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Snyder: Attempt to join NFL is a definite

Continued from page 3B

decided to go to Oregon."

Heading up North with home still on the mind

Snyder came to Oregon with a heavy heart, as a couple of days before he left a close friend of his was murdered.

"It definitely was a tough time in my life," Snyder said. "I was trying to deal with losing a friend and living on my own for the first time, while trying to build new friendships, while going to school and playing football."

"I got homesick quite a bit."

The 6-foot-6, 325-pound Snyder would get over his homesickness during his first year of eligibility as he made his first start against USC during the Ducks' Fiesta Bowl season of 2001.

"I remember on the first play I was nervous, dizzy and my stomach was turning," Snyder said.

Snyder attributed his ability to get

through the difficult times to veterans like former Duck and current NFL tight end Justin Peele.

"He really helped me out," Snyder said. "He told me I'll be fine, and that we'll talk and communicate throughout the game."

Playing on a championship team also taught Snyder what he needed to do to be successful.

"We are really the last class to see what it takes to win a Pac-10 Championship," Snyder said. "Those guys deserved everything they got."

Battling in trenches earns Snyder starting job

Snyder would win a starting job his sophomore year and would never give it up.

Of all the games in all his life, he said the Michigan game in 2003 will always stand out the most.

"Michigan was the kind of school you watched growing up," Snyder

said. "To see those helmets on the field was awesome."

Oregon pulled off the upset over Michigan, and Adam Snyder became the first offensive lineman to win Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Week honors since 1995.

But once again the "no sugar" attitude crept back in.

"If all five guys could have gotten that award, five guys would have," Snyder said. "It definitely was a group effort."

As a group this season, things haven't always gone as planned. But despite Oregon's outcome Saturday, Snyder said football will always be a part of his life and giving it a try on the NFL level is a must.

"You only get this opportunity once in your life," Snyder said. "You don't want to look back and think 'I should have given it a try.'"

Even if there is "no sugar" at the end.

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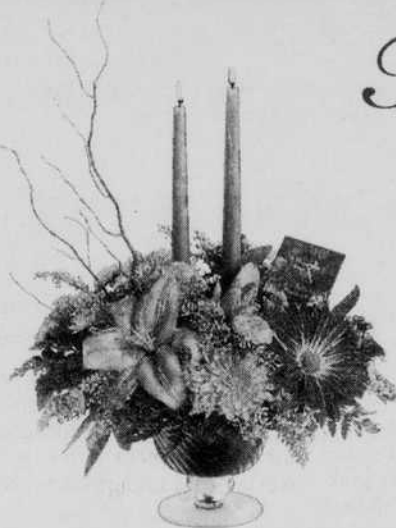
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