

Success: Curry is team's 'spark'

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with back at home, and that helped me relax. The worries that I had now were minor."

He also had only two responsibilities: school and basketball.

To many student-athletes, that might be more than enough, but not to Curry.

"I developed good work ethics when I had to take care of my brother and sister," Curry said. "I knew I had to get up and iron clothes so they could go to school. I knew I had to get up and get them something to eat. Even when I was tired, I had to get up."

"It helped me with my patience. Being patient with people, understanding that people have feelings, they have needs. It even helped with my schoolwork. I know that not everything is going to be easy. You have got to work for it and work hard. I worked hard helping my little brother and sister, and it is paying off in the long run."

Curry was recruited out of high school by Florida, Florida State and Texas — as a baseball player — but without guarantees of a full scholarship. After a visit at home by former Oregon head coach Jerry Green, and on the advice of his mother who couldn't afford to

pay for him to attend school if he didn't receive a full ride, Curry opted to play basketball for Oregon.

This was after playing basketball in only his junior and senior seasons at St. Anthony's in New Jersey, where he was coached by Bob Hurley Sr., father of former Duke standout and current NBA player Bobby Hurley Jr.

"[Bob Hurley] taught him how to play hard and get after it," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent says. "That has allowed him to compensate for some limitations in other areas and really be an effective player at this level. He plays so hard, and his focus is always there."

That has garnered Curry some postseason accolades and recognition from his teammates. He has twice received the team's John Warren Most Inspirational Player award. After the 1995-96 season, he was also named the team's best defensive player.

"Jamar is a prime example of what Oregon basketball is all about," teammate Terik Brown says. "He is our spark. He has so much energy and plays great defense."

Being the "spark" on the team has been one of Curry's primary

roles during his four seasons (he redshirted his sophomore year). It is also what will be missed when Curry finishes his career March 7 at California, assuming Oregon doesn't get a bid to play in the National Invitation Tournament.

"He has been our energizer," Kent says. "He has been the one consistent guy. No matter how the season had been going, he was always upbeat. Always. To have that kind of attribute has been a positive thing for us to have on this team."

When Curry reflects upon his career, he marks the win against UCLA at Mac Court in 1994, his freshman season, as being the most memorable. After that game, there was a noticeable change at Mac Court: It was filling up again. All the more people for Curry to entertain.

His biggest accomplishment, though, will be going through graduation ceremonies in June with a double major in sociology and business.

"I've made it," Curry says. "My mom's helped me; I know my pop has helped me spiritually, and it feels good."

That's something to smile about.

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Reed College up next for UO rugby team

Head coach Ben Clegg said the game will be a good opportunity for new players to gain experience

By Tim Pyle

Freelance Sports Reporter

After learning Washington State's field in Pullman, Wash., is flooded, the Oregon Club Sports rugby team was forced to cancel its Saturday match with the Cougars. In its place, the Ducks have scheduled a match against Reed College in Portland.

The Ducks (6-1), who are ranked No. 3 in the Northwest Region, defeated Reed, a Division II team, earlier in the season.

Head coach Ben Clegg said Oregon (6-1) is looking for big contributions from fullback Micah Bronilsky and second-line forward Matt Shuetz, who have both performed well in the second half of the season.

"The key thing for our team is to keep developing," Clegg said. "This is another excellent opportunity for us to give our new guys experience."

"A big key will be how much we can move the ball. Our backs are just now starting to get much more dangerous."

The Ducks are coming off a 21-8 win over Division

I opponent Western Washington last weekend.

Women's lacrosse

The Oregon Club Sports women's lacrosse team began its season last Saturday by blowing out Lewis & Clark in Portland, 13-2.

It was not a league game for the Ducks, but attacker Kate Tierney said it was an important win.

"It was a good start to the season and got us pumped up for the upcoming games," Tierney said.

"It was good to see offense and defense working together."

At least seven different Oregon players scored in a total-team effort, Tierney said.

The Ducks' next competition is March 7 and 8 when they play in a four-game tournament in Walla Walla, Wash.

Men's lacrosse

Two top-25 opponents await the Oregon Club Sports men's lacrosse team this weekend on its trip north.

The Ducks (1-1) battle No. 13 Western Washington in Seattle on Saturday and then travel to Vancouver, British Columbia, to face No. 5 Simon Fraser on Sunday.



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