

SPORTS

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Best bet
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Will Luke start Sonic boom in Seattle?

Back by popular demand (drum roll)... my random thoughts. OK, I'm lying. There is no demand. But I have a surplus of thoughts, so here they are. Read at your own risk:

Seattle Supersonics President Wally Walker was seen at Saturday's Oregon-Washington game, perhaps looking for someone to replace Gary Payton, who was traded to Milwaukee last week. The Sonics are now in dire need of a point guard, and will likely have two first-round draft picks this year (including one from the Payton trade).



Adam Jude

Out in left field

It seems Washington native Luke Ridnour would be a possibility to replace Payton, assuming Ridnour forgoes his senior season, but Walker had to be turned off by the Oregon point guard's eight turnovers. It doesn't help that Nate Robinson, the Huskies' tiny guard (aka "Gary Coleman") stole the spotlight...

Speaking of Rid, 62 consecutive free throws made is, uh, good. I can't even do that in a video game on easy mode, and I'm considered (by those who know what they're talking about) the Sinatra of Sega basketball. You wanna rumble?...

Memo to the esteemed Pit Crew: Nobody cares what you think about USC head coach Mike Bibby. Show some tact Thursday...

While I have your attention, crew members, if I give you some doughnuts (uh hum, Nate Jolly), would you pretend to like me? Or do you only accept Nike shoes as bribery?...

The new Duck, by the way, is still the worst mascot in sports and will stay that until Nike gives me free shoes...

Which will come first: Mike Bellotti starts recruiting convicted felons or Bev Smith gives her best player the boot? Oh wait, sorry...

I've given him a long look — and practiced a lot of patience — but Jimmy Kimmel isn't worth missing Conan. But anybody's better than Leno...

Let me get this straight: Dennis Erickson left Oregon State to coach in the NFL — again. While Mike Riley left the NFL to coach Oregon State — again. Both will be a bust — again. And who wants to go to Oregon State? Honestly, most high school facilities are bigger than Reser Stadium...

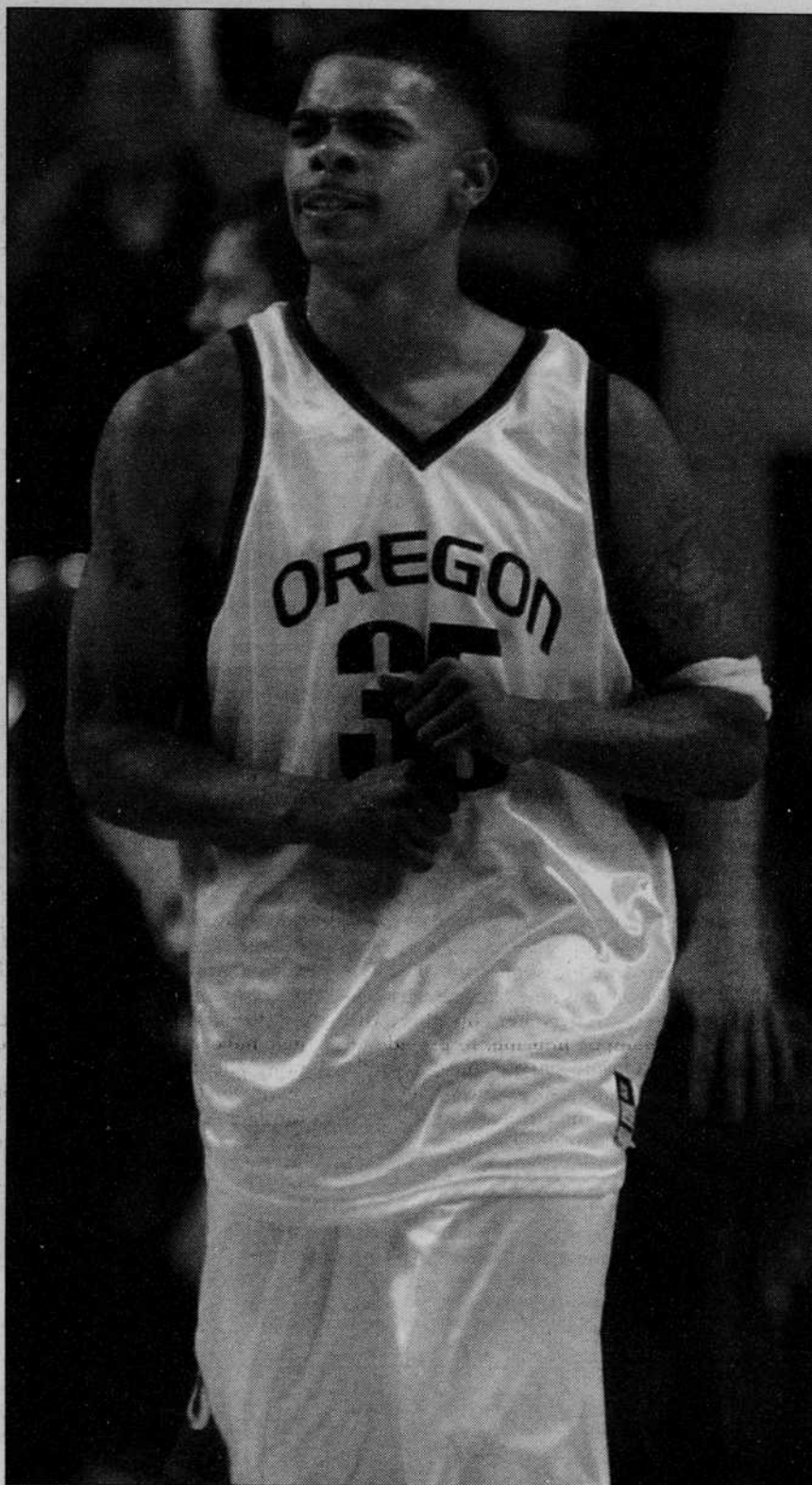
I want snow...

But I'd give up snow for an Oregon baseball team...

Twenty-seven days until Opening Day, Seattle vs. Oakland in Japan. Huh? Yep, the great American pastime. But I'll take it: Baseball is baseball, and Ichiro is god...

Kobe Bryant is not god, hence not Michael Jordan or anything remotely similar. He's just selfish (give me 45

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Mark McCambridge Emerald

Andre Joseph said that he 'has to deal' with his one-game suspension for Thursday's game.

Joseph says he accepts suspension

The Oregon guard, suspended for Thursday's game against USC, speaks to the media for the first time since Saturday's 'meltdown,' but doesn't say much

Men's basketball notes

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Andre Joseph spoke to reporters after practice Tuesday, but didn't reveal much about the incident causing his one-game suspension.

The junior guard was suspended for Thursday's game against USC after his emotional "meltdown," as head coach Ernie Kent put it, in the second half of Saturday's contest at Washington. The decision for his suspension was reached by Kent and the team itself.

"This is a family, and I'm glad it didn't turn its back on me," Joseph said. "It's a one-game suspension, and now I have to deal with it."

Joseph called Saturday's incident a "disagreement" between himself and the coaching staff. Joseph left the game late in the first half with his third foul, and when Kent called on him to enter the game in the second half, he refused to go back in.

"At that particular time, my mental wasn't ready to go back into the game, I thought it was best for me to stay on the bench," Joseph said.

On Sunday, Joseph and Kent had "a nice little time together," as Joseph put it. The two met for a while, and Kent told local papers that Joseph wouldn't be suspended. But then Kent met with the team on Monday.

"The coaches came to us and gave us some options," senior forward Robert Johnson said. "So we agreed on something that wasn't too harsh but got the point across."

Joseph also addressed the team Monday, but wouldn't go into the details of the speech he gave his teammates. He expressed his regret about the entire situation to the media Tuesday.

The junior has been the sixth man of the Oregon perimeter crew for most of the season. He's averaging 11.8 points per game in Pac-10 play, and plays an average of 26.9 minutes per game in conference action.

He won't play a minute on Thursday.

"I'm gonna be real pumped for Saturday," Joseph said.

Kent to Pit Crew: Be nice

Kent said he hopes The Pit Crew will be civilized this weekend — as much as it might want to rip into USC head coach Mike Bibby and soon-to-be-departed UCLA head coach Steve Lavin.

"We obviously want The Pit Crew as rowdy as they're going to

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UO women see seasonal similarities

The Ducks find themselves in an almost-identical situation from one year ago as they sit in sixth

Women's basketball notes

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The Ducks have experienced some déjà vu lately.

The Oregon women's basketball team is in a tie for sixth with USC in the Pacific-10 Conference standings and, at this same time last year, the Ducks were in a tie for fifth with two games until the tournament.

Last year, Oregon defeated the Cougars, fell to Washington in its final two games and approached the tournament as the No. 7 seed. Although that's exactly what the women don't want this time around, as they face the Cal schools in their final two games.

"We want to finish sixth or above because we don't want to play in the games before the Pac-10 Tournament," senior Alissa Edwards said. "Right now, we are just taking it one game at a time. Every game is important to us because it's going to affect our postseason."

Oregon (11-14 overall, 7-9 Pac-10) entered the conference tournament last year above .500 at 15-12 and 10-8 in conference.

The Pac-10 Tournament is a focus of interest right now, and as the anticipation is growing, the Ducks are confident in their ability to play with any of the other nine teams.

"We played Stanford in a good game and they're right at the top, so we can play against the teams in the Pac-10," Edwards



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Alissa Edwards and the Ducks are in almost the same position they were last year at this time.

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