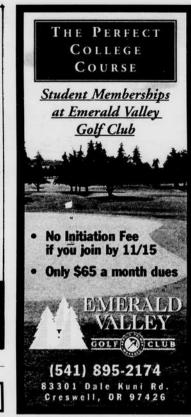


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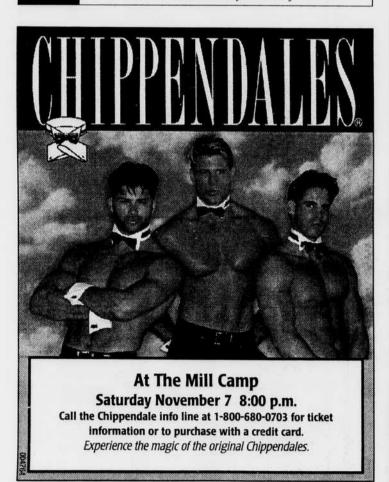


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Soccer

Continued from Page 5 senior in high school.

"It was a new program, and I thought it would be exciting," Johnson says. "I could look back 20 years from now and say I was there when that started because it's going to be a great program." Head coach Bill Steffen says he

knew Johnson was ready to make an impact for his program when he was watching her play one time at Springfield's indoor soccer cen-

ter, Kick City.

"Somebody just knocked her down, and I liked how quickly she got back up and won the ball back from the person who knocked her down," Steffen says. "I think that typifies T.J.'s attitude. She's a fighter. She doesn't take things lying down."

When Johnson entered the program, she did not make significant on-the-field contributions at first. In the early going of her freshman season, Johnson saw limited playing time off the bench.

But once Pacific-10 Conference play started, Johnson began to spend increasing amounts of time on the field. She was finally inserted into the starting lineup at forward against Washington State



T.J. Johnson FROM: Eugene (Sheldon High School) POSITION: Forward

STATS: 10 career points (four goals, two assists) ... started 20 of 29 games at Oregon ... five points this season ranks fourth

and started seven of the Ducks' last eight games.

Johnson attributes that increase in minutes to adjusting to the faster-paced college game.

"Once I could hold onto the ball and distribute it quickly, that's basically all that I think got me in there," says the exercise and movement science major. "I might not be the most-skilled player, but I'll always go 110 percent for my

In the season-ending stretch, Johnson scored her second career goal in a 2-1 win at Arizona. For the season, she finished with five points on two goals and an assist.

This season, Johnson has start-

ed all 14 of the Ducks' (4-8-2 overall, 1-4 Pac-10) games. She scored her two goals, which rank her third on the team, in the first two conference games against Oregon State and Washington. Those goals also got Johnson nominated for Pac-10 player of the week honors for the week of Oct. 12-18.

Johnson has added an assist and ranks fourth on the team in points

"She's improved in a couple of areas," Steffen says. "She's become a much fitter individual. I think tactically she's much better as well."

Although Steffen says he would have recruited Johnson no matter where she was from, he also admits that it is nice to have a hometown player on the team.

"[The team] can appreciate having a local connection," Steffen says "And I think T.J. appreciates having that connection as well."

With the last two weeks of 1998 and the two following seasons still to play, Johnson plans to continue strengthening that connection and the young Oregon program.

Maybe staying home is not so bad after all

Pac-10

Continued from Page 5

week in a row, and afterwards Bruin head coach Bob Toledo was talked about by a few of his contemporaries.

The remarks in question began after Oregon took UCLA to overtime before losing 41-38 on Oct. 17. Although Ducks quarterback Akili Smith called the Bruin defense "the best defense I've seen in my two years in the Pac-10,' he also mentioned that the Ducks gave the game away.

Oregon's five turnovers would seem to support that. A few days later Southern California head coach Paul Hackett called Oregon the best team in the Pac-10 66 It's unbelievable to me, it really is. "

> **Bob Toledo** UCLA head coach

and said they would have won had they not had so many turnovers.

Now, after his team beat California just 28-16 on Saturday, Toledo told the Associated Press that Golden Bears receiver Dameane Douglas made derogatory comments about the Bruins.

"It amazes me players and

coaches would make the kind of statements they've been making,' Toledo said. "Ĭt's unbelievable to me, it really is."

UCLA's Atkins, Cal's Harris

Besides Smith, UCLA's Larry Atkins and Cal punter Nick Harris were also honored for their efforts last week

Atkins, a safety, had an inter-ception at the goal line and re-covered a fumble at the one-yard line against the Golden Bears to earn defensive player of the week

Harris averaged 45.1 yards on nine punts, six of which landed within the opponents 20 yard



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