



World Series
Florida at Cleveland,
NBC (6), 5 p.m.

Every Sunday it's the same damn thing

Is getting a decent football game on television too much to ask?

This is a question I have been asking myself for the six years I have lived in Eugene. Every Sunday during the NFL season, I crawl out of bed hoping and praying that once, just once, the local affiliates have chosen to broadcast a football game worthy of airing.

Instead, week in and week out, year in and year out, I click on the TV to find San Francisco vs. New Orleans. Or Seattle vs. Indianapolis. Or San Francisco vs. Arizona. Or Seattle vs. Cincinnati. Or, my personal favorite, San Francisco vs. St. Louis (And the 49ers win a squeaker, 49-10, for their 15th straight win over the Rams!)

OPINION



Chris
Hansen

If I'm not already back in bed, I've usually fallen asleep by the middle of the first quarter with the score 21-0 San Francisco.

Brief tangent: Am I the only one who thinks San Francisco has been by far the most overrated football team in the NFL the past few years — this year in particular?

Sure the 49ers have the best record in the NFC at 6-1. And yes, they have won six in a row, with most coming in blowout fashion.

But Christ, look who they're playing.

The 49ers have beaten the 1-6 Atlanta Falcons twice, the 2-5 Rams twice, and the 2-5 Saints and 3-4 Carolina Panthers once each. San Francisco's only loss is to Tampa Bay in the season's first game. Ironically, the Buccaneers are the only team they have played that owns a winning record.

Fans and media types can ooh and aah over San Francisco's league-leading defense, but the fact is, Atlanta (13th), New Orleans (14th) and St. Louis (15th) are the three worst offensive teams in the NFC.

Nothing can make a mediocre team look better than consistently playing against opponents that arguably wouldn't be ranked in the Associated Press top 25 college football poll and in a division littered with piss-poor teams.

And only once in the 49ers' next five games will they face a team above .500: on Nov. 2 against the aging and fading Dallas Cowboys at Commercial Stick Park. Only three more times after that game against the Cowboys will San Francisco play a team with a winning record.

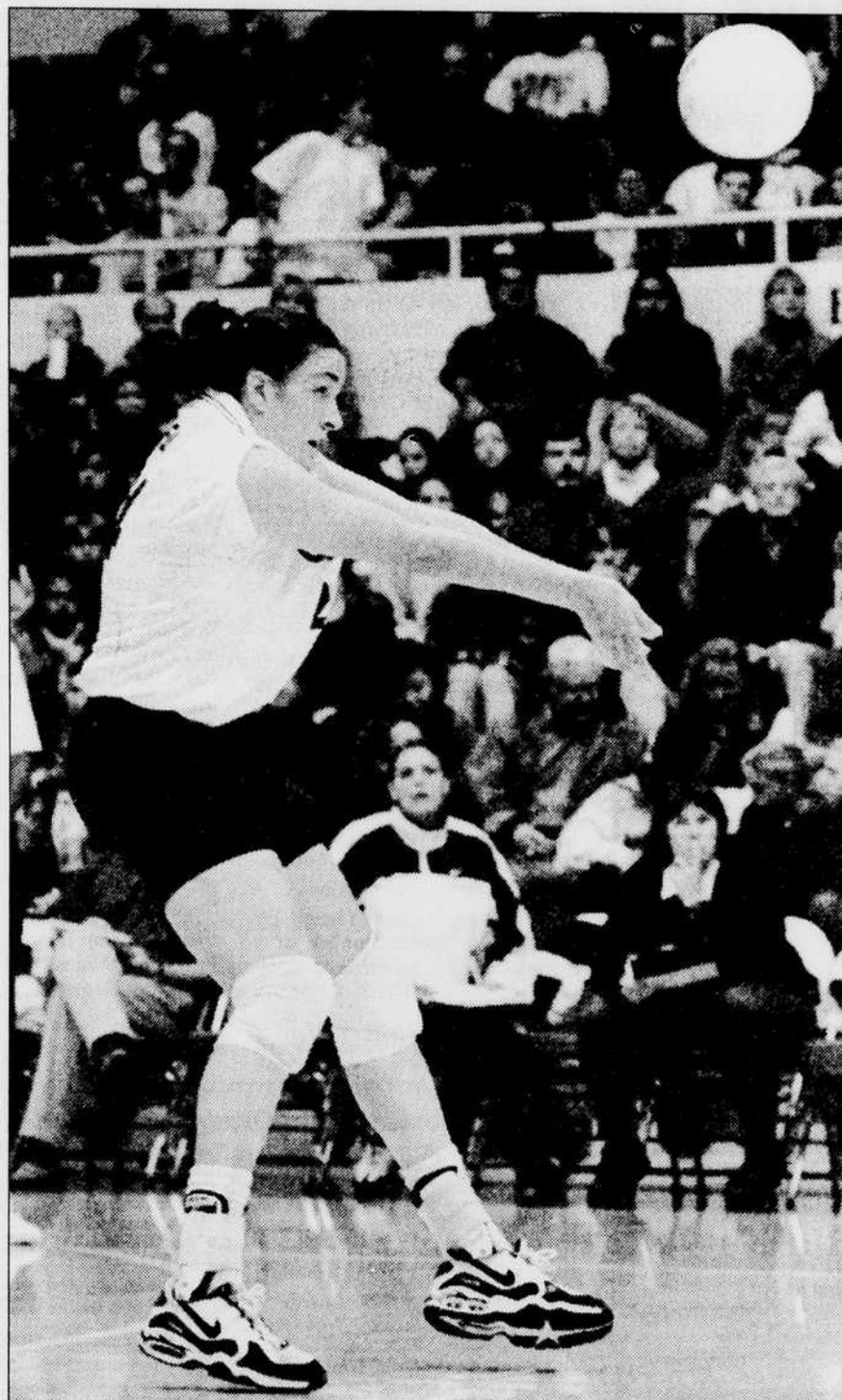
Obviously I'm not a big fan of San Francisco. But I don't detest them like I do Dallas or Green Bay. I'm just bitter that for six

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"She may not be the best volleyball player, but she's probably the best athlete we've ever had."

Don Shaw
Stanford head coach

The Killer Instinct



Stanford's standout two-sport athlete Kristin Folkl is one of the most decorated female athletes in NCAA history

Rob Moseley
Sports Reporter

The pressures of matching high school success at the collegiate level are immense. Each year, hundreds of students graduate from the top of their class and into a sea of anonymity, unable to sustain adolescent success in an adult world.

For Stanford's Kristin Folkl, the improbability of matching that success was even greater.

Folkl (pronounced FOLK-l) graduated from St. Louis' St. Joseph's Academy with a 4.20 grade-point average, eight state championships (four each in volleyball and basketball) and a silver medal from the 1994 Goodwill Games.

Could the 6-foot-2 senior possibly overcome the difficulty of improving upon those feats?

How about being named the national freshman of the year and first team All-American as a member of the 1994 national championship team?

"I didn't know what to expect when I came to Stanford," Folkl says. "I was just concerned with not failing my classes."

The 1993 USA Today high school player of the year and Volleyball Magazine recruit of the decade has always excelled at staying down to earth.

"When I heard about the recruit of the decade award, I had to laugh because I don't think you can ever give one person that label; everyone has different strengths," she says. "All I really got out of it was that someone, somewhere thought I was a decent player."

Decent enough to set a national high school record with 1,819 career kills and tie another with 36 kills in a match.

"I do take pride in how I play," she says. "But coming out of high school, what I really took pride in was that we'd won state four years in a row in both sports."

Considering her high school success, Folkl was ready for a furious collegiate

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Kristin Folkl bumps the ball to a teammate against rival California. While Folkl has always been good at the net, her defense and passing have improved.

STANFORD DAILY

O'Brien's long wait is finally over

A one-year
suspension
and \$3,000
later, Natasha
O'Brien
returns to the
Duck lineup

By Ryan Frank
Sports Editor

It's finally over.

No longer will Natasha O'Brien have to watch from the bench in street clothes, wishing she could be out on the court. No longer will she have to wonder how she will pay back the \$3,000. No longer does she have to think about whether she really wants to come back to Oregon.

It's over.

O'Brien came to Oregon last season, like numerous players before her, from West Beach, Australia, hoping to further her basketball career.

She left her homeland, team, family and friends to pursue her dream of playing professional basketball, and maybe not as im-

portant to her future plans, to become a Duck.

But just days before she was to play her first game in an Oregon uniform, a decision came from the NCAA that would have a profound effect on O'Brien's career.

The NCAA had ruled that O'Brien would have to sit out the 1996 season and repay a \$3,000 stipend she received for playing in the Women's National Basketball League in Australia.

So much for warm welcomes.

O'Brien's first thought was when and where was the first flight back to Australia. She wanted no part of a one-year suspension and the \$3,000 fine levied by the NCAA. She could have gone back to Australia and played for her old team, the Melbourne

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EMERALD

Natasha O'Brien could only watch from the bench last season as Oregon played in its fourth straight NCAA Tournament.