

SPORTS



ON THE TUBE
Men's College Basketball,
Washington at Oregon,
Fox (5), 7:35 p.m.

DAILY TRIVIA
Who was the first NBA player to
receive one million All-Star votes?
See scoreboard for answer.

Oregon football signs top junior college talent

RECRUITS:

Oregon gets commitments from 27 players as it works to fill voids and bolster its depth

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

Tuesday was national letter-of-intent signing day for college football recruits across the country, and Oregon marked the day by receiving written commitments from 27 high school and junior college players.

Declaring this class to be one with great potential, Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said that the team was able to sign more of its top recruits than ever before, filling both immediate needs and stocking for the future.

"[This class] can eventually become, or be considered, one of the best classes we have ever had," Bellotti said. "But that remains to be seen. It is probably the most balanced class we have had in the last several years."

Oregon raided California JC schools to sign players at positions that were most pressing: Quarterback, offensive line, defensive line and linebacker.

The marquee recruit is quarterback Akili Smith, a transfer from Grossmont College (Calif.) who threw for 3,212 yards and 32 touchdowns last season. The 6-foot-3, 226-pound Smith is expected to

fill the starting quarterback void that was left with the loss of seniors Tony Graziani and Ryan Perry-Smith.

The Ducks' second quarterback recruit is Portland's Joey Harrington out of Central Catholic High School. Considered to be the top football prospect in Oregon, the 6-foot-4, 194-pound Harrington was wooed to Oregon over Stanford.

"Those two quarterbacks deserve a lot of attention," Bellotti said. "Smith is the best junior college

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SCOREBOARD

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

NBA

Miami	118	Washington	104
Boston	117	Denver	106
Cleveland	84	Atlanta	81
Toronto	89	Phoenix	99
Utah	99	Chicago	90
Seattle	95	L.A. Lakers	106

NHL

Pittsburgh	6	Tampa Bay	0
Montreal	3	Dallas	4
Hartford	2	Calgary	2
N.Y. Rangers	5	Edmonton	5
N.Y. Islanders	1	Los Angeles	late
New Jersey	4	San Jose	game
Anaheim	2		
Toronto	4		

Shaq to be out until at least Feb. 12 with injury

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — A knee injury will sideline Shaquille O'Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers until at least Feb. 12, meaning he will miss Sunday's All-Star game.

The Lakers said that O'Neal, third in scoring and fourth in rebounding in the NBA this season, sustained a "sprained medial collateral ligament" Saturday during a game against Washington when he bumped knees with the Bullets' Gheorge Muresan.

O'Neal sat out Tuesday night's 108-86 Los Angeles Clippers' victory over the Lakers. Playing in 45 of the Lakers' 47 games so far, he has averaged 26.2 points and 13 rebounds per game, while the Lakers have compiled the best record in the Western Conference at 34-13.

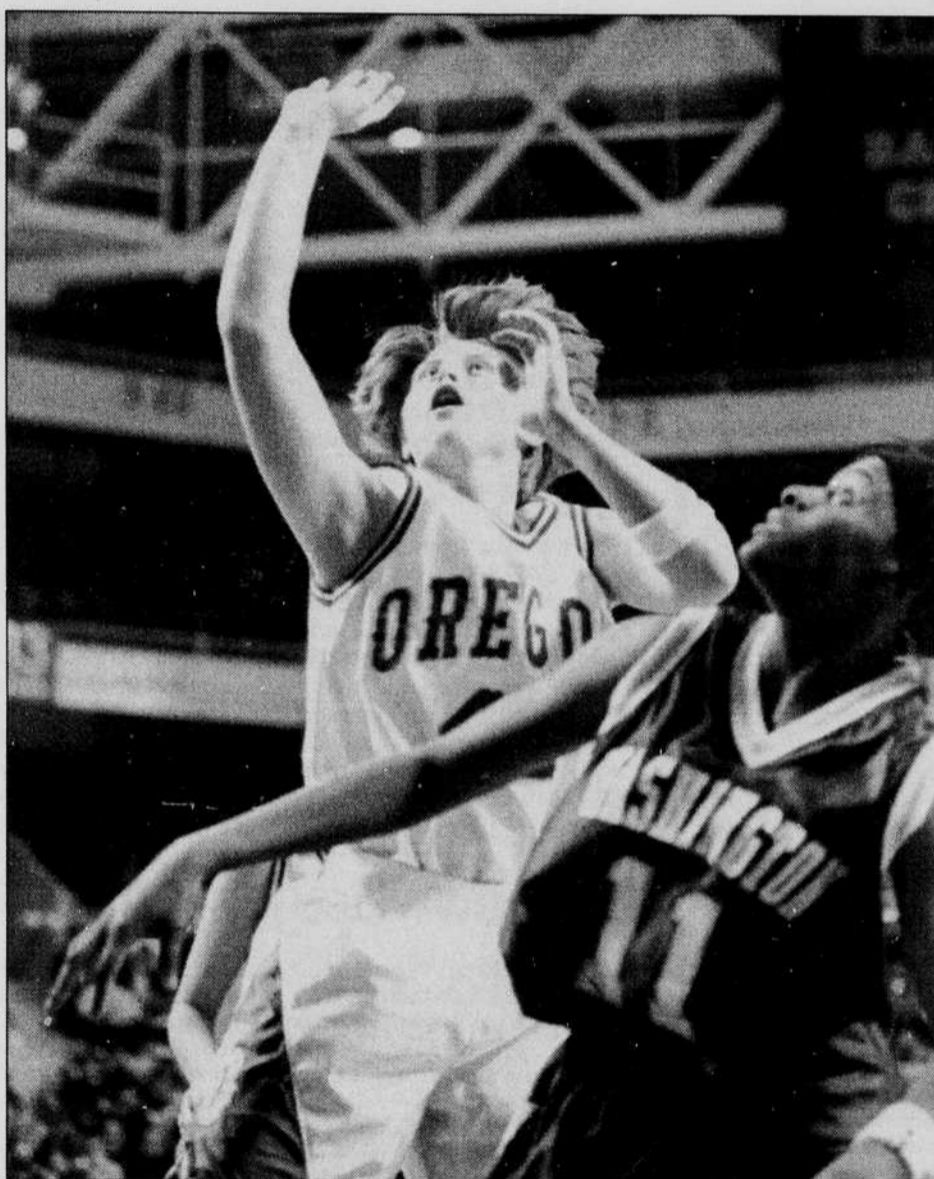
The Lakers said O'Neal would remain in Los Angeles to receive treatment and therapy at the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic, and his earliest possible return to action would be next Wednesday at Minnesota.

DAILY TRIVIA ANSWER

Former L.A. Laker Magic Johnson was the first NBA player to surpass the one-million vote mark.

Oregon vs. Washington

The heated rivalry continues



Oregon's Arianne Boyer and Washington's Jamie Redd figure to be key players in the second meeting between the two teams. Oregon won the first game 67-60 on Jan. 11.

PREVIEW: Oregon hopes its recent offensive success continues against the Washington schools

By Mark McTyre
Sports Editor

Chapter Two begins.

The last time Oregon and Washington met in women's basketball competition, it was much more than just a game, as shot attempts weren't the only thing raining that night — at least that is what one coach would like for everyone to believe.

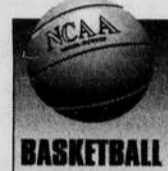
Huskies' head coach June Daugherty accused Oregon fans of spitting on her from the stands during Washington's 67-60 loss at McArthur Court on Jan. 11.

"I've got a comment about coming up here and getting spit on the entire game," Daugherty said following the game. "It is really a lack of class by their fans and I think it is really gross on their part. These fans need to take a look at themselves."

The accusation brought national attention to Oregon fans and a nation's size headache to University officials. The alleged spitting incident was investigated by officials with no evidence being found that could concur with Daugherty's statement.

Now, with the incident nearly a month removed, Oregon head coach Jody Runge doesn't want to talk about the past. However, she doesn't want to talk about the future either. She feels that for the Ducks to succeed in the stretch run of the Pacific-10 Conference schedule they must take each game separately as it happens.

"Right now, we're just trying to take one game at a time, one dribble at a time, one possession at a time," Runge said. "We are really not trying to look at how many games it is going to take [to get us into the NCAA



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The Oregon men's basketball midseason report

After a quick 10-0 start to the 1996-97 season, the Ducks have lost 6 of their first 9 conference games

GAME PREVIEW: Oregon will try to avenge an early-season loss to Washington at Mac Court tonight/10

By Andrea DeYoung
Assistant Sports Editor

When does the road to the NCAA Tournament begin? Is it during fall workouts? Is it during informal shootarounds during the summer? Or does it begin the day that the previous season ends?

For the Oregon men's basketball team, the NCAA Tournament has been on the minds of coaches, players and fans since the day the Ducks were shunned by the NCAA Tournament and NIT selection committees last season. After winning six of its last nine games at the end of the season, Oregon was disappointed to not be packing for a tournament game.

But the Ducks had one thing to be positive about — nobody graduated. Not only did nobody graduate,

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Photo illustration by MARK McTYRE



JERRY GREEN
UO men's head coach