

Good looks can make teams great

The dynamics that are involved in assembling a successful professional sports team often include making sure the players on the team are of sound mind — the logic being that if players are mentally healthy, positive thinkers, then success is imminent.

Certain teams have gone as far as hiring a sports psychologist to pick a player's brain to find out why he cannot throw strikes or

make free throws. Most teams enjoy a luxurious clubhouse and fancy training facilities to make the

players feel pampered and adored. Some teams even own their own planes to fly their players from city to city in style.

And while all these would seem to be instrumental to the success of the team, there still remains a piece missing from this feel-good pie. For when the Lear jet has landed and the workouts are all through, the players file into the locker room to put on their uniforms. Uniforms that should inspire pride.

But that seems to be left out of a great many teams' "How-to-Build-a-Successful-Franchise" manual. The little formula that equates lookin' good with feelin' good. And if you don't look good ... well, just ask the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

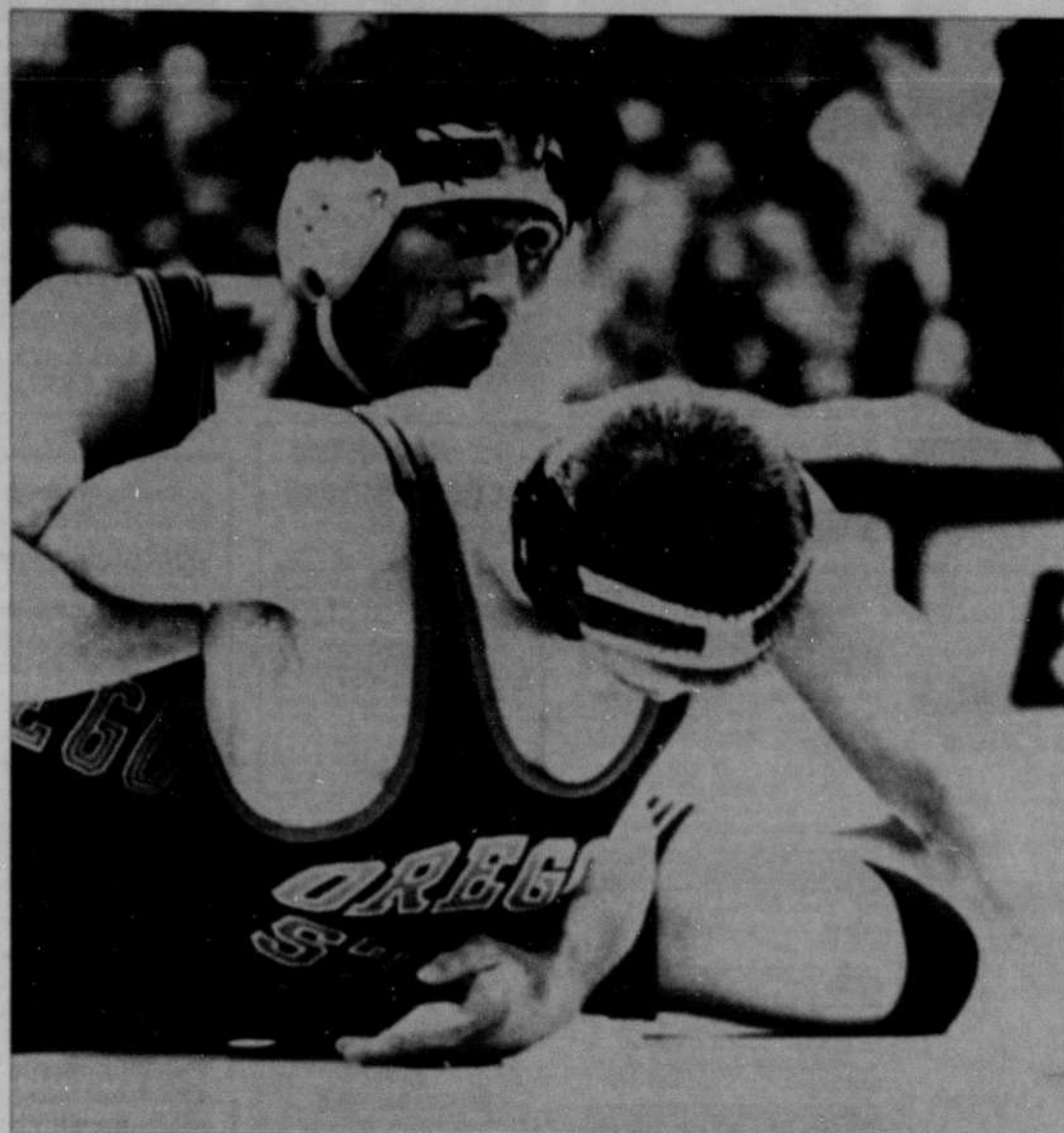
The Bucs have one of the worst records in all of professional sports. Oh, they've had their chances. Drafting in the top five year after year, they have landed some of the most celebrated collegiate football players in the country, but to no avail. So what is the problem? Is it the coaching? Maybe. Bad Luck? Sometimes. But players and coaches come and go. What has remained the same over the years are those fluorescent orange uniforms that can light up the darkest of rooms.

Think about it. Vinny Testaverde comes out of college as a Heisman trophy-winning quarterback and is expected to lead the Bucs to glory. Instead he led the league in interceptions and sacks for almost his entire stay in Tampa. He was later diagnosed with color blindness, explaining why he could never tell the opposing team's defensive back from his own wide receiver.

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Chris Hansen



Junior Scott Norton captured the 150-pound title at the Pac-10 Championships, the Ducks' sole title this year. His record now stands at 31-2 on the year, good enough for fourth in the nation.

Norton grabs Ducks' only Pac-10 title

■ **WRESTLING:** The Oregon junior wins the 150-pound title for the second straight year

By **Chris Hansen**
Sports Reporter

Scott Norton won his second consecutive 150-pound Pacific-10 Conference title this weekend as the Oregon wrestling team scored a fourth-place finish at the Pac-10 championships and qualified five wrestlers for the NCAA national meet.

Norton, a junior ranked fourth in the nation in his weight class, beat Tony DeSouza from host Cal State Bakersfield, 8-5, improving his record to 31-2 on the year.

In the Ducks' only other title match, Kevin Roberts lost to Arizona State's Danny Felix, 12-4, in the finals of the 118-pound weight class for the third consecutive year.

Roberts was unable to overcome an injury to his ankle that occurred at the beginning of the match. The loss dropped Roberts record to 27-2 with both losses coming at the hands of Felix.

Norton and Roberts received automatic bids to the NCAA championships by advancing to the final round of the tournament.

Heavyweight Rich Polkinghorn

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Fegent gets extra year of eligibility

■ **FEGENT:** The Ducks' Australian recruit will play in Eugene again next year

Renae Fegent, the starting center for the Oregon women's basketball team, has been awarded an additional year of eligibility, head coach Jody Runge announced Monday.

A recent change in NCAA legislation amended the rule related to participation by student-athletes who initially enroll at a collegiate institution on or subsequent to their 21st birthday.

The Australian native was 22 years old when first entering the University prior to the 1994-95 season but did not compete during the previous year.

"The NCAA changed the date from which they measure competition from the 20th birthday to the 21st," said James O'Fallon, the University's faculty representative. "Renae competed for just one year after she turned 21. The rule was changed at the 1995 NCAA Convention and at the 1996 Convention, it was made retroactive."

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Strickland back in Portland for now

■ **BLAZERS:** Saying he wants to get down to business, the point guard ends an 11-day hiatus from the team

PORTLAND (AP) — Eleven days after he vowed his days with the Portland Trail Blazers were over, Rod Strickland rejoined the team Monday.

"I don't regret anything I've done," Strickland said. "It's just a matter of me deciding to come back and play."

Strickland missed six games after storming out of a shootaround Feb. 22 and saying he no longer could stand to play for coach P.J. Carlesimo. The two have been at odds almost from the start since Carlesimo was hired two years ago.

The return was worked out Sunday night in a meeting with Strickland, his agent Mark Termini, Carlesimo and Blazers' president Bob Whitsitt.

Strickland said he didn't expect Carlesimo to change.

"We don't have to be buddies and all that," Strickland said. "It's just about us being businesslike and being professional and doing what I have to do for the remainder of the season."

He indicated he would try to avoid any future outbursts.

"I think it's just a matter of me coming in here and not being a distraction and just going out there playing and understanding that this is a team and just take care of business," he said.

Neither Strickland nor Whitsitt would say whether a condition of the point guard's return was a promise to trade him after the season, but Strickland dropped a broad hint.

"I think everything will take care of itself when

the season is over," Strickland said.

Asked whether one reason he returned was to enhance his trade value, Strickland said, "I think that's obvious."

Strickland is having his best season statistically. He's averaging 19.3 points and is third in the NBA in assists at 9.5 per game. He said he was confident he would play with a good attitude the rest of the season despite his past problems with the coach.

"I think I would have stayed where I was at if I felt I couldn't come back and play with emotion," he said, "because I'm no good if I'm out there and not in the right mental state."

Carlesimo characterized Sunday night's meeting as "very productive and very cordial."

Through the meeting, the consensus was "what's done is done and let's move on," Carlesimo said.

It will be a challenge for the two to work together the rest of the season, Carlesimo said, "but you know we both get paid pretty good to handle challenges."

"We're delighted to have him back," Carlesimo said. "We're going to be fine. We're going to move forward."

The players never criticized Strickland publicly and all seemed glad to have him back.

The team was 2-4 in Strickland's absence and is in a battle with Sacramento, Golden State and Denver for the final two playoff spots in the Western Conference.

Carlesimo said Strickland would not start in Tuesday's home game against Houston but would play. Strickland expects a hostile reception from fans.

"I'm sure there's going to be some bad reactions," he said. "But in life, you know, when you do certain things, there's consequences ... They've supported me the whole time I've been here. That's probably the worst part about this whole situation."



STRICKLAND