

Cleveland takes Williams in third round

Shaquala Williams is the only player chosen from the Pac-10 in the WNBA Draft

Women's basketball

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

The last time you saw Shaquala Williams, the star point guard was embroiled in a dispute with Oregon head coach Bev Smith, only to be dismissed from the team.

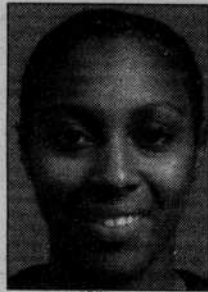
On Friday, it was a time for Williams to embrace her professional career and leave behind painful memories from the 2002-03 season.

She was drafted 30th overall — a third round selection — by the

Cleveland Rockers in the WNBA draft.

"It's been an anxious last few weeks," Williams said. "I'm happy to have that question mark out of my life and kind of get to know where I get to head and move on to the next phase. It's been a while since I've played basketball, at least competitively, where it has some importance, so I'm definitely excited to get out there and play again."

Williams heads to a team that finished 10-22 last season, finishing seventh in the eight-team Eastern Conference. The Rockers also se-



Williams

lected Mississippi State forward LaToya Thomas with the first overall selection Friday, then grabbed UMass center Jennifer Butler in the second round.

Williams was the only Pacific-10 Conference player chosen.

"I've never been to Cleveland," Williams said. "I've never been a big fan of the Midwest, but I've only got to be there three months, so maybe I'll find something new when I get there, and it'll more fun than I think it will."

For Williams, the selection is more of an opportunity to exorcise the demons that have followed her since her dismissal from the Oregon program in December. Neither she nor Smith have publicly disclosed those reasons, and it may have played a factor in Williams'

selection in the third round. Entering the season, Williams was considered first-round material and was named as one of the top collegiate point guards in the nation by ESPN.com.

"Based upon my talent abilities, I was ranked somewhere else but I think everybody had a lot question marks about my character because of everything that had happened last year," Williams said. "So, that's a little bit disappointing that people would judge me on an isolated incident, but that's life. You make some mistakes, people are going to hold it over your head."

"The biggest thing for me is getting there and showing people I'm not a bad person."

Williams said training camp begins Thursday, and she will most

likely fly out to Cleveland today.

She is the fourth Oregon player to be drafted into the WNBA, following Jenny Mowe by Portland in 2001, Angelina Wolvert by Cleveland in 2001 and Ednisha Curry by Charlotte last season.

Speaking of Mowe, the former Oregon center was taken eighth by the Washington Mystics in the player dispersal draft Friday.

Mowe, the only Oregon player to play in a WNBA game, played for Portland the last two seasons. However, the Fire — in addition to the Miami Sol — folded after last season.

Mowe also saw action with China's Baiquanchun team, a member of the Women's Chinese Basketball Association, last year.

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Danielle Hickey Emerald

Eric Mitchum took advantage of the Oregon Invitational wind Saturday to clock a sub-14-second time in the 110-meter hurdles.

Men's

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who sat out last season with a knee injury, threw massive foul after foul at Saturday's competition and finished third. But Oregon's Adam Jenkins picked up Stiegeler's slack and threw a personal best to finish second behind national leader Rob Minniti of Boise State.

The Ducks also got strong performances from Brandon Holliday in the 400 hurdles, Jason Willis in the 200 and Trevor Woods in the pole vault. But for the second time in three weeks, the story at Hayward Field was Kriz and the sprinters.

As much as Kriz tried to play off his almost 220-foot heave in the hammer, the senior and reigning Pac-10 Champion drew the most noise from the home crowd Saturday. In the final round, he threw 219-1, a personal best by more than a foot, on his first throw. Then he bested that by eight inches on his second throw. He threw short on his final toss, and looked to have the competition beat. But Scott Boothby of Club Northwest threw 221-10 on the final throw of the day to edge Kriz for the win.

"I'm glad he went out and beat

me, because mine wasn't that great of a throw," Kriz said.

Mitchum's 13.87-second sprint to the win in the 110 hurdles was a personal best for the freshman but was heavily wind-aided. It was the second time this season Mitchum ran a sub-14-second race that was discounted because of wind.

The 4x400 relay team gave Oregon fans a glimpse of what could be in store for the future of the Duck relays. The relay started with two freshmen, Travis Anderson and Matt

"I'm glad he went out and beat me, because mine wasn't that great of a throw."

Adam Kriz
Oregon hammer thrower

Scherer, running the first two legs. Senior Santiago Lorenzo and Holliday, a junior, finished it off. Both ran their legs without competition as the other teams fell far behind.

"It's just another step toward the big day," Holliday said, referring to Pac-10s. "That's our motto this year, 'It's all about on the day.'"

Holliday might as well have spoken for the entire Oregon team. Even if the coach won't talk about the team effort, the team is made up of individuals. And the individuals put on a show Saturday.

Which means the team is whole.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 28). You don't like being pushed around, even if you're being pushed toward a goal you've set. However, that could be your fate this year. Take the lead, and do your homework early. Don't wait till the last minute!
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 7 _ Love and money are major themes for you now, and both are attainable. You don't have to choose between them. You can have both.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 7 _ You may feel pestered or even slightly guilty, but don't let that overrule your common sense. Don't cave just because a loved one throws a fit, either.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 7 _ Working with friends on a beneficial project improves your mood and self-esteem. It's also good for your community, so don't worry about the money.
CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is a 7 _ There won't be much time to gather with friends till later in the week. Stay in touch while giving work your top priority.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ You may have to work harder for the same amount of pay, but you're growing in status and influence as you take care of your friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ Count your money and pay your bills. You may be in for a pleasant surprise. Set up your trip for late in the week. Meanwhile, keep saving.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ Stay involved in the conversation if a loved one wants a new toy. If you're not careful, you could wind up financing somebody's whim.
SCORPIO (OCT. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 7 _ Finish up an old task with renewed determination. Toss out the stuff that's in the way and make room for the new.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is a 9 _ You're so full of love, you ought to get the day off for good behavior. Brighten the lives of everyone you meet _ even a hopeless grump.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 7 _ Sometimes acting quickly can help you beat out the competition. This time, let the other guy race on ahead while you proceed with caution.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is a 7 _ Do you think that you can produce results without everybody's agreement? Odds are good that you can, so stick to your plan in spite of opposition.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 6 _ People are being stubborn now, but you can get somebody's ear. Whisper to them about how to get out of the box and get things moving again.

085 GREEK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to:
Kelly Brown, Jenna Rotner, Melissa Winkler, Sami Hayden, Kate Benkoski, Erin Muesle, Jackie Reed, Shelby Koontz, for their initiation into the order of Omega. Love in AOT, your sisters.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Kappa Delta's Shamrock Basketball Tournament. We couldn't have done it without you!
Love, The Women of Kappa Delta



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