBA Basketball, Golden State at Utah

EMERALD

How Tom Browning drove up the price of beer

Sure baseball's back. But it's not exactly better than ever, especially for those free agents who, for all intents and purposes, aren't in the prime of their careers.

Never mind the fact that baseball undoubtedly has lost some of its fans due to the ridiculously long strike. The thing that intrigues me is the mass transformation of once grossly overpaid marginal veteran players into grossly underpaid marginal veteran players.

All I can say is it's about time.

I've never really had a problem with owners paying guys like Barry Bonds, Ken Griffey Jr. and Roger Clemens the big bucks (although when we start talking eight figure salaries for these guys, that's a whole different story). These guys fill ballparks. These guys are impact players that make or break teams.

But when guys like Tom Browning, Bud Black and Dave Stewart are making more than \$3 million a year, that's where



CHRIS METZ

my tolerance and charity end.

People have been bitching for years about baseball players making too much money. The problem is that they never really had anyone specific to point their fingers at — they were just convinced that ballplayers made too much dough.

Like in any other business, some baseball players make way too much money for their skill and their worth. Some make way too little for their skill and their worth. The key to making a lot of money is to put in your time. That's the American way: 1. Get job with bad pay. 2. Put up with bad pay for a few years. 3. Get good and rich when five years is up, no

matter what you've done to warrant such a raise.

This is the sickness that has plagued baseball for the last decade. Tom Browning, who is slated to make only \$300,000 this season, deserves \$3 million like Jeffrey Dahmer deserves a Nobel Peace Prize. It's because of iffy veteran players like Browning that I pay \$4 for a King Dog at the King Dome and \$5 for a King Beer for my King Thirst after I've parked my King 1978 Subaru in a \$10 lot, worth roughly twice as much as said car.

So it was with great joy over the past couple of weeks that I have watched literally dozens of veterans get their paychecks not only cut, but slashed beyond recognition.

The casualties?

Pat Borders, who provided the Toronto Blue Jays with superb catching for the better part of a decade, was perhaps the biggest loser, getting his \$2.5 million contract chopped in tiny pieces with Borders

grabbing a small chunk at \$310,000 per year with Kansas City.

Terry Pendleton, who seemed so indispensable as the leader of the Braves, took a nice \$2 million slash.

As a Yankee fan, I can certainly laugh at Terry Mulholland receiving a full \$2 million dollars less than last season.

These are the guys that were laughing as the free-agent bug tickled their pocket books. But now that it has stung them in the ass, it's a whole different story.

"I took a bath — a big bath," pitcher Erik Hanson said after signing with Boston to the tune of a \$1.5 million cut in pay. "This is the market now, and it's quite different."

I think Hanson sums up the current situation rather well. Hanson is a victim of injuries and unreach potential, which

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