

WEDNESDAY
Oct. 28, 1998**Best Bet**
1998 Inline Tour
Championships
1:30 p.m., ESPN

OREGON SOCCER

Homegrown Talent

Eugene native T.J. Johnson stayed home by joining the Oregon women's soccer team



Matt Hankins/Emerald

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

There is only one homegrown Duck on the Oregon women's soccer team.

After living in Eugene all her life and enjoying a standout prep career at Sheldon High School, T.J. Johnson chose to stay home and help the Ducks get their new program off and running.

While many star prep athletes from Eugene decide to take their talents elsewhere, Johnson says she remained precisely because it is home — and she loves it.

"I've seen [Eugene] go through a lot of changes because it used to not be this big when I was little," says Johnson, a 5-foot-3 sophomore. "It's not too big, but it's a happy medium. So I enjoy it."

Johnson also has enjoyed soccer since she began playing in kindergarten.

"I like the fact that it's a high-contact sport," Johnson says. "It's very physical, and it's demanding. I'm in the best shape of my life during [soccer] season."

As a prep, Johnson earned all-league honors in each of her last three seasons. In addition to being the team captain as a senior, Johnson was named first-team all-league and team MVP. She says that last award is the one she cherishes most because her teammates voted on it.

"I play a lot for the people who are on the team," Johnson says. "You can only do so much for the coaches, and the rest of it is for the team that you're on."

But Johnson did not shine solely on the soccer field for her first three years. She was also a member of the varsity basketball team until she gave up hoops her senior year to focus completely on soccer.

That focus paid off in the form of a full-ride scholarship.

Johnson says she was eager to become part of the foundation of the Oregon program, which began in 1996 when she was a



Nick Medley/Emerald

"I've seen [Eugene] go through a lot of changes because it used to not be this big when I was little. It's not too big, but it's a happy medium. So I enjoy it."

T.J. Johnson
Oregon forward

Turn to **SOCCER**, Page 8

Top: Forward T.J. Johnson's determination makes her one of the Ducks' top scoring threats.

Bottom: As she showed against Portland State, Johnson has adjusted to the fast pace of collegiate soccer.

Former walk-on takes over as Beavers' quarterback

Freshman Jonathan Smith nearly led the Beavers to victory against Washington in Seattle on Saturday

By Rob Moseley
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon State head football coach Mike Riley may be on to something here.

After losing four of their first five Pacific-10 Conference games this season with junior Terrance Bryant at quarterback, the Beavers went to redshirt freshman Jonathan Smith early in the second quarter against Washington on Saturday.

With Oregon State down 14-7, Smith calmly completed five passes, including his first three, and led the Beavers to a field goal. Three quarters and 469 yards passing later, Smith was under center for a two-point conversion with the Beavers down 35-34 and no time on the clock.

Smith's lob to Roddy Tompkins fell incomplete, but he was rewarded Monday with the Pac-10's of-

fensive player of the week honor.

"I have learned not to be surprised by Jonathan," Riley said after the game. "He was a walk-on, and from the time he was here last fall, he's always gone into practice and performed. He's always got the best touch on a deep ball."

That touch led to three scoring passes of more than 33 yards, including one each from 80 and 90 yards out. Not only did it earn Smith the conference honors, but Riley said Tuesday that he plans to start the freshman this Saturday against California.

"We've been impressed with him since last spring through fall camp," Riley said. "Every time he's been in a scrimmage or a competitive situation he's moved the ball."

Riley dubbed Smith a "recruited walk-on."

"We didn't have another scholarship left, but his grandmother lives in Corvallis," the coach said. "He was looking for a place to go, and we encouraged him to come here."

And it seems to have worked out, as Smith nearly

FOOTBALL

Pac-10 Notes

led the Beavers to victory against the historically powerful Huskies.

After completing a 33-yard touchdown pass to former quarterback Tim Alexander as time expired, Smith's game-winning attempt to Tompkins was broken up by Washington's Nigel Burton in what Husky coach Jim Lambright called "as big a play as Ortege Jenkins' jump over the top" to beat the Huskies on Oct. 3.

"I've hardly ever been in a locker room that had as many broken hearts as that one," Riley said.

Coming from the coach of a team that hasn't had a winning season in 27 years, that's saying something.

Toledo upset over perceived slights by Douglas, A. Smith

No. 2 UCLA won unconvincingly for the second



SMITH

Turn to **PAC-10**, Page 8