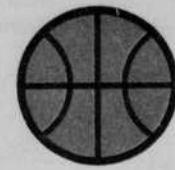




BASKETBALL EXTRA



Sports

OREGON DAILY EMERALD
Friday, January 21, 2005

"The whole second half we were knocking at the door; we just didn't kick it down."

Aaron Brooks | Oregon point guard on the Ducks' failed comeback attempt against Arizona

BRYCE TAYLOR

Heralded as one of the University's best recruiting classes, the 100th year of men's basketball at Oregon is dominated by its youngest.

Young. Talented. Fresh into conference players.

Freshman Bryce Taylor is the second player in a five-part photo series providing a closer look at Oregon's newest recruits.

A
team
with
no

SENIORS

Nickname: "My name says enough. I don't need a nickname."

The Mac Court experience:

"It's exciting, 9000 people cheering for you, and it's exciting that all those people are there to see you play and to have the opportunity to show them why you are there."

Goal:

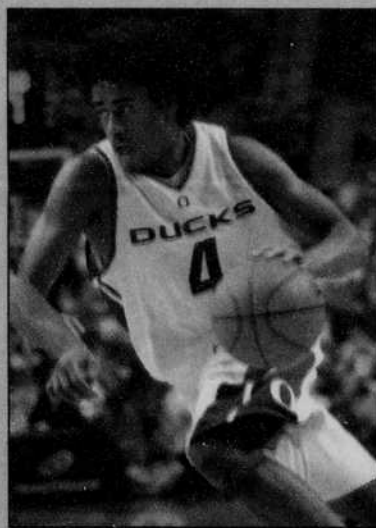
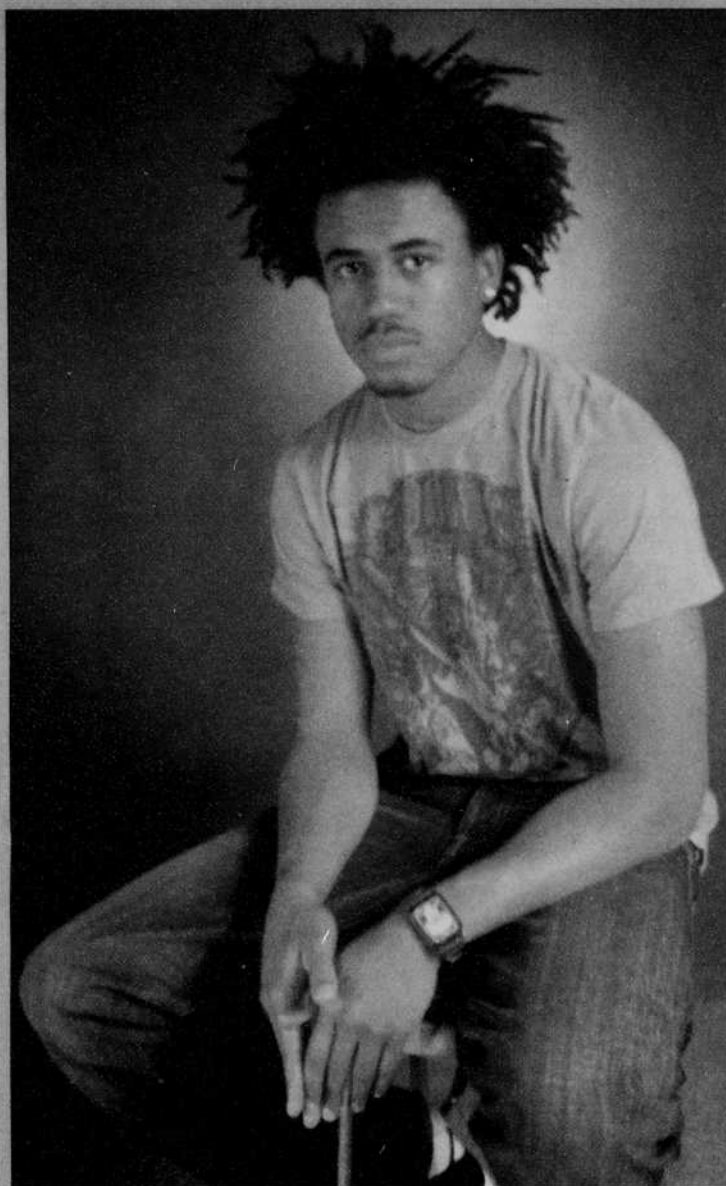
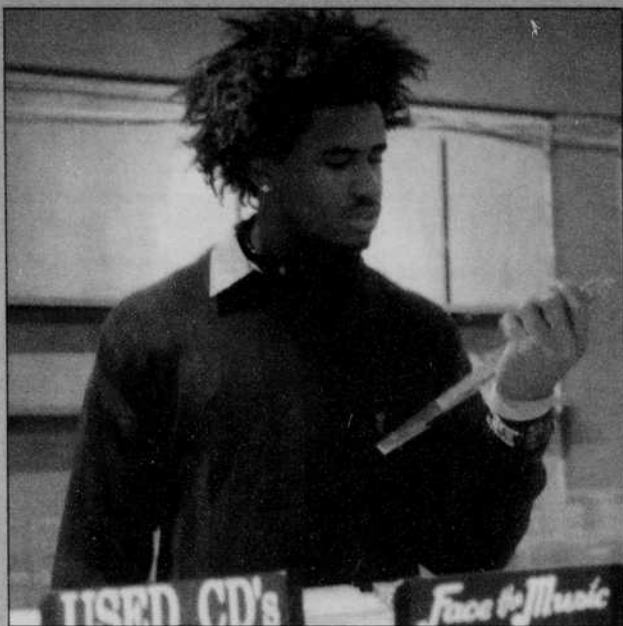
"To be on the all Pac-10 freshman team."

Hometown:

San Diego, California

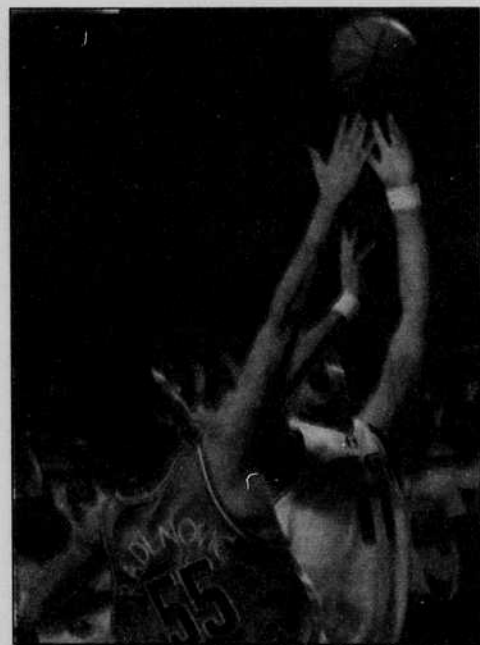
Likes: Music, movies, reading novels

#4 • GUARD • 6-5 • 200



Men's basketball

Oregon suffers 74-66 loss to No. 13 Arizona



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon forward Ian Crosswhite struggled against Arizona, scoring only five points.

Despite being down by 17 in the first half, the Ducks mounted a comeback to get within three, but were unable to pull out a win

BY CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

Portland native Salim Stoudamire and the rest of the 13th-ranked Arizona basketball team showed that experience is vital in the Pacific-10 Conference.

The Wildcats came to McArthur Court Thursday night, and with the help of a 16-0 run late in the first, they catapulted past the Ducks 74-66.

Led by Stoudamire's 27 points and fellow senior Channing Frye's 17 points, seven rebounds and four blocked shots, Arizona (14-3 overall, 4-1 Pac-10) won its 13th game in its last 14 contests.

"I feel like we came out a little timid," Oregon freshman Bryce Taylor, who had an Oregon game-high 20 points, said. "For some reason, we might have been a little intimidated."

Oregon (11-4, 3-3) head coach Ernie Kent said his young squad — with two freshmen, two sophomores and a junior in the starting lineup — was outmatched defensively early in the game.

"Those freshmen got lost on curl screens,

they forgot to help and got beat on backdoor (plays)," Kent said. "These veteran players are crafty that they are playing against, and they really make them pay when they have those mental breakdowns."

The game was tight early in the first half, and Oregon's early offense came down low with Mitch Platt scoring six of Oregon's first nine points. With 11:09 left to play in the half, Oregon would hold its biggest lead of the game at three points, 20-17.

But Stoudamire caught fire and made back-to-back three-pointers with defenders' hands right in his face to ignite a 16-0 run that Oregon would never recover from. Stoudamire scored 20 of his 27 points in the first half.

"We were playing a very good basketball game," Kent said. "The score was 20-20, and we had a good inside-outside game going, but we stopped going inside and took a couple of rushed shots.

"They got out in transition and put an 11 or

12-point lead on us, and that was the difference in the game."

The Ducks made a run in the second half and closed within two points with 8:26 left in the game, but couldn't quite make it all the way back.

Arizona's veteran team held off the Ducks for the rest of the game with Ivan Radenovic's three-pointer from the top of the key with 2:31 remaining, giving the Wildcats an eight-point lead and dashing all Oregon hopes of a comeback.

Arizona head coach Lute Olson said despite Oregon's youth, the Wildcats respected and were prepared for the team's young talent.

"Brooks is a load at the point guard position," Olson said. "We tried to limit the number of looks Taylor got, and (Malik) Hairston is tough too. They just missed some shots they normally would've knocked down."

Olson added that it will be a lot tougher for Oregon's younger players when they visit the Wildcats next month.

"Youth is usually not as much of a problem at home as it is on the road," Olson said. "So we'll see how they react to the McKale Center."

claytonjones@dailyemerald.com