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Then & now

continued from page 11 per game. That, after learning from All-Star Mike Price.

"I just tried to stay as patient as possible and not say anything about it," Brandon told the Seattle Times in 1996 about his first four years in the league. "And as a result, I think, I was rewarded with a starting pointguard position."

Then there's Indiana guard Fred Jones, er, Freddie Jones, as he was known while with the Ducks from 1998-2002. He had a tough rookie season with the Pacers in 2002-03, but still holds a title in the league as a potential star.

Like Brandon, Jones is stuck behind a league veteran, Jamaal Tinsley. In the limited time that he saw, Jones played in 19 games — starting one — and averaged 1.2 points, a team low.

Yet...

"You should see him in practice," teammate Jermaine O'Neal told the Associated Press in December. "He's a human highlight film."

As for other former Oregon players, the road to the ultimate dream has many forks San Antonio but did not stick with the team.

He was taken in the supplemental draft of the National Basketball League by the Fayetteville Patriots. He did, however, sign with Bnei Hertzliya in Israel, but left the country in April 2002 because of security reasons, according to www.eurobasket.com.

Hicks has also played overseas, competing for Worthersee in Austria last season.

"I've learned a lot about life by being away from home, having responsibility and playing basketball," the San Francisco native told the Emerald in 2001.

That was said about his days with Oregon, but in reality, it would probably be no different now.

Finally, Scales, who was one of the tougher players on the Oregon roster in recent memory, almost tasted sweet success recently. With Grand Rapids Hoops of the Continental Basketball Association, Scales and his teammates lost the championship, 117-107, on March 24, despite Scales' 34 points.

After his career ended at Oregon in 2000, Scales has played in China,

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and many wind.

Bryan Bracey, Julius Hicks and Alex Scales all played pivotal roles with the Ducks during their tenures, even sharing the McArthur Court floor together for a couple of seasons.

Bracey played with Hapoel Jerusalem of the Israel League in 2003. After the 2000-01 season at Oregon, he became a second-round NBA draft choice (58th overall) by Argentina, and Italy in addition to the United States.

With Luke Ridnour virtually guaranteed of being chosen in this year's NBA draft, there should be one more name added to the list of Oregon professionals.

Just wait and see.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

