



Men's basketball
vs. Washington
Mac Court, 7p.m.

"A.D. Smith is the best sixth man we've had here in a while."

Henry Madden
UO forward

AN UNLIKELY HERO

Sophomore A.D. Smith has been Oregon's dominating force off the bench

By Chris Hansen
Assistant Sports Editor

A .D. Smith is a traitor. He has turned his back on his roots and the loyalties of his youth.

He goes to battle wearing the enemy's colors.

And Oregon couldn't be happier.

For Smith was once a Beaver backer. It was the orange and black attack of Ralph Miller and Jim Anderson that this young basketball prodigy grew up adoring.

It was Oregon State that drew Smith's intrigue.

But what about the Ducks? Didn't Smith play for Churchill High School in Eugene, leading it to the 1995 boy's 4A state high school basketball championship and earning himself state player of the year honors? Shouldn't Oregon have been the team he dreamed of playing for?

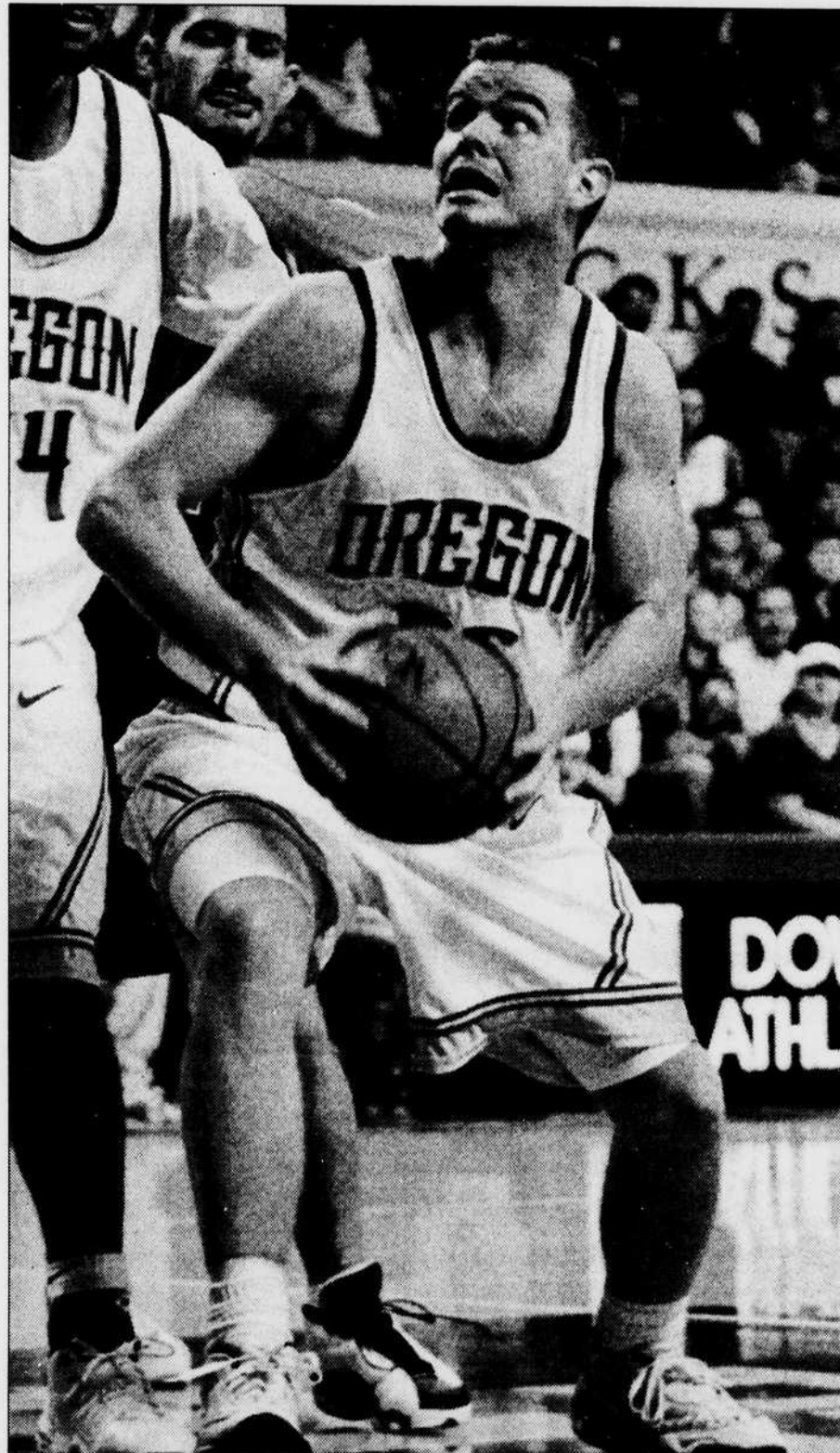
"I hated this place," Smith admits while sitting in the concourse of McArthur Court.

So much for home-town boy makes good.

That's not exactly fair. After all, Smith was born in Corvallis and lived in Albany before settling in Eugene. Truth is, in recent history Oregon State has had a stronger basketball program than Oregon, with the last four years being an exception.

But if Smith, who committed to Oregon while Oregon State was in

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Sophomore forward A.D. Smith has battled to become the Ducks' leading scorer and rebounder in Pacific-10 Conference play this season.

Women must play tough in the paint against the Huskies

Washington's Amber Hall leads the Pac-10 in offensive rebounds with 69 this season

By Ryan Frank
Sports Editor

The Oregon women could have a difficult time sneaking up on the Washington Huskies tonight in Seattle.

The Huskies were riding one of the best starts in school history, 10-0, into Arizona for a pair of games in the desert last weekend.

The desert, Washington found out, can be a rough place for Dawgs.

The Huskies left Arizona with nothing but two losses to show for their trip South.

"Obviously, we're not going to be sneaking up on a sleeping giant," said Jody Runge, the Ducks' head coach.

The Huskies lost a heart-breaker to Arizona State Thursday on a last-second desperation three-pointer, then got waxed by Arizona two nights later, 93-62.

It was first time since the 1995-96 sea-

son that the Huskies have lost two straight games.

The losses dropped Washington six spots in the Associated Press top 25 to No. 13 and moved its record to 10-2 overall and 1-2 in conference play, tied for sixth place in the Pacific-10 Conference.

The Ducks, after splitting their two home games last week, are tied for fourth in the Pac-10 with a record of 6-6 overall and 2-2 in conference play.

Oregon has won six of its last eight games against Washington, including a season sweep of the two games last season.

Helping the Huskies, who have an eight-game home-court winning streak, to their fast start this season has been a col-

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No more excuses; Ducks need to start winning

It's pretty much do-or-die time. Starting tonight at Washington, the Oregon women's basketball team begins a four-game stretch that will, in all likelihood, determine the direction the season will take.

Will the season end up in a fifth straight trip to the NCAA Tournament?

Will it end up in the National Invitation Tournament? Or will it simply end up being labeled a rebuilding season? (The worst case scenario.)

After their 80-75 loss to UCLA last weekend, a game the Ducks gift wrapped and handed to the Bruins with 18 missed free-throw attempts, Oregon is at an obvious

OPINION



Alex Pond

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