

## Guarding the Goal

Keith Barbato and Stuart Robertson form one of the top goaltending duos in the Pacific-8 Hockey Conference

By Alex Pond  
Freelance Sports Reporter

In team sports there is usually one position that is key to that team's success. By the nature of the position, that person is expected to be the team leader, the player who more than anyone else can control the outcome of a game. With baseball, it's the pitcher. In football, the quarterback. And in basketball, that player is the point guard.

**CLUB  
SPORTS**

Well, hockey is no different.

The goaltender can make or break a team. In order to be successful, a hockey team must have someone who can keep the puck out of the net.

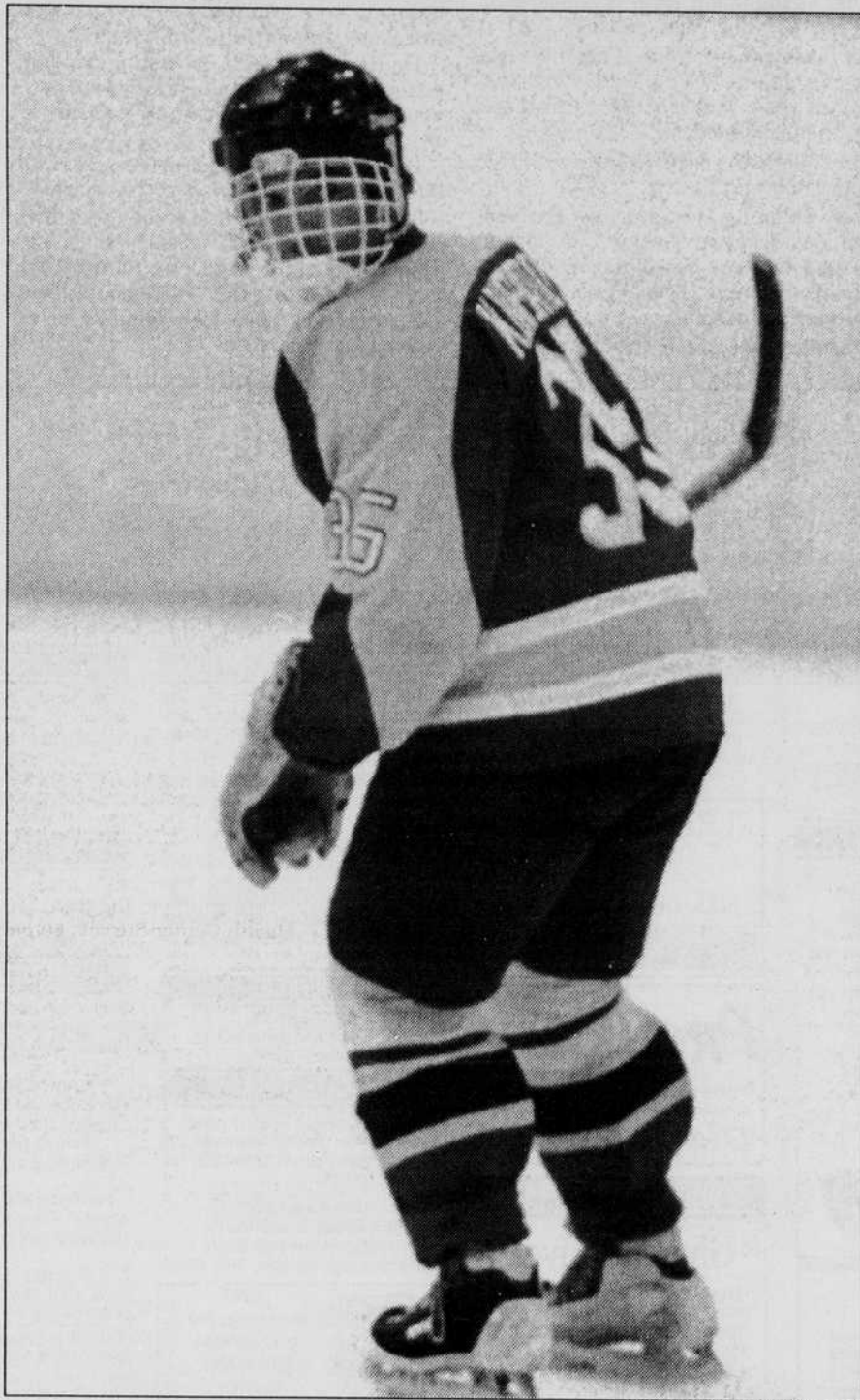
"The goalie is the key player on the ice," said Nick Ham, head coach of the Oregon Club hockey team. "If your goalie is having a hot night, you can make all the mistakes in the world and still win. If your goalie is having a cold night, you can't make any mistakes. That's kind of what it comes down to."

Ham's team has a 7-3-1 season record and is in the thick of the playoff race in the Pacific-8 Hockey League, so it's obvious that the goalie, or in this case goalies, have had more hot nights than cold ones.

Keith Barbato and Stuart Robertson have been manning the nets for the Ducks this season and are one of the main reasons for the team's fast start, which included an eight-game unbeaten streak that ended last weekend in the Bay Area.

Barbato, a sophomore from San Ramon, Calif., and Robertson, a freshman from Boulder, Colo., have been equally splitting the duties so far this season.

People might think there could be some hard feelings between the two as they compete for playing time at such a key position.



ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

Oregon Club hockey goaltender Keith Barbato is part of a dynamic duo in the net for this season, although this weekend he will be a position player for two exhibition games.

Turn to HOCKEY, Page 10

## Smoltz inks new contract with Atlanta

■ **MLB:** The Cy Young Award winner wants to stay with the Braves for his whole professional career

By Paul Newberry  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — John Smoltz knew all along that he wanted to stay in Atlanta. When the Braves offered him a \$31 million, four-year contract — a record deal for a pitcher — the decision was easy.

The best rotation in baseball will be intact for at least another season after the NL Cy Young Award winner re-signed Wednesday with the Braves.

"This organization has shown me the ultimate in signing me to this contract," Smoltz said during a news conference at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. "There were some teams that obviously made it clear they wanted my services. But my main goal as an athlete has always been to stay in one organization as long as I possibly can. I want to play my entire career here."



At least four teams, led by the Cleveland Indians, showed serious interest in Smoltz. The Indians reportedly discussed a \$30 million, four-year contract, but there was no further need for discussion when the Braves came up with a higher offer.

"We wanted to be patient, but we also wanted to do the right thing," Smoltz said. "This, in my mind, is definitely the right thing — to carry forth the tradition that we started here."

Smoltz, 29, led the majors with 24 wins and 276 strikeouts, along with a 2.94 ERA. He added four more wins in the postseason before the Braves were beaten by the New York Yankees in the World Series.

His \$7.75 million average is second in baseball behind the \$11 million average in the deal Albert Belle and the White Sox agreed to Tuesday.

The breakdown for Smoltz's contract: \$7 million in 1997, \$7.75 million the next two years and \$8.5 million in 2000. The club also has an option for 2001 at \$8 million.

"He showed last year how very important he is to the fortunes of our club," Braves general manager John Schuerholz said.

Turn to MLB, Page 12

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**SPORTSWEEK** END

V=Varsity  
C=Club  
I=Intramural

**F** **22**  
**Volleyball/V**  
vs. USC  
MAC COURT,  
7:00 PM  
**Hockey/C**  
LANE COUNTY ICE  
ARENA  
8:00 PM

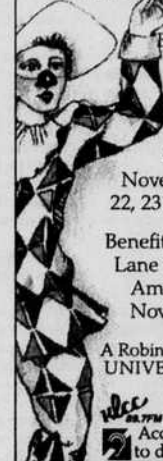
**S** **23**  
**Football/V**  
CIVIL WAR  
AT OREGON ST., 12:30 PM  
**Volleyball/V**  
vs. UCLA  
MAC COURT, 7:00 PM  
**Rugby/C**  
AT OSU  
**Hockey/C**  
LANE COUNTY ICE ARENA, 8:00 PM

**S** **24**  
**TUESDAY NIGHT**  
**26**  
**MEN'S BASKETBALL/V**  
vs. SAN DIEGO STATE  
MAC COURT,  
7:05 PM

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**THE  
SERVANT  
OF TWO  
MASTERS**

BY CARLO GOLDONI



Directed by  
Kirk Boyd,  
Oregon  
Shakespeare Festival  
November 8, 9, 14, 15, 16,  
22, 23 8:00 p.m.

Benefit Matinee  
Lane County Chapter  
American Red Cross  
November 17, 2:00 p.m.

A Robinson Theatre Production  
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