

Tyson: 'I'll kill Francis'

LONDON (AP) — Commotion follows Mike Tyson — wherever he goes, whatever he says.

The latest uproar came after the former heavyweight champion said he will "kill" Julius Francis in their bout Saturday night. And some of the British press took him literally.

Tyson's comments came in a TV interview broadcast Tuesday night.

"I think that I'm going to kill Julius Francis," he said. "I'm just ready for this fight. I want it bad."

Tyson then made it clear he was using a common expression for beating an opponent.

"I hope he gets up if he is knocked out, but this is just the motivation I have," he said.

Tyson said he can't dwell on such misinterpretations.

"That's OK," he said. "Can I tell you something? It doesn't faze me what anyone says about me. It doesn't matter."

The British tabloids, intent on stoking the fires for this bout, approached the Tyson comment with all the subtlety of a sledgehammer.

"I'm Going To Kill Francis" was the backpage headline in the Daily Mirror.

Super challenge for ABC

ATLANTA (AP) — The St. Louis Rams and Tennessee Titans just started creating excitement in their own cities this season. They sure haven't built a national following yet.

That's the challenge facing ABC this week, getting the entire country interested about two teams most people haven't seen play until the last couple of weeks.

"This game is perfect for the fans tired of seeing the Packers, 49ers and Broncos every year," ABC announcer Al Michaels said. "This is probably the most improbable Super Bowl matchup of all time."

The Rams didn't make a single prime-time appearance on either ABC and ESPN, and their 14 games on Fox were shown, on average, to about 20 percent of the country.

The Titans, who played twice on ESPN, were beamed, on average, to about 12 percent of the nation on CBS — less than one-quarter of the coverage area of the Dolphins.

There hasn't been a Super Bowl between two outsiders like this since Cincinnati played San Francisco in 1982.

'Dawg' days for Huskies

SEATTLE (AP) — How quickly fortunes have changed for the University of Washington men's basketball team.

Just two years ago, the Huskies came within a basket of beating the University of Connecticut and getting into the NCAA East Regional Finals. Bob Bender was one of the hottest coaches in the country.

Now, without a go-to scorer and talented recruits, the Huskies (6-12, 1-5) are fighting with Washington State (5-10, 0-6) to stay out of the Pac-10 cellar.

"This has to be the lowest point in four years here," senior guard Deon Luton said. "With myself and Chris [Walcott] being the seniors on this team, we've got to step up."

Best Bet

NBA
Portland vs. Utah
7 p.m., TNN



Sports

BRACE YOURSELF

"I'm going to bring the house down."

-Brian Bracey

■ Bryan Bracey has proven to be a valuable asset both on and off the court

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Sitting in a quiet room in McArthur Court, Oregon forward Bryan Bracey leans back in his chair and stretches out his sleek 6-7, 215-pound frame.

He is dressed in an all-black Oregon sweatshirt and sweatpants. He sports a thick silver Nike chain around his neck, which has the Nike swoosh attached to a silver basketball.

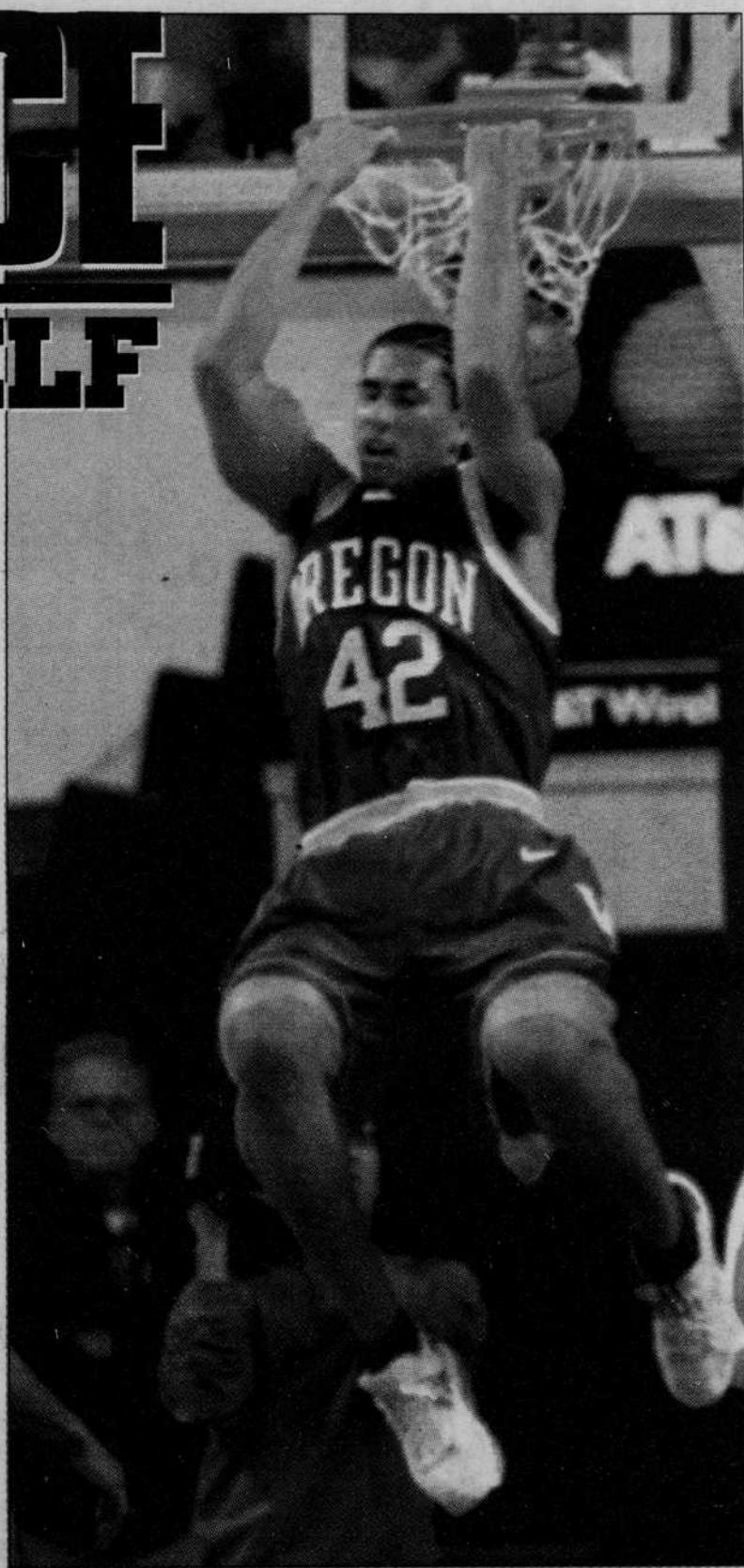
At first glance, the junior college transfer from Chicago, Ill., appears — as teammate David Jackson describes him — "like he could be a pretty bad guy with all of the tattoos and the hairstyle."

Yes, you do notice the tattoos that are placed along his arms, and it's hard to miss the braided hairstyle that sits atop a face that includes a stylish goatee and thin-as-can-be sideburns.

But like a ray of sunshine emerging from dark clouds, a comforting smile appears.

A smile so genuine and so warm, that you find it hard to believe that this

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Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Bryan Bracey is a constant presence around the Student Recreation and Fitness Center, and he predicts even more high-flying antics to come.

Oregon without any love for L.A. tonight

On Tap

What: Oregon men's basketball
Who: No. 23 USC (12-5 overall, 5-0 Pac-10) vs. Oregon (13-3, 4-1)
When: 7:35 p.m.
Where: Mac Court

■ USC's miracle last season doesn't sit well with Oregon, as the Ducks seek revenge tonight against the Trojans

By Brett Williams
Oregon Daily Emerald

Adam Spanich was living a dream. There he stood, after draining an improbable half-court, game-winning shot, atop the scorers' table at McArthur Court, waving a towel and taunting the students who had heckled him all game.

It was an unbelievable moment for Spanich and his Southern California teammates.

But for Oregon, it was a nightmare. It was the first meeting between the

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■ The Oregon women must slow USC's fast-paced game into a half-court contest of skill and execution

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Playing at home was fun while it lasted. But after a sub-par victory against Washington and a more impressive win over Washington State, the Oregon women's basketball team (13-4 overall, 4-1 Pacific-10 Conference) is ready to run with Southern California (7-8, 2-3) tonight at 7 p.m. in Los Angeles.

The two-game road trip could be the Ducks' most difficult of the season. Oregon concludes the trip on Saturday against conference-leading UCLA (11-4, 5-0), currently ranked 10th in the nation. The Bruins are seeking payback for last season's 27-point loss at McArthur Court.

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