

# Christoffersen

continued from page 7A

build his psyche up during the start of the Pac-10 season. He then made his presence felt with a career-high 11 points in the Ducks' victory against Washington State on Jan. 20.

Then, when center Julius Hicks went down with a sprained ankle, Christoffersen exploded onto the scene in the next two games with an eight-point effort on the road against Southern California and a new career-high mark of 15 points against UCLA. He also showed off his defense in Oregon's upset victory against Arizona when he blocked three shots, including one memorable stuff where he took the ball right out of 7-foot center Loren Woods' hands on an attempted dunk.

Since then, he's been a regular part of the rotation and someone that Kent feels comfortable with putting in.

"Chris can change the game," Kent said. "The key thing for him is bringing it every game. When you give a 7-footer some confi-

dence, there's no telling what can happen. We've let him come at his own pace, and it's nice to see that he's getting there."

Besides Christoffersen and his coach, the one who appears the most excited about the center's emergence is junior guard Freddie Jones. The two came in together as freshmen, and Jones has known for quite some time how good a player Christoffersen could be.

Jones has encouraged and pushed the big man through the tough times and would like to see Christoffersen continue to reach his potential.

"Chris is unstoppable when he wants to be," Jones said. "Early on his career, he was just happy-go-lucky and trying to be more of a teammate than an impact player. And now he's realized that he's better than a lot of people, and his game shows that."

"But I've seen a lot more from him that everybody else hasn't yet."

Christoffersen hasn't been blind the past two years. He has felt the frustration from his coaches, teammates and fans. He has heard some of the snickers and he has read what the media has writ-

ten about him.

"I've been tired of getting all those college basketball magazines every year and always reading about how big a disappointment I was, and, 'Is Chris Christoffersen finally going to come this year?'" he said.

So it is with a great sigh of relief that he now runs down the court with a spring in his step and grabs a rebound or blocks a shot or takes it strong to the hoop for the score. And he is always humbled when he hears the Mac Court faithful chant his name, cheer him on or even wave flags of his home country as he plays.

"It's just unbelievable how the fans have stayed behind me since freshman year," Christoffersen said. "That's what helps me out the most."

And it's also gratifying for "Big Chris" to not walk around from class to class and have some people view him as "The Big Nobody."

"It's been weird before, where I've walked around and people have been like, 'Oh, you play for the Ducks? What's your name again?'" Christoffersen said. "So it's just so nice now to walk

## CHRIS CHRISTOFFERSEN



**Class:** Junior  
**Hometown:** Roenne, Denmark  
**Height:** 7-foot-2  
**Weight:** 265  
**Birthdate:** 8-13-79

**Major:** Computer Information Science

**1999-00:** Played in 14 games and shot 71.4 percent from the field. Scored five points and blocked three shots in nine minutes of play against Stanford. Scored a career-high 10 points and pulled down three rebounds against Northern Arizona. Converted on all four shots from the field en route to 10 points against St. Martin's.

**1998-99:** His best game as a freshman came against Brigham Young, when he scored six points and grabbed two rebounds in 13 minutes of action. Scored a season-high seven points against California in the NIT Final four in New York.

around campus and have people come up to me and tell me that they believe in me. It makes everything a lot easier when you have that support."

But just because you may see that Christoffersen smile during the day, you can count on "the intimidation look," as he put it, coming out for the remaining five games of the season, and for every

contest of his senior season next year.

"I'm improved a little bit, but I'm still only 30 percent of my potential," Christoffersen said. "So I'm not going to get too comfortable with where I'm at right now and just keep getting better, and keep up the aggression."

"I'm just so ready for everything now."

# Henderson still wishing, waiting for team to call

By Ben Walker  
The Associated Press

Rickey Henderson sits at home in the Bay Area, watching the spring training highlights on TV and waiting for the phone to ring.

"It's strange," he said Wednesday. "You're supposed to be there, and I'm not."

No job yet for the greatest leadoff hitter in baseball history. No possibilities right now, either.

Instead, he's back in San Francisco. Working out daily — and wondering.

Could the stolen base king's ca-

reer be finished at age 42? Will he ever achieve the major milestones that would further ensure his future place in the Hall of Fame?

"I don't know what to say. I don't know what's the catch or what's wrong," he said. "I don't know what I have to do to get the opportunity to go to camp and win a job."

Henderson needs 86 hits to reach No. 3,000. He's three walks short of breaking Babe Ruth's career mark (2,062) and needs to score 68 times to top Ty Cobb's major league record of 2,245 runs.

"There's some neat numbers out

there, sure, but that's not why I play," he said. "I know I still enjoy the game, being on the field and competing."

Henderson is coming off a difficult season in which he stole 36 bases while playing for the Seattle Mariners and the New York Mets.

Henderson hit .219 in 31 games for the Mets, was released and signed with Seattle. He batted .238 with four home runs and 30 RBIs in 92 games for the Mariners, then scored the winning run that finished off a first-round playoff sweep of the Chicago White Sox.

Admittedly, his time with the Mets was turbulent. It did not help him when it was revealed he was in the clubhouse playing cards when the Mets lost the 1999 NLCS at Atlanta.

"I went through some things last year that players shouldn't have to go through," he said. "It was odd. It threw my whole season off."

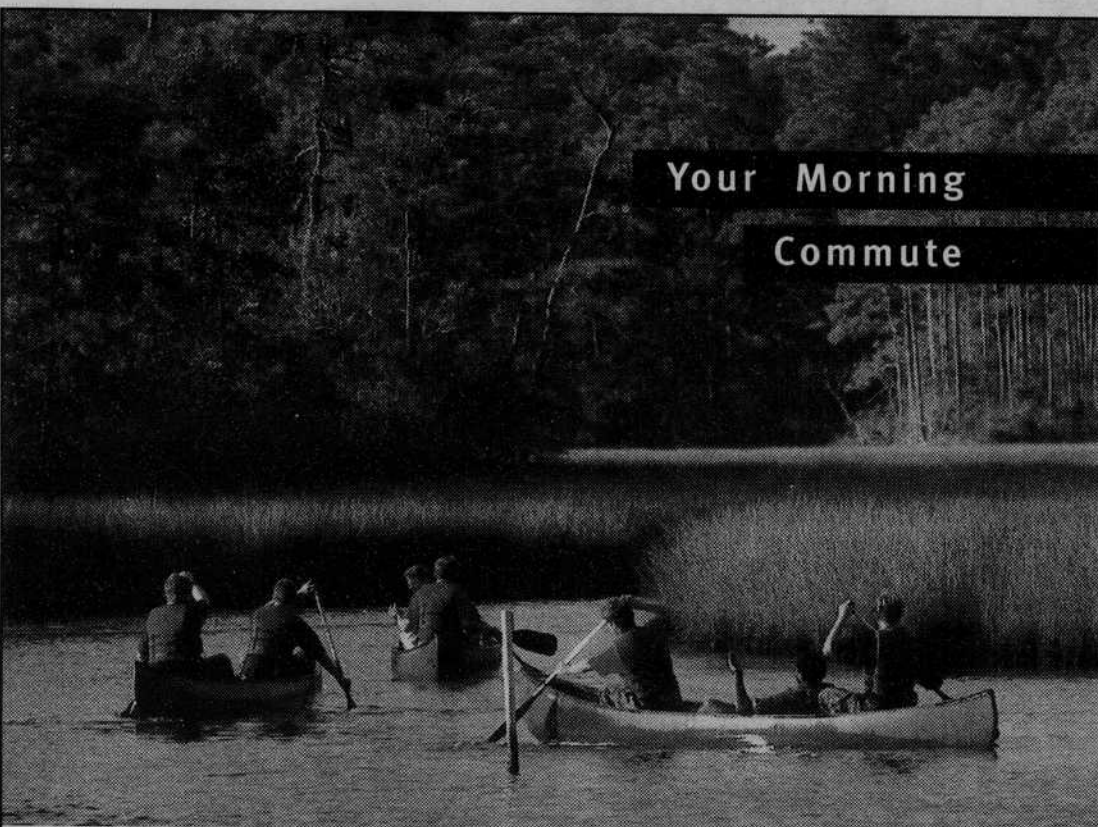
There had been talk the Cincinnati Reds considered Henderson this month, but nothing materialized. His agent is surprised at the lack of interest.

"If Deion Sanders and Sid Fer-

nandez can get jobs, I don't see why Rickey Henderson can't," Jeff Borris said.

"I've talked with all the general managers, a few of them several times, and they say they have no spots," he said. "I'll be in spring training in about three days and as I make the rounds, I plan to talk to every GM face-to-face. Things tend to change in spring training every day."

Henderson even called a couple of teams himself, without success.



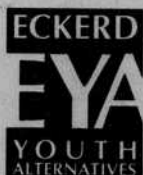
Your Morning Commute

Why start your day stuck in traffic? There's no such thing as rush hour at an EYA wilderness camp. Our youth counselors live and work year-round in some of the most beautiful, natural settings in the eastern United States. Hike the Appalachian Trail. Canoe the Suwanee. Sleep under the stars. Develop personal relationships. And help at-risk kids get back on the right path. Doesn't that sound a lot better than breathing exhaust fumes twice a day?

For more information and to apply on-line, park your mouse at [www.eckerd.org](http://www.eckerd.org).

Or send resume to:  
Selection Specialist/CN  
P.O. Box 7450  
Clearwater, FL 33758-7450

E-mail to: [recruiting@eckerd.org](mailto:recruiting@eckerd.org)



EOE

**EYA offers you** — Full-time, live-in positions • Excellent salary/benefits • Free room and board • Clothing allowance • Free time-off quarters • Paid training (all majors encouraged to apply)

Make the **TRADE**

Find it. Sell it. Trade it.

131 E. Fifth Ave. (between Oak & Pearl) 687-2805

buffaloexchange.com

**Buffalo EXCHANGE**  
New & Recycled Fashion

**HOUSE OF RECORDS**

BUY, SELL & TRADE

New & Used Vinyl's CD's & Tapes

258 E. 13th Eugene 342-7975

**LEO**

Are people open to your ideas today?

find out in the ODE Classifieds, every day!

[www.dailyemerald.com](http://www.dailyemerald.com)

Graduating? Read the Oregon Daily Emerald online and keep up with UO news.