

SPORTS

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Best bet
NCAA Basketball:
Alabama v. Oklahoma
6:30 p.m., ESPN2

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Kid in a candy store

Former redshirt Brandi Davis made the most of her opportunities in her first game last week for Oregon

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

For some athletes, putting on a jersey takes no more thought than going to bed at night.

For them, the game is an occurrence taken for granted. But for Oregon women's basketball sophomore Brandi Davis, her No. 21 Duck jersey took on a whole new meaning on Saturday.

"Once I saw my jersey and got to put it on, it was one of the most exciting things for me," the Compton, Calif., native said. "I was like, 'Yes, I can make it, I can do it now.' I was just really excited."

After sitting out the 2001-02 season as a redshirt due to being an academic partial qualifier, Davis, 19, saw her first action with the Ducks in the team's first exhibition game, a 100-43 victory over Horsholm BBC.

"I was bouncing off the walls. I was really excited," she said about her first game. "I can't even describe it. It was one of those excitements, like being a little kid in a candy store."

After settling down and getting over the nervousness that came with her first collegiate game, Davis ended the night with 10 points on 4-of-10 shooting. Her first make, a two-point jumper at the 12:36 mark of the first half, sent most of the 3,540 in attendance to their feet.

When Davis stepped onto the floor for the first time, it marked the culmination of a year spent sitting on the sidelines and thinking about what could have been.

"Last season, she was kind of going through the motions, not too excited because she couldn't play," her teammate and current roommate, Andrea Bills, said. "This year, she just couldn't stop talking about getting into a

game. I was really excited for her to get in her first game and do so well."

Heavily recruited by former Oregon head coach Jody Runge, Davis came into last season as the team's only redshirt. She was to sit on the sidelines for every home game, watching as her teammates first struggled, but eventually strolled to a WNIT Championship.

Worst of all, Davis said, she couldn't travel with the team to road contests, and couldn't even attend Oregon's retreat.

"Redshirting is probably one of the hardest things I've had to do in my life," Davis said. "It was very hard just not being able to be with the team. It was a really hard transition, but it was worth it."

What Davis did gather, however, was a better understanding of the collegiate game. While she is essentially a freshman — at least in terms of playing time — Davis gathered valuable experience from watching her teammates last season.

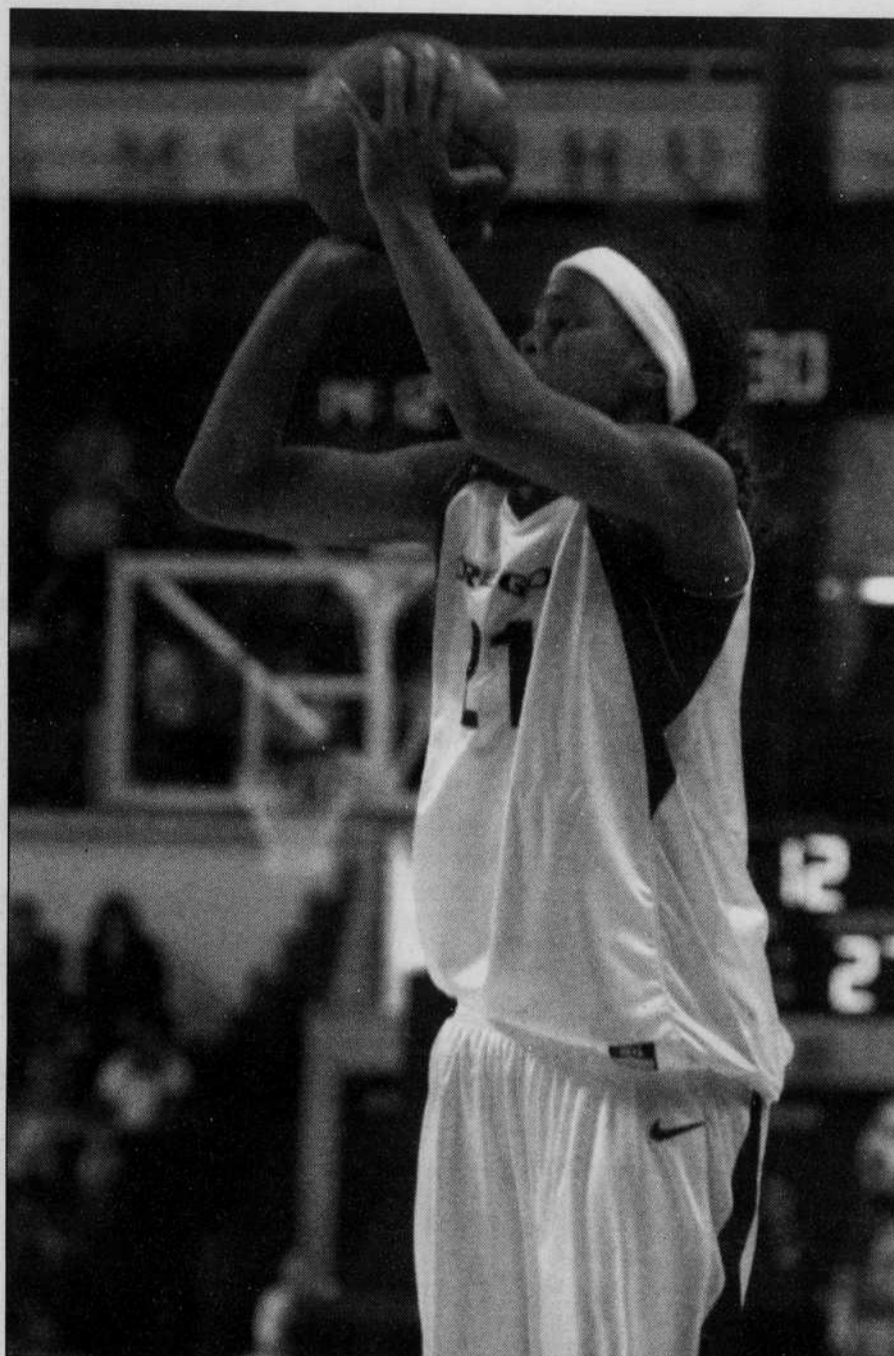
That has catapulted her into the competition for the starting wing position. Head coach Bev Smith said the position will be decided on a week in, week out basis.

But without a natural playing talent and desire to just be on the court, Davis would have been overlooked for the position.

"Certainly, she's got a year of experience behind her and that helps anybody with the game at the next level," Smith said. "She's much more focused, although she's got a lot of work to do on that still, but she's making strides. She's conscientious about it, so she understands that it's about competing and not taking any time-outs or rests."

Listed as 6 feet tall, Davis has a swagger in her game. She can knock down 3-pointers or pull up from 10 feet and sink a jumper. Overall, her game is well-balanced, and all

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Adam Amato Emerald

Sophomore Brandi Davis exhibited a quick shot against Horsholm BBC in her first career Oregon game last week. She was 4-of-10 from the field and scored 10 points in the Ducks' win.

'D' will be focus of second game

The Oregon men's basketball team, after putting up 135 points in its first exhibition test, shoots for a better defensive effort in its second game tonight at Mac Court

Men's basketball

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

Can it get any better than 79 first-half points?

Probably not, but the Oregon men's basketball team hopes to better its defensive performance from its first exhibition game, when the Australian Institute of Sport team scored 49 points in a sluggish second half for the Ducks.

"We've got a lot to improve on," point guard Luke Ridnour said of preparing for Oregon's second exhibition game at 7 p.m. today against the EA Sports All-Stars. "Defensively, we're not where we need to be."

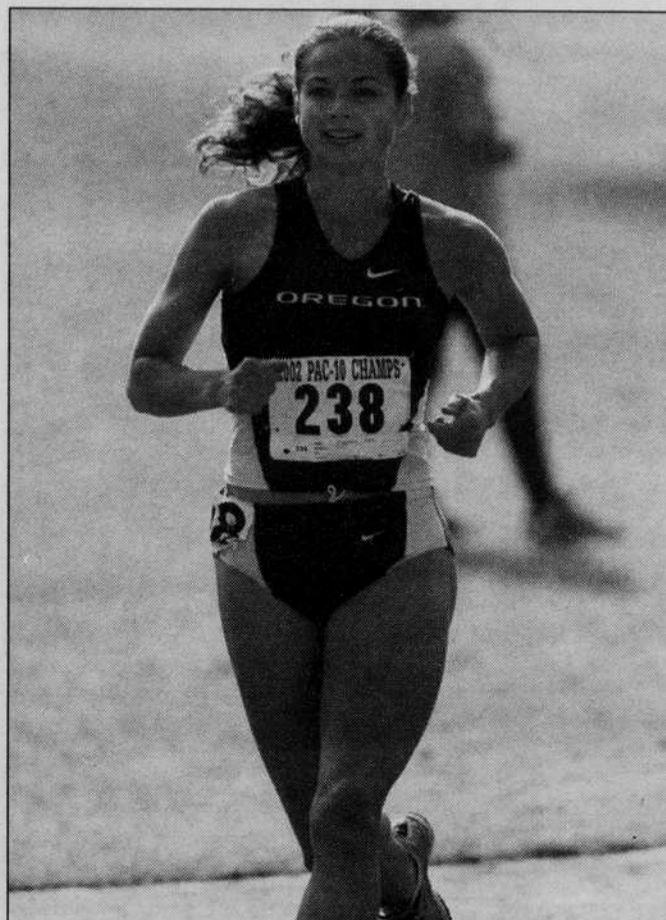
The Ducks, ranked No. 11 in the preseason Associated Press poll, shot 70.5 percent from the floor in the first half of their 135-86 win over the Australian traveling team last week. Junior forward Luke Jackson led Oregon with 32 points and nine rebounds in front of 8,206 fans at Mac Court.

"We put on a show in that first half," senior forward Robert Johnson said.

But it won't be that easy tonight. The EA Sports team, led by former Washington State forward Chris Crosby, has composed a 1-6 record against some of the top teams on the West Coast.

The All-Stars' lone win came against Utah, 92-86, and lost to

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Geoff Thurner Oregon Media Services

Carrie Zografos has spent three cross country seasons in an Oregon uniform, and this weekend's meet may be her last as a Duck.

Zografos nears end of the trail

The senior may be running her last cross country race this weekend at the regional meet

Cross country

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

Carrie Zografos, one of two seniors on the Oregon women's cross country team and the team's 2001 MVP, is closing in on the end of her college cross country career.

Zografos, a redshirt senior, has led the squad in all three meets she has raced in this season. She sat out this season's Willamette Invitational with a slight injury.

Zografos graduated in 1998 from Central Catholic High School in Portland. While in high school, she competed in the 4A state track meet, running the 400-meters, 300-meter hurdles, 4x100-meter relay and 4x400-meter relay.

After graduation, Zografos went to Colorado, taking 10th in the 1999 Big 12 finale in the 600-meter race. In the 1999 cross country season, Zografos finished as the eighth runner for the Buffaloes, who finished eighth overall in the NCAA Championships.

Zografos transferred to Oregon in the summer of 2000, and ran in the top seven in five races during her

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