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## Women

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and four consecutive Three Rivers League championships along with a barrage of individual accolades — is what brought colleges to Yamasaki's doorstep.

During her senior year, Yamasaki was named the 1998 Nike/WBCA All-American, 1998 Gatorade Regional and Oregon Player of the Year and was Sports Illustrated's Old Spice Athlete of the Month for March. All in all, Yamasaki earned 18 different awards during her tenure at Oregon City.

Even though Oregon lost its bid for Yamasaki, it has continued to have success under head coach Jody Runge.

The Ducks (23-4, 14-2) can clinch a share of the conference title with a win against Stanford tonight at Maples Pavilion, and win it outright with a victory over California on Saturday.

Despite the fact the Cardinal is having a down year by their standards — Stanford has not lost four conference games since the 1986-87 season — it is still a force strong enough to end the Ducks' nine-game winning streak and take away Oregon's hopes of playing host to the first round of

the NCAA tournament.

Yamasaki will be a key factor in tonight's game because of her personal motivation, and also because she leads the Cardinal in scoring, averaging 14 points per game, and ranks second in rebounds with six a game.

Last week, during Stanford's 81-67 loss to Arizona at the McKale Center in Tucson, Yamasaki hit a conference-high eight three-pointers in nine attempts, finishing with a game-high 28 points.

Earlier this season, Oregon handed Yamasaki and the Cardinal their first conference loss, defeating the Cardinal, 63-59, at McArthur Court on Jan. 4. The loss snapped Stanford's streak of 22 straight wins over the Ducks and was Runge's first win against the Cardinal.

"For me, personally, it puts more of a challenge and more pressure to win," Yamasaki said. "Having them beat us is not a good situation for me."

In that game, Oregon was without its star defensive player, senior guard Lisa Bowyer, but the Ducks' depth is part of what has made them so successful this season.

## Sports Brief

### Pac-10 broadcasters honor Duck transfers

Two Oregon guards, Darius Wright and Alex Scales, were selected to the five-man Fred Hassler/All-Newcomer (non-freshman) basketball team as selected by the Pacific-10 Conference radio broadcasters, the conference announced Wednesday.

Wright, a junior point guard from Sacramento, Calif., and Scales, a junior guard from Racine, Wis., have been starters all year for the Ducks (15-10 overall, 7-9 in the Pac-10) as they continue their quest for postseason play in hosting No. 6 Stanford tonight at McArthur Court.

The 6-foot Wright averages 8.2 points and 4.9 assists to rank among the league leaders in the latter category. A three-point threat, Wright canned 31 of 80 long-range attempts and has led the team in scoring twice this year. His 13 assists against Arizona tied the school record. He is a transfer from West Valley Junior College.

Scales, a 6-foot-4 wing player, has been the Ducks' leading scorer most of the season (14.3 points per game) and is the second-leading rebounder in ranking among the conference leaders in both categories. The team leader in three-pointers with 42, he also leads in blocks (20) and is second in assists (81) and steals (23). He has paced the team in scoring 10 times and in rebounding six times. Scales is a transfer from San Jacinto Community College in Texas.

Southern California's sophomore center Brian Scalabrine was named Newcomer of the Year, while Oregon State's junior guard Josh Steinthal and Washington State's junior guard Jan Michael-Thomas also made the squad. Junior forward Eddie Miller of Washington State, California's junior forward Carl Boyd and sophomore guard Alton Mason of Arizona State were named honorable mention.

This is the seventh year the conference has named an all-newcomer team comprised of non-freshman student athletes.

## Pesznecker

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If it weren't for Rider's heroic efforts late in the fourth quarter, Portland would have surely lost. He reentered the game with the Blazers down by six points, the largest point spread of the entire game. Against a team like the Utah Jazz in a clutch situation, that is a lot of points.

But Rider calmly stepped up to the challenge. He missed his first shot, but he promptly sank a jump shot and a three-pointer to pull the Blazers back into the game.

Does that sound like poor leadership to you, Dwight?

Rider took the initiative, and he delivered when the team needed him most. And he did it with the knowledge that if he screwed up, everyone across town would likely be reading your next column about why he should be shipped to the Los Angeles Clippers.

As long as we're talking about leaders, Dwight, how about that Damon Stoudamire?

Stoudamire really bit the big one in overtime against the Jazz. Granted, he did hit the shot that tied the score at the end of regulation, but it's worthless to take your team into overtime if you're going to abandon them down the stretch.

Everyone in attendance at the Rose Garden on Tuesday night — myself included — was mystified when Mighty Mouse airballed a three-point attempt in the second overtime, then missed one of two free throws with just seconds remaining to keep Utah's hopes alive.

Were you there, Dwight? Did you see it? I was there, and I did.

The facts are there for anyone to see. Stoudamire is shooting just 36.7 percent from the field, while Rider is up around 47 percent. The Little General may be able to run circles around any of his opponents, but running only earns you points in track and field.

At the moment, Stoudamire is not the great leader you predicted he would be.

I don't know if you were at the game or not, Dwight; my seat was too high up to spot you on press row. But even from such a high altitude, I could see the lone

Blazer at center court, raising the roof and getting the crowd into the game.

Guess who, Dwight?

In all fairness, I am not going to call Isaiah Rider a great role model. It is hard to outlive a reputation. And with a past as well-known as his, it would be difficult to pass him off as a community man like Stoudamire.

However, Rider is not a bad role model. He has participated in charity events and made cash donations. He travels to Portland-area schools and helps educate young people.

And on the court he is a great leader.

But you still don't like him, do you, Dwight? I get the feeling that you never will. He could lead the league in all categories and donate his entire salary to charity and you'd probably write a column about how he was just doing that to make his image better.

Stoudamire could flip a dime to a panhandler and you'd probably call him a hero.

Dwight, I can see why you've been so quiet lately. Rider has given you no reason to say anything bad about him this season and that drives you nuts, doesn't it?

You tried, though. When Portland signed guard Jim Jackson, a player with abilities comparable to Rider's, you had a big column in The Oregonian the next day. You said Rider's days in Portland were numbered and Jackson would replace him.

Once again, Dwight, the facts are there.

Rider is averaging 33.3 minutes to Jackson's 23.1. Rider is shooting 47 percent from the field and 43 percent from behind the arc. Jackson is hitting 42.7 percent from the field and 27.3 percent from the three-point line.

Jackson has the edge on assists, but with the game on the line, anyone in their right mind would rather see the ball in Isaiah's hands.

You must be pretty upset, Dwight Jaynes: Rider has done more than leave you without a column to write.

He has made you look pretty foolish, as well.

Discover the

# Deranged Idiot

within you.



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## Tonight Saturday

Ducks v. #6 Stanford  
7:35 pm

Ducks v. Cal  
3:05 pm