

sideline

TODAY IN SPORTS

Johnson awarded
AL Cy Young honor

NEW YORK (AP) — Randy Johnson, whose intimidating fastball and improved control led the Seattle Mariners to the playoffs for the first time, overwhelmingly won his first AL Cy Young Award on Tuesday.

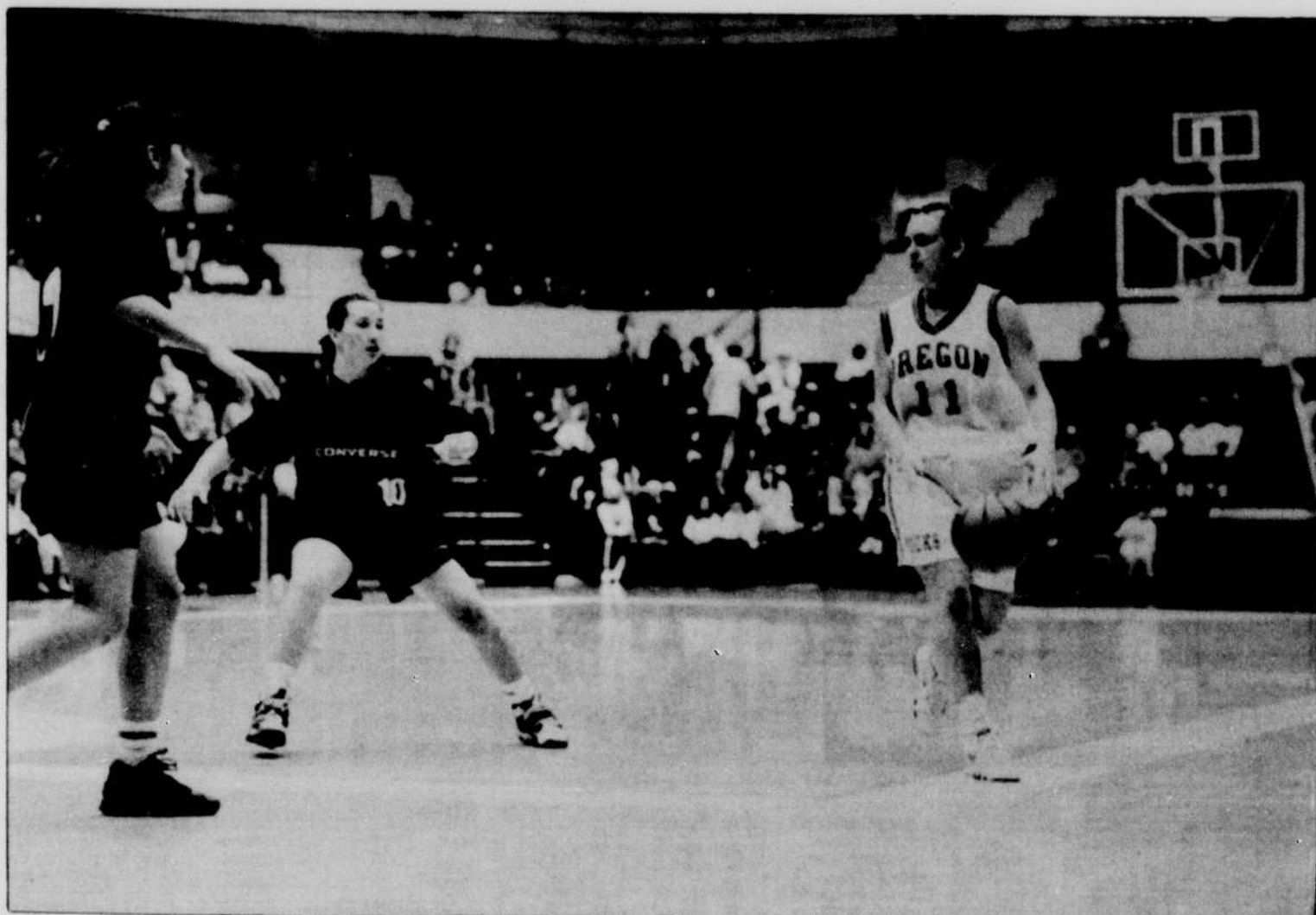
Johnson got all but two of the 28 first-place votes in becoming the first Seattle player to win a major post-season award in the team's 19-year history.

Johnson came within one victory of becoming the first AL player since Hal Newhouser of Detroit in 1945 to win pitching's Triple Crown. Johnson went 18-2, led the majors in strikeouts for the fourth straight year with 294 and led the league with a 2.48 ERA.

Cleveland reliever Jose Mesa received the other two first-place votes and was runner-up with 54 points. Boston knuckleballer Tim Wakefield was third with 29, followed by 1994 winner David Cone, who finished the season with New York, with 18. Baltimore's Mike Mussina, who led the league with 19 wins, was fifth with 14.

Johnson, 32, set a league record for the best winning percentage by a pitcher with at least 20 decisions. The only pitcher ever to better Johnson's .900 percentage is Greg Maddux.

Johnson held AL hitters to a league-low .201 average, including .129 by left-handers.



ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

Oregon freshman newcomer Lisa Bowyer and the rest of the Ducks start their season tonight against Utah in the Preseason NIT.

Oregon opens season at NIT against Utah

■ **BASKETBALL:** The women's team has high expectations for the 1995-96 season

By Mark McTyre
Assistant Sports Editor

The Oregon women's basketball team opens its 1995-96 season tonight in Salt Lake City against Utah, as one of 16 teams in the second-annual Preseason National Invitational Tournament.

The Ducks enter this season with high expectations after an

18-10 record a year ago, which was good enough to return the team to the NCAA tournament for a second consecutive year, but saw Oregon take an early exit in the first round when it faced Louisville.

"We expect to be able to reach the NCAAs every year," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said. "We want it to be something that happens all the time, not just sometimes — that's a goal we'll always have. We want to be able to host a sub-regional advance to the Final 16 and reach the Final Four.

But winning the Pac-10 championship is our main goal."

The team lost two of its starters from last season — Jessica Schutt and Sally Crowe — but has been able to fill the vacancies with returning letter-winner Betty Ann Boeving and Australian newcomer Lisa Bowyer. Junior forward Arianne Boyer, junior guard Cindie Edamura and senior center Renae Fegent will complete the starting lineup.

The Ducks have been practicing for the past month — including one exhibition game

against a Romanian club team — in preparation of the start of the season. According to Runge, the team is ready to see some real competition.

"We are anxious to play a team that doesn't know what we're doing," Runge said. "It's difficult to evaluate ourselves when we're playing against each other and we know what offense and what defense we're running. We're also interested in evaluating how our depth works."

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ON THE TUBE

November 15

■ 4:30 p.m.

ESPN — College basketball, NIT Championship, first round, Manhattan at Georgia Tech

■ 5 p.m.

TBS — NBA Basketball, Denver at Phoenix

8:30 p.m.

ESPN2 — College basketball, NIT Championship, first round, Long Beach St. at Arizona

■ 6:30 p.m.

ESPN — College basketball, NIT Championship, first round, DePaul at Michigan

■ 10:30 p.m.

ESPN2 — NHL Hockey, Colorado at Anaheim
TBS — NBA Basketball, Dallas at L.A. Lakers

EMERALD

Collins earns award playing against best friend

■ **FOOTBALL:** The Oregon safety is named Pac-10 Player of the Week after intercepting two passes against Arizona

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

In the Oregon football team's 24-22 victory over Washington two weeks ago, Oregon safety Brian Collins hurt his knee in the Husky's first scoring drive of the game, putting him in jeopardy of missing last week's game against Arizona.

But he didn't miss that game — not even one down — and paved his way to earning the Pacific-10 Conference Player of the Week award by intercepting two passes, tipping three more and racking up six tackles in the process.

"[The award] is an honor that most people probably only dream of," Collins said on

Tuesday, adding that he didn't think he was going to get the award because the touchdown after his second quarter interception was called back. "I figured that because they called that first touchdown back I wouldn't get it."

But that particular play, his overall play and the overall play of Oregon's Gang Green defense led the Ducks to their first victory in Tucson, Ariz., since 1983.

"I give credit to the whole defensive unit — it was not an individual effort," Collins said. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time."

This is the first year that Collins has started on a regular basis, but he has made the most of it. Collins has recorded three interceptions and 36 total tackles this year and has provided the Ducks with solid defensive play at both the free and strong safety positions. When he was named player of the week on Monday, it marked the second consecutive week that an Oregon player was selected for the award. After the Washington game, freshman kicker Joshua Smith was selected for the honor.

But this award might have been a little bit

sweeter for the 6-foot, 212-pound senior from Los Angeles, because he earned it playing against his best friend.

Collins grew up with Wildcat free-safety Shawn Parnell, who went to high school in the same area as Collins and transferred to Arizona two years ago. Against Oregon, Parnell recorded one interception and 10 tackles.

"I have been playing football with him since I was 5-years-old," Collins said of Parnell, adding that the two had been feuding over whose school had the better team. "We had been trash-talking here and there this summer. He had said that [when the Ducks beat the Wildcats] last year, it was a fluke."

But not only did Collins get to show that Oregon's victory last year was not a fluke, he got to rub it in Parnell's face.

"I'm just happy we beat them," Collins said, soon revealing that there was a little bit more to the win than that. "Last time we went there and they ran the ball down our throats. [This year] was kind of a grudge match. Things just went my way out there. I guess I got the best of [Parnell] in that I beat him both times we faced each other."



COLLINS