



Quinine also decides to leave Ducks behind

Junior forward Donte Quinine quits the Oregon men's basketball team barely more than a week after point guard Mike McShane

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

Forward Donte Quinine became the second player to quit the Oregon men's basketball team in eight days, citing a lack of playing time as his primary reason Tuesday.

"My heart wasn't in it anymore," said Quinine, a 6-foot-6, 190-pound redshirt junior. "I was going and showing up, but I just really did not have the desire or passion for playing here anymore."

On Feb. 1, point guard Mike McShane left the team because of displeasure with his role as a Duck and with head coach Ernie Kent.

Kent said he did not believe Quinine's departure was related to McShane's.

"I think even though they're both maybe leaving because of a lack of playing time, I really respect the way Donte handled this and handled himself through all this," Kent said.

"I think he got good things out of this program, and the program certainly valued the opportunity to have him in our program as well."

After playing in all 27 games last season and contributing more than two points per game, Quinine appeared in 16 of Oregon's 20 games this season, averaging 1.3 points and 1.6 rebounds in seven minutes of action per outing.

The bulk of Quinine's playing time came in the preseason, when he topped 10 minutes of action four times.

He recorded career-bests of 12 points and 10 rebounds in 19 minutes of a 93-62 Ducks win over Brigham Young on Dec. 5 at McArthur Court. Quinine then tied a career-high with 23 minutes of playing time against Portland State on Dec. 12 and was on the court for 16 minutes at Santa Clara on Dec. 14.

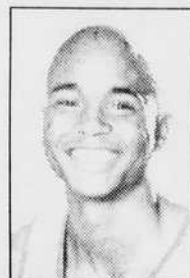
But once the Pacific-10 Conference sea-

son began, Quinine saw his minutes severely limited. In the Ducks' 60-55 win at Southern California on Saturday, Quinine did not play at all for the fourth time in 11 conference games.

Monday night, after Oregon returned from its weekend trip, Quinine told Kent of his decision to quit, which Kent announced Tuesday afternoon.

While in Los Angeles for the Ducks' games against the Trojans and UCLA last Thursday, Quinine, a Rowland Heights, Calif., native, said discussions with his mother and older brother helped him make his decision.

Because he used his redshirt in the 1996-97 season, Quinine is not eligible to transfer to a Division I-A school. But he told Kent that he plans to transfer to a Division II school to use his final season of eligibility after completing this school year at Oregon.



QUININE

OREGON BASKETBALL

Shaq grabs hold of leadership role

Success on the court has brought Shaquala Williams closer to her mother

By Joel Hood
Oregon Daily Emerald

There are things that have happened to Shaquala Williams in her life she would probably rather forget.

The bitter feuds with coaches and teammates, the rumors, the gossip, the distant relationship she once had with her mother. Williams would just like to forget all that stuff and focus on basketball.

Besides, her story really isn't about the past, it's about the future — for the Oregon program, for her family and for her sport. And quite frankly, Williams doesn't care if you like it or not.

An All-American following her senior season at Reynolds High School in Portland, Williams anticipated her freshman season at Oregon would be a period of adjustments. She didn't understand how severe those adjustments would be until she started working out with the team last fall.

"In high school, I always knew as much as the coaches, so I could just coach myself," Williams says. "I wasn't really used to criticism. I wasn't too used to having to deal with that."

And criticism was not something Williams just accepted. She had always been on her own, used basketball to motivate herself and required virtually nothing from her friends and coaches.

As a young girl, Williams often had to compete for her mother's attention with her three sisters, Julia, Andrea and Alexsia, and her brother, Micheal. There was always something, Williams says, that got in the way.

"[My mother] couldn't worry about just one of us," Williams says. "Everyone was either in trouble or doing something else. She had to focus her attention elsewhere. We were never very close growing up."

Williams found solace in basketball. She put everything she had into it. At the expense of losing touch with her family and friends, Williams worked hard to perfect her game.

An average student, basketball gave Williams an opportunity to go to college



Matt Hankins/Emerald

Freshman Shaquala Williams skies for a rebound in the Ducks' 106-79 blowout of UCLA last Thursday.

Balance leads to possible NCAA Tourney snubs

All season long, everybody involved with the Pacific-10 Conference has been preaching about the league's superb balance.

But there is a flip side to that equality — losses.

And as the losses mount, with only four teams in the conference above .500 in league play, worries increase about how many teams the NCAA Tournament selection committee will pick from the Pac-10.

"The biggest single problem when you have the depth and the number of good teams that we have in our league is that people knock one another off," Arizona head coach Lute Olson said. "Sometimes that affects the rankings and puts you in a more difficult spot for getting a berth in the NCAAs."

After No. 6 Stanford (19-4 overall, 9-1 Pac-10), No. 9 UCLA (17-5, 8-3), No. 10 Wildcats (16-4, 8-3) and resurgent Washington (14-7, 7-4), Arizona State (13-10, 5-6) and Oregon State (11-9, 5-6) are tied for fifth place.

Coaches around the conference think at least one of those teams — or any other that rises into the league's upper echelon — should make the NCAA field.

"I hear people talk about seven or eight teams from the Big East and the Big 10," Bruins head coach Steve Lavin said, "and, if that's the case, then I think there's no question a 9-9 Pac-10 team in fifth place or a 10-8 fifth- or sixth-place team probably deserves to go to the NCAA Tournament."

"When you look at what we've done year after year after year in the last five or six years in NCAA Tournament play, we've done as well as any conference in America. So obviously, we're very competitive, and I don't mean to sound defensive, but it's just the fact of the facts."

Those facts show that, of the nine Pac-10 teams to be selected to the tournament in the past two seasons, eight have advanced to the Sweet Sixteen.

And two of the Pac-10's finest — UCLA in

Men's Pac-10 Notes



Tim Pyle

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