

Morris, Smith named to Team of '90s

Current and former Ducks are selected as members of the junior college team of the decade

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the past few years, the Oregon Duck football team has become known for its ability to recruit some of the finest junior college athletes in the country at that time.



SMITH

As it turns out, the Ducks were able to land some of the best junior college players from this past decade.

On Friday, J.C. Grid-Wire magazine announced its national junior college Anniversary Team of the '90s, and two Oregon athletes were selected for the honor.

Current Oregon tailback Maurice Morris made the distinguished list as well as former Duck quarterback Akili Smith.

Both Morris and Smith were two of only 12 athletes to be named to the first-team offensive team.

Morris arrived in Eugene in the summer after spending two stellar seasons at Fresno City College in Fresno, Calif. In his two years as tailback at Fresno he became the nation's all-time leading junior college rusher with 3,708 yards on 593 carries.

Morris set a national junior college record for compiling 4,487 all-purpose yards. He also surpassed Fresno City College's school records with 26 rushing touchdowns in a single season, 45 in a career and 49 total touchdowns.

He recorded his career high yardage total on Oct. 31, 1998 when he rushed for 334 yards on 49 carries.

"Junior college was a great learning experience for me," Morris

said after a recent practice. "I learned so much and improved so much, which is helping me have success here."

The 6-foot, 205-pound junior college transfer is certainly living up to expectations at Oregon, as he currently ranks 12th in the nation

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Maurice Morris
Oregon tailback

in rushing with an average of 125 yards per game.

He has surpassed the 100-yard mark in three of Oregon's first five games, including a 152-yard performance in the Ducks' 23-16 win

over Washington Sept. 30.

Smith's final game as a Duck was Dec. 25, 1998, in Oregon's 51-43 loss to Colorado in the Aloha Bowl. He is currently at the helm of the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals.

Smith attended Grossmont Junior College down in El Cajon, Calif., and was one of the nation's hottest junior college prospects. In 1996, he was ranked fifth in the nation after throwing for 3,212 yards and 32 touchdowns.

He also finished second in the state of California in total offense with an average of 317.8 yards per game.

Former Oregon running back Reuben Droughns also made the magazine's list as an honorable mention selection. Droughns was the nation's top junior college rusher in 1997 when he ran for 1,611 yards for Merced College in southern California.

Droughns is currently on the injured reserve list in his first season with the NFL's Detroit Lions.

NAME THAT DEFENSE

Want to name the Oregon football defense?

They're a gang and they're green, but defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti said that these Ducks can't share the same nickname of the 1995 Rose Bowl squad. So, we at the Emerald sports desk are hosting an informal "name that defense" competition.

It's simple: Just e-mail your nickname ideas to Smittside@aol.com. We'll publish the top-10 ideas in an upcoming Game Day supplement, along with your name of course. For the top nickname, we are giving away a copy of the 1995 book titled, "The Year of the Duck." The book is written by former Oregon sports information director George Beres, and is a detailed look into the Oregon Ducks' 1995 Rose Bowl season, full of unique anecdotes and captivating pictures.

And hey, who knows. Your idea might make headlines across the nation.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 9). This year you can be a big help to somebody in need. Formal education may be put on hold for a while, as you concentrate on a different kind of lesson. You attract attention in October and money in November. Don't let hurt feelings slow you down in December. By February you should be full of great ideas. In March listen more than you talk. By June you should have gained a new perspective and by November a new sense of determination.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 5 — This is not a good travel day for you. The good news is that your friends and partner are eager to help. You might not have to run all over town to get what you need. Ask them to get it for you while they're out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — A fool and his or her money are soon parted. That could happen to you if you take a friend's advice. This person is kind, sweet and gentle, but not your best financial adviser. Following emotions when betting won't work that well, either.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 5 — You may feel like you're on a teeter-totter. Somebody else is making changes that affect you, but you're not sure they're changes you want. Speak up. Share your experience so the other person doesn't have to learn the hard way — like you did!

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Lots of things are unsure today, but one thing's certain. If you travel far, your odds of taking a detour or suffering through traffic are high. Do yourself a favor. Make a phone call, instead. If you need something, have it delivered or mailed to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 5 — Although a loved one or good friend suggests a long shot, decline. A risky proposition is not likely to benefit you. It could cost you a lot. Instead of speculating, study. That's an excellent

investment of your time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — You're good at setting priorities and staying on schedule. You'll be a big help to others. Somebody who goes up could actually do you a favor. Keep the boss's interests in mind and be ready to move quickly. More responsibility could mean a fatter paycheck.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 5 — You may wish you could stay in bed, and that's not a bad idea. Keep travel to a minimum. Keep in contact with your sweetheart even if it's electronically. That'll keep your spirits up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — A romantic rendezvous is liable to run into difficulties. For instance, you could commute for an hour to make the date, and then realize you're on the wrong train. Stay home. Schedule your date for tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 4 — An annoying person could make your life miserable. This yahoo keeps arguing with you. Even worse, quite often he or she is right. If you're wise, you'll give up and take notes. Save your pride for later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Avoid a difficult situation by staying out of the way. Don't offer helpful suggestions, either. A new idea of yours could backfire and make a bigger mess. Let somebody else do it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5 — You might come through a difficult situation smelling like a rose. If you do, it's because you've learned not to become emotionally attached to money. Either that, or you've got the good sense not to bet any more than you can afford to lose.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — Others may think you have more going on than you can handle. From your point of view, it's not that bad; you have a friend you can call in times of need. You might want to place that call early. Make it as easy on yourself as possible.

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