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Blazers: Whitsitt may dip into free-agent pool

■ Continued from Page 9
to break up the outside-inside combination of Strickland and Arvydas Sabonis.

Charlesimo said there was "no question" he and Strickland could make it through another season.

Clifford Robinson struggled on offense for the fourth playoffs in a row, shooting just 34 percent from the field. The Blazers have the option of keeping Robinson for one more year, or they could sign him to a new contract.

"I'm not worried about that now," Robinson said Sunday. "I'm a 20-point scorer, an All-Star. If I'm not wanted here, I know I can play someplace else."

Williams is a different matter. After 15 NBA seasons, the power forward's best years in the league are behind him. He's among the most popular Blazers and fills a much-needed leader-

ship role. Still, the Blazers might be reluctant to sign him to a big contract when they're trying to rebuild.

"I've had no chance to reflect on that, whether I play here or at all," Williams said. "Portland is my first choice. I've said I'd like to finish my career here."

The team's biggest need is basic — someone who can consistently make shots from the outside and the free throw line.

"I've said all along that one of the glaring areas where we have a need is in people who can shoot the basketball," Whitsitt said.

There are plenty of free agents available this year, but Whitsitt downplayed Portland's chances of landing any of them.

"We're not going to be a big player in the free-agent market. We don't have the salary cap structure that allows us to do that," he said.

Golf: Ducks prepared for Pac-10 Regionals

■ Continued from Page 9

"They are playing better than they have all year," Baumgartner said. "I think in our last two tournaments we have had some really good rounds, and that has prepared us for this."

Tomori has played particularly well, placing ninth at the California Collegiate and 14th at the Pac-10s. Baumgartner expects that Tomori and fellow senior Roh will step up for Thursday's tournament.

"They will rise to the occasion, they always have," Baumgartner said. "If they both play well then we have a good chance to advance."

According to Baumgartner, of the 18 teams that go to nationals, seven could be from the

Pac-10, so the Ducks are in good position to make a repeat trip to nationals.

"When it gets down to the pressure of the last round we are going to be ready to play because we have played with and against the best players in the country all year," Baumgartner said.

The West Regional hosts the top 20 teams west of the Mississippi River, including eight Pac-10 teams and host Nebraska. The top ten of those teams will advance to the May 22 NCAAAs.

"I believe 11 or 12 teams are realistically fighting for those 10 spots, and we are probably somewhere between six and 12," Baumgartner said.

Schott: Reds' owner deserves a weighty penalty

■ Continued from Page 9

her of insensitive and racist tendencies.

In 1992, Tim Sabo, a former Reds' financial officer, filed suit to Major League Baseball claiming Schott made routine racial and ethnic slurs and refused to hire black people in the Reds' organization.

Sabo's report alleged that Schott habitually referred to blacks as "niggers" and "apes" and accused baseball as being full with "money-grubbing Jews." When asked to respond to Sabo's allegations, Schott was quoted as saying she would rather employ a "trained monkey" than a black person.

A group of reporters came forward in 1992 with claims that Schott also made insulting remarks toward homosexuals. An example of Schott's insensitivity is when she described one Cincinnati player as

"looking like a queer" when he refused to take out his earring during a game.

Baseball had finally heard enough by the start of the 1993 season and suspended Schott. But a suspension and fine in the life of a multi-millionaire owner is equivalent to a slap on the wrist, as Schott has shown with her recent behavior.

In addition to her Hitler comments, she publicly voiced that she felt personally cheated when umpires refused to continue the Reds' opening day game that was halted when umpire John McSherry collapsed with chest pains.

After McSherry died, Schott showed her knack for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time when she tried to apologize for her comments to the umpiring crew minutes before the start of the Reds' second

game of the season.

After her most recent faux pas this season, I'm left wondering just how much longer Major League Baseball is going to put up with the liability that is Marge Schott.

With all the public relations problems baseball has had in the last four years, Schott is only upstaged by the cancellation of the World Series in 1994.

It's time for baseball to do more than just nickel-and-dime Schott with suspensions and fines. Major League Baseball needs to ban Schott because no organization should have to endure a nightmare like her.

Pete Schneider, a senior majoring in journalism, is a sports reporter for the Emerald. Email at petes@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

Varsity Eight Crew outrows competition

The Oregon's Club Sport crew sent its Women's Varsity Eight boat to Tacoma last weekend to race in the "Opening Day" meet. The Ducks placed first in their race against boats from Pacific Lutheran, Gonzaga and Washington.

The regatta was an awesome

event, featuring top crews from around the world. Thousands of spectators turned out to watch the progression of races throughout the day.

Ducks play well in tourney, but can't win

The Oregon's Club Sport women's soccer team competed

in a weekend tournament at Evergreen State College. The Ducks did not come away with a win, but the scores did not reflect their play. Midfielder Marie Uhtoss played well throughout the tourney, as did defenders Amy Buckingham and Kim Baumsteiger.

In their last game prior to the tournament, the Ducks defeated Western Oregon 4-1.



— Jason Lewis-Berry

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