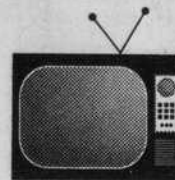


SPORTS

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Best Bet
NBA Finals:
L.A. Lakers @ New Jersey
6 p.m., NBC



Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Spreading their wings

■ Jones and Christoffersen await their futures in basketball while many other former Ducks pursue their dreams

By Chris Cabot

Oregon Daily Emerald

With the NBA draft fast approaching, two of Oregon's former basketball players await their future.

Freddie Jones and Chris Christoffersen — with a little help from some influential friends — led Oregon to a Pacific-10 Conference championship and an Elite Eight finish in the NCAA Tournament last season. Now that college life has passed and 21 days remain until the draft, the future of bigger arenas, more talented opponents and actual paychecks is within sight.

The most successful Oregon alum in recent years is the Minnesota Timberwolves' Terrell Brandon. In his 11th season in the NBA, Brandon ranked No. 1 this year in assists per turnovers with 6.14, and he needs just six points to reach 10,000 in his career to go along with more than 4,400 assists. Brandon left Oregon after his junior year in 1991.

Jones, who wowed McArthur Court crowds with his high-flying dunks and shooting touch, has statistics that match Brandon's numbers. Jones' 650 points in the 2001-02 season ranks second on the Oregon single-season list behind Brandon's 745. Jones broke Brandon's record for free throws made in a season with 169 and tied Brandon with 63 steals in a season.

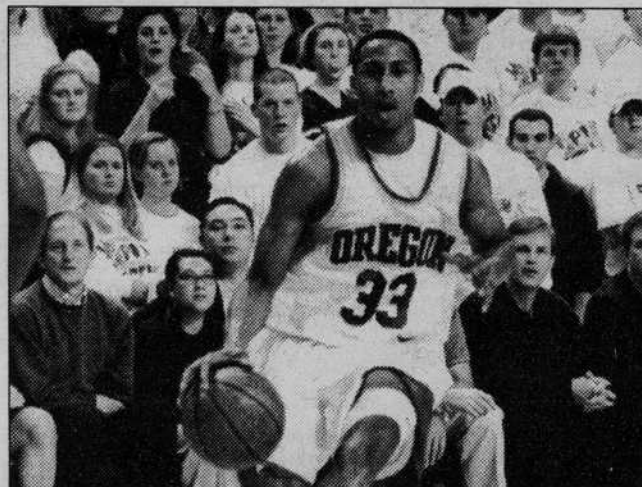
Christoffersen, who probably would have won the team's most improved player award were it not given to the entire team at the Ducks' annual awards ceremony, finished his career with 75 blocks, which ranks him third all-time at Oregon.

Prior to his senior season, the 7-foot-2 Christoffersen attended Pete Newell Big Man's Camp, and the off-season help showed as he compiled a .547 shooting percentage and 189 total rebounds. He was fourth on the team, with 286 points.

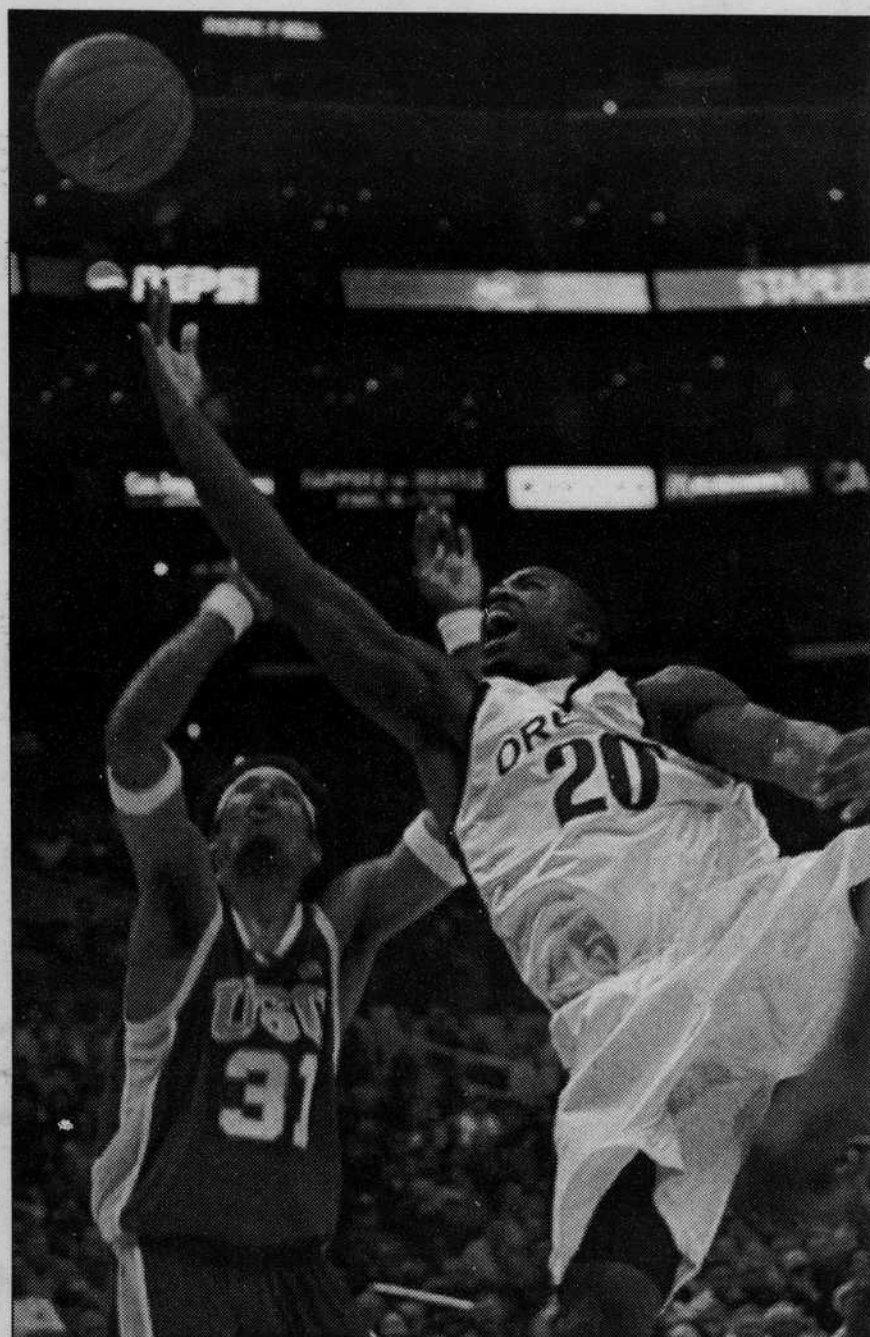
Jones is predicted by many analysts to be selected in the middle of the first round while Christoffersen should go in the second round, but Oregon head coach Ernie Kent knows that the draft



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can be unpredictable.

"I don't think (Jones and Christoffersen) have a real good feel for what will happen in the draft," Kent said. "No one knows. Anything can happen in the draft. I think a lot of it will depend upon how they do in their individual workouts with the teams they are interviewing with right now. They won't know until draft day because the draft is so uncertain."

Of the 11 other men Jones and Christoffersen played with on the 1999-2000 NCAA Tournament team, eight are playing professionally or plan to this summer.

Alex Scales, who averaged 16.3 points per game in the 1999-2000 season for Oregon, continues to amaze crowds with his leaping ability. He was

co-winner of the slam dunk contest in this year's Chinese Basketball Association all-star game.

Scales' list of basketball employers is extensive. He was drafted by three teams — the Kansas City Knights of the American Basketball Association, the Sioux Falls Skyforce of the Continental Basketball League, and the International Basketball League's Trenton Shooting Stars, who traded his rights to the Las Vegas Silver Bandits. In 2000, he played 14 games for the Mabo Basket Livorno averaging just over 10 points per game. He has since played in the Liga Sudamericana Tournament in February and March of 2001, the Jiangsu Nangang Dragons Nanjing in China and the Central Entrerriano in Argentina.

While with the Central Entrerriano, Scales had disputes with the team about his payment, but finally agreed to be paid in pesos instead of U.S. currency.

A.D. Smith ranked second on the 1999-2000 team in scoring behind Scales, and currently plays for the Perth Wildcats in Australia. The Eugene native has also played in Austria for the Klosterneuburg Dukes, Amicale Steinsel in Luxembourg and Gent United in Belgium.

Sacramento, Calif., native Darius Wright shared the team MVP award with Scales in 1998-1999 and played two years for Oregon. In March 2001, Wright was signed by San Diego Wild-

While Bryan Bracey (upper left) and Darius Wright (lower left) have experience playing professional basketball overseas,

Freddie Jones (above) will have to wait until the June 26 NBA Draft to start his career in hoops.

He is expected to be selected in the first round.

Turn to Basketball, page 6

Duck crew sets collegiate record in 115-mile competition

Five women from the Club Sports crew team become the first collegiate athletes to row the long-distance course

By Jesse Thomas
for the Emerald

When most people travel to Portland, it is usually by car or bus or some other mode of transportation that follows Interstate 5.

But not five women from the Club Sports crew team. They made their way by water, via the Willamette River.

Freshmen Kristin Hanggi and Sarah Higgibothan, sophomores Amanda Fenton and Brantley Harrison and senior Nicole Sheri all competed in the 115-mile marathon from Corvallis to Portland over the weekend.

The women began at 6 a.m. Satur-

day, along with six other boats, and rowed 85 miles. Waking up slightly sore on Sunday, the Oregon women rowed the final 30 miles to the finish.

Although they finished sixth out of seven boats — most other boats were made up of masters rowers — Oregon set a collegiate record with its time of 14 hours, 44 minutes. Oregon was the first collegiate boat to compete in a race of that distance and to row for that amount of time.

The women competed throughout the spring season but had never gone anywhere near that distance or rowed for that long.



season to be over."

Oregon's biggest worry wasn't the distance, but its boat. The boat they raced in was old and needed some polishing before the race; Harrison said nobody had rowed in it in several years.

The women would take rests every 30 minutes for a quick 60-second water break and there were a few rest stops

for the boats along the course. But other than that it was straight rowing.

"You just get in a rhythm," Harrison said. "You had to find a way to keep each other going."

Harrison said the women would sing songs together as a way to keep each other entertained.

Through it all, the women could not have been happier with their experience.

"It's hard to describe; it was amazing," Harrison said.

Jesse Thomas is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.