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SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Rams new coach wonders about Phillips

■ **NFL:** St. Louis head coach Dick Vermeil said his team will move on without its running back if needed

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Rams haven't given up on troubled running back Lawrence Phillips — yet.

A day after Phillips' latest brush with the law, new general manager and coach Dick Vermeil said Monday he doesn't believe he can count on last year's first-round draft pick. He said the organization is intent on helping Phillips, but the Rams are prepared to move on without him.

"The Rams are going to line up and play with or without Lawrence Phillips, OK," Vermeil said. "I'd just like him to be part of it so we can help him, and he can help us."

The Rams haven't been able to help Phillips because they can't find him, and Vermeil wonders why a player would not contact his employer under such circumstances.

"Well, it sure would have been nice," Vermeil said. "But I don't think

that's part of his background — I don't think that's part of his thinking."

Phillips' agent, Mitch Frankel, didn't immediately return a telephone message from The Associated Press.

Vermeil thought he had an understanding with Phillips two weeks ago after meeting with him for an hour. However, the latest arrest changed that.

Phillips, 21, was arrested early

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UO Club Sports Ski Team

Women in Regionals, men out

■ **CLUB SPORTS:** Oregon's top skier, Sarah Momsen, suffered a dislocated shoulder and was forced out of action

By Brian Vanneman
Freelance Sports Reporter

Last weekend's conference meet produced mixed results for the Oregon club ski team.

The women are headed to this week's regional competition in Winterpark, Colo., while the men are not.

The women placed high enough to appear in the regionals. Sarah Momsen, the women's top racer, skied Saturday with a dislocated shoulder and against her doctor's advice. On Sunday, in order to avoid injury, she stepped to the sideline and let her team race without her.

"They skied great," team coordinator Lolo Castaillac said of the women's team. "I'm really excited about helping them to win in Colorado."

The men's ninth-place finish ended a season that fell short of its high expectations.

"It's such a frustrating thing," Oregon skier Castaillac said. "It could have been a different season."

The unfulfilled hopes were compounded by several skiers' performances this weekend. Early Saturday, men's top skier Ben Wallace took a costly tumble. Later, Castaillac missed a gate on the course and was penalized.

"Our morale kind of died once we realized down deep that it was going to be really tough to make it to regionals after Saturday," Castaillac said.

The men finished the season ranked ninth in the conference, but needed to reach eighth place to go to the regionals.



Oregon skier and team coordinator Lolo Castaillac had a tough run last weekend that placed his team out of the running for a regional berth. However, the women's team did qualify.

COURTESY PHOTO

Shaq is not worthy of top honors

The NBA All-Star weekend (which occurred a couple of weeks ago if you can't remember back that far) was one of the greatest weekends in the history of the event. Forty-seven of the greatest players of all time showed up for probably one of the best ceremonies any professional sport has ever seen. It was definitely an event that will go down in sports history.

With this being the case, you would think anybody lucky enough to be selected as one of the 50 greatest NBA players of all time would show enough respect to show up and be a part of it. As I said before, there were three members of that team who didn't show. Pete Maravich died about 10

years ago. Thus the validity of his excuse is unquestionable, and at least his two sons were there to represent him. This was slightly awkward, but even though he was dead, he was still there in spirit, which is more than can be said for a pair from the Los Angeles Lakers organization.

Jerry West, former Laker great and now front-office boss, had a semi-viable excuse. He was having surgery on the very day of the ceremony and couldn't make it. As I understand it, West's surgery wasn't something that was life or death, but more along the lines of repairing old injuries. The question is: Why didn't West postpone the surgery in order to show up for the ceremony? I know that unless I was having a heart transplant, I would have rescheduled anything to be there that weekend if I was lucky enough to have been selected.

There is no doubt that Jerry West should have been on the list of the 50 greatest, but his Laker counterpart, Shaquille O'Neal, who is a questionable selection at this early point in his career anyway, thumbed his nose at the NBA once again, and I don't think anybody should take it. O'Neal mildly injured his knee before the All-Star break and made it clear before the game that he wasn't going to play. This was also the case with others that were also selected to the list, such as Clyde

OPINION



Ryan Halvorsen

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Aggies' guard has best game of the season after being hit by discus

■ **FLYING OBJECT:** A misguided discus hit Denmark Reid during practice

The Associated Press

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — The flying object that hit New Mexico State guard Denmark Reid, a former high school standout at Jefferson High in Portland, in the chest while he stood on a basketball court was not of the paper or coin variety. It was a discus from a track meet.

It happened Saturday inside Ida-

ho's Kibbie Dome, where Reid and his Aggies teammate were practicing for their Big West game that night against the Vandals.

A track meet was going on at the same time in an adjoining area of the large dome.

About 20 minutes into the Aggies' practice, a discus sailed over one of the grandstands surrounding the bas-

ketball court and landed near Reid. The discus bounced once and struck Reid in the chest.

Reid went down and was attended to by New Mexico State trainer Mike O'Larey and trainers from the track meet. Reid bruised his sternum — and was left considerably sore — but returned to practice after taking about a 15-minute break.

"It was pretty painful at the time," Reid said. "Coach had just told the team that we needed to show some heart. I didn't see the thing coming. I turned around, and it hit me in the chest."

Reid had his best shooting night of the season Saturday, leading the Aggies' to an 88-55 win by scoring 19 points and going 5-of-7 on 3-pointers.