

SPORTS

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Best bet
French Open: quarterfinals
Noon, ESPN

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Bee gives us much rhathymia

Forget the NBA Playoffs. Never mind the Stanley Cup. The best sports event on television last week was the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee on ESPN.

Yeah, I said "sports event." Just because the kids wear glasses thicker than an offensive lineman, just because their voices ring out in falsetto, doesn't mean these kids aren't athletes.

Sure, they're just spelling, but could you spell "insalubrious" if it wasn't written right there? Insalubrious means "Not promoting health; unwholesome," and it was the *third round* word for Sai Gunturi, who eventually won the whole shindig in the 15th round.

How 'bout them apples? Apples for the teacher, that is. Gunturi, who lists his chief interest outside of spelling as "playing violin," might get the snot kicked out of him when he gets back to St. Mark's school in Dallas. But at least he's \$12,000 richer, got a sweet set of encyclopedias and a killer \$1,000 savings bond.

Sai, what will you do with all your winnings?

Well, I will read my *Encyclopedia Britannica* and invest my bond for encyclopedias for my future children. Without learning, we are insalubrious!

Sai took out all sorts of characters on his way to the top. There was JJ Goldstein, a third-year participant whose mother clutched a stuffed bee and closed her eyes when JJ spelled. JJ went down in flames when she spelled "betony" as b-e-t-t-a-n-y.

What is betony? It's a plant of the genus *Stachys* in the mint family. JJ is in eighth grade. When I was in middle school, I was eating betony off the playground because I didn't know any better. JJ was worrying about how to spell it.

Then there was Samir Patel, the youngest kid to make it to the end. Samir, a 9-year-old third grader, is about three feet tall and needed serious mike adjustment every time he stepped up to spell a word.

According to the Bee Web site, Samir "is an avid reader. He is a fan of mysteries, classics, myths, legends, history, and Harry Potter books." He also rocks the world with his rock collection and loves stamp collecting, too.

And the post-Bee party's at Samir's house! We're going to have a powerpoint presentation of Samir's favorite stamps! Yes!

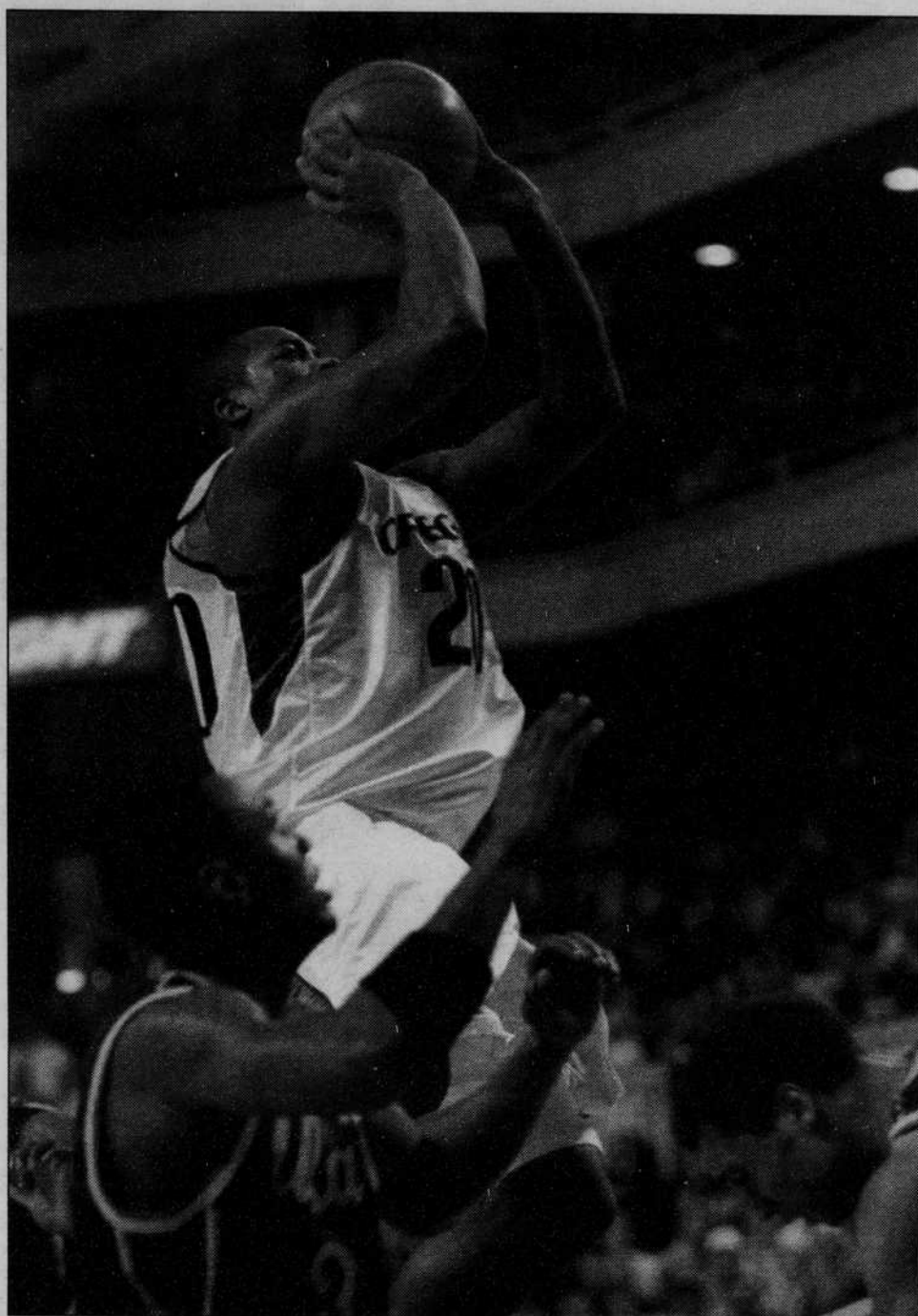
Samir, sadly, went down in the 11th round on "boudin." He spelled it b-o-u-d-a-n-e. Of course, "boudin" means "A Louisiana Creole link sausage of pork, pork liver and rice." Mmmm, tasty. Can I get some betony with that?

Don't worry, competitors can come back until they hit high school. The

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Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking



Freddie Jones is now "Fred" in the NBA, where he averaged 1.2 points per game for the Pacers this year.

Bouncing ballers

Terrell Brandon and Freddie Jones lead a contingent of former Oregon basketball players into the professional ranks

Where are they now?

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

Search throughout the seemingly endless list of professional basketball leagues, and former players appear from every college on the North American continent.

Search a little bit harder to find 23 former Oregon players residing on rosters at the end of the 2003 season. Only two — Terrell Brandon and Fred Jones — play in the NBA, but for the 21 others, playing professionally is more than just living a dream.

Sometimes, it's just about making a living.

For Brandon, life in the NBA has been about being the best at what he does. The 11th overall draft pick in the 1991 draft, Brandon has made his mark in the league as one of the top point guards in the game. He has been injured for the most part during the last two seasons, but *Sports Illustrated* named him the top point guard in the late '90s.

"I just try to be consistent and keep the morals that my parents have given me over the years," Brandon told the *Emerald* in 2001. "And not get out of character because of a game. I mean, it's only a basketball game."

In 1996, while with Cleveland, Brandon led the Cavaliers to a top Eastern Conference record, and at one point, averaged 19.3 points

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Part 1 of 2

Today: Catching up with former Oregon hoops players

Wednesday: Catching up with former Oregon football players

Duck Ultimate duo scores MVP honors

Ben Wiggins and Chelsea Dengler both receive the Callahan Award, the Heisman of college ultimate

Jon Roetman
Freelance Sports Reporter

A pair of Oregon Ultimate standouts made history this season.

Ben Wiggins and Chelsea Dengler were each presented with the Callahan Award, which goes to the nation's most valuable male and female ultimate players. It was the first time both award winners attended the same school.

"It was a big honor," Wiggins said. "It's voted on by the players, so it means that much more."

Wiggins' award wasn't a surprise, as the 5-foot-10-inch senior handler was the best player on one of the best teams in the nation. The opposite was true for Dengler, as the 5-foot-5-inch junior utility player shined for a team that failed to make nationals, giving her less exposure.

"She was pretty much flabbergasted (by winning the award)," Wiggins said of Dengler. "It was kind of a surprise, but we all know she deserved it."

It was a fitting way for the duo to end the season, as they have been friends since elementary school. Both grew up in Corvallis.

"They're both amazing players," soph-

Club Sports Tuesday

omore club Coordinator Ben Parrell said. "There aren't two people more deserving of the award."

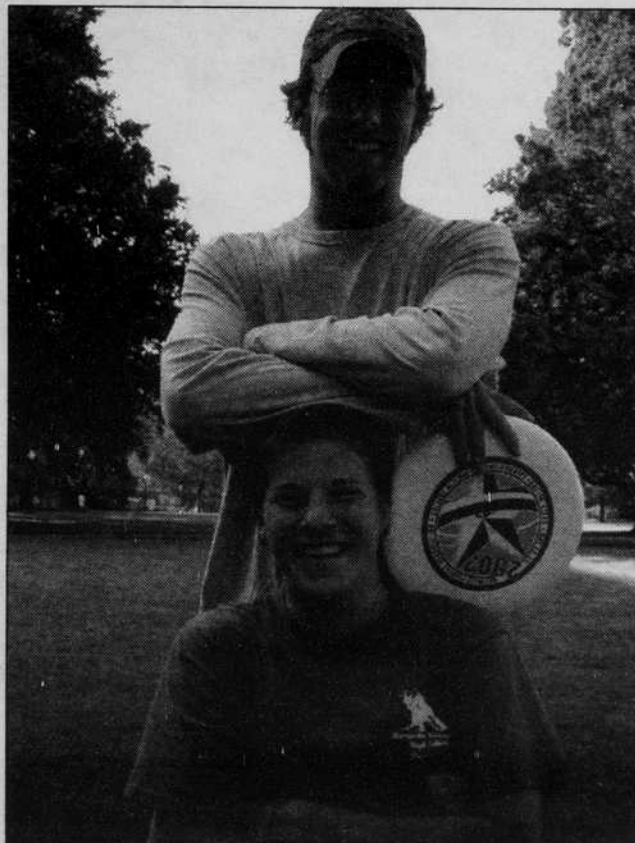
The men's ultimate season came to a not-so-fitting end as the Ducks lost to the Wisconsin Badgers 15-8 in the finals of the national tournament. The Ducks came into the tournament as the No. 1 seed after winning the Northwest Regional tournament. The Northwest region was recognized as the strongest region in the country, fielding seven of the top 12 teams in the season's final regular season poll.

Despite losing to the Badgers, the Ducks were pleased with the way their season ended, as they weren't even picked to make the national tournament before the season began.

"I'm absolutely (happy)," Wiggins said on how the Ducks' season ended. "Being in the top two out of 300 teams is great."

Before losing to Wisconsin in the finals, Oregon breezed through pool play and the preliminary rounds of the

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Jeremy Forrest for the Emerald

Ben Wiggins (top) and Chelsea Dengler share national MVP honors.