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January 7: Pac-10 Basketball Preview
January 12: Trends for 2005
January 24: Career Fair Guide
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News, Commentary, Sports EVERY DAY
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The campus newspaper for the University of Oregon community

IN BRIEF

Reese signs one-year deal with Seattle Mariners

SEATTLE — Shortstop Pokey Reese agreed Tuesday to a \$1.2 million one-year contract with the Seattle Mariners, a deal with a club option that could make it worth as much as \$4.45 million over two seasons.

Reese, 31, played in 96 games with the World Series champion Boston Red Sox last season, making 57 starts at shortstop and 18 at second base. He missed 45 games with a strained ribcage and played late in the season as a defensive substitute.

"We are rolling the dice a little bit," Seattle general manager Bill Bavasi said. "We still have to make sure we have others capable of playing shortstop behind him, but he's never begged off playing. His injuries have been real."

Reese played only 133 games over the past two seasons but made just six errors in 280 chances last season at shortstop — a .979 fielding average — and one error in 113 chances at second base for a .991 fielding average.

In Seattle he'll join an infield that includes Bret Boone at second base and two other free agent pickups on the corners: Adrian Beltre at third base and Richie Sexson at first.

"We basically have a Gold Glover at every position in the infield," Bavasi said. "In addition, Pokey can handle the bat and runs very well. We think he's a great fit for our ballclub."

Reese hit .221 last season with

seven doubles, two triples, three home runs and six stolen bases. He's a .248 career hitter in nine seasons who has stolen at least 25 bases four times.

— The Associated Press

Former Duck will enter into Pac-10 Hall of Honor

One of the best centers ever to grace the floor of McArthur Court in a Ducks uniform will be inducted into the Pac-10 Hall of Honor during the Pac-10 Tournament in March.

Blair Rasmussen (1981-1985) was a three-time all-conference selection for the Ducks and still holds the school record for career, single-season and single-game blocked shots.

The seven-footer recorded a school record of eight blocked shots against Davidson his senior season. In the same season, he set a season record with 42 blocks. He would finish with 114 career blocked shots.

The Auburn, Wash., native led the Ducks in scoring in each of his last three seasons and sits at eighth place all-time at Oregon with 1,554 points.

The eight-year NBA veteran was also very durable for the Ducks as he started in 114 consecutive games starting his freshman season.

Rasmussen was a three-time Oregon MVP and was inducted to the school's Hall of Fame in 2002.

He will join three other Oregon players (Ron Lee, coach Howard Hobson and retired Rear Adm., John Dick, U.S. Navy, of the 1939 NCAA Championship team) in the Pac-10 Hall of Honor.

— Clayton Jones

Miller: Angels may develop a case of serious identity crisis

Continued from page 9

I say they go back to calling the Angels the California Angels, which is what they went by from 1965-96. The Walt Disney Company changed the name from the California Angels to the Anaheim Angels in 1997. It may not bring back any fond postseason memories (the Angels reached the playoffs three times prior to 2002), but it solves the identity dilemma. Make it the Southern California Angels if you want to.

When the Washington Senators moved to the twin cities in 1961, naming the team the Minnesota Twins seemed like the appropriate label. They play in Minneapolis, but with

St. Paul right across the river it's only fair that neither city snags all the glory.

I've got a couple more suggestions. The Anaheim Angels of Orange County would surely attract more female spectators, since the name relates to Fox's prized show set in Newport Beach (only 20 miles from Angel Stadium).

Or how about the Anaheim Angels of Disneyland? That would surely open the eyes of any young boy or girl. I'd bet Disney would even loan one of its famous characters for a mascot.

Maybe I'd better go find my Mickey Mouse ears.

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Basketball: Stanford starts out slow with zero conference wins

Continued from page 9

team last week. I went two months just sitting there and watching. There was a lot of hard work in the meantime to prepare myself to play in a game. I feel so blessed and happy to be able to come back like I did."

Along with Lucas, the Beavers have four other players averaging double figures in scoring. Sasa Cuic (14.3), Nick DeWitz (11.3), J.S. Nash (11.2) and Chris Stephens (11.2) have all put pressure on opposing defenses. With numerous scoring options, Oregon State looks to qualify for a spot in its first NCAA Tournament since the 1989-90 season.

"This team doesn't compare to any of the others that I've played on," Lucas said. "We have so much talent and experience. It's so much fun to be on the floor with some other big men who really know what they're doing. Sasa and Nick have really come along and are helping a lot."

Stanford struggles

While Oregon State is off to a good start in conference play, Stanford is off to its worst Pac-10 start since the

1990-91 season. The usually mighty Cardinal finds itself in last place after losing to Washington State (60-51) and No. 13 Washington (76-73). Stanford has only two players averaging more than 10 points per game and has stumbled out to a 6-6 overall record.

Things don't get any easier for Stanford as it hosts Arizona State and Arizona this week before three tough road games against Cal, UCLA and USC.

Statistical leaders

Arizona State junior Ike Diogu leads the Pac-10 in scoring, averaging 22.8 points per game. The powerful Sun Devil forward is the only conference player averaging more than 20 points per game and has NBA scouts drooling. He also leads the Pac-10 in rebounding (10.3) and field goal percentage (.628).

Washington's Will Conroy leads the Pac-10 in assists (7.5), while Arizona's Salim Stoudamire is tops in the conference with a .567 three-point shooting percentage.

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