

"I just got to get back to my playbook, get on the Jugs and get my hands right, and I'll be all right."

Oregon wide receiver Jaison Williams on his improvement needs, referring to the Jugs Football Machine, a device similar to a pitching machine

PEAK PASSION

Senior Breanna Grover, an avid rock climber and mountaineer, has become passionate about instructing courses on outdoor activities

BY ASHLEY GRIFFIN
OUTDOOR RECREATION REPORTER

To say that senior Breanna Grover is an outdoor enthusiast is one thing. To fully explain the depth behind this label requires a few more words.

The outdoor-oriented Grover has been rock climbing since seventh grade and mountaineering for the past five years. She has also tried ice climbing, snow camping and backpacking, to name a few of her broad interests.

She started rock climbing as part of an after school program at Eugene's Shasta Middle School and eventually began to climb at Smith Rock. As her skills increased, she expanded her locations.

"Once I kind of outgrew Smith Rock, I started taking trips down to Joshua Tree and Yosemite," she said.

These two Californian national parks require more planning and a longer drive than trips to Smith Rock, but Grover said they are worth the trip. She's made multiple treks to both locations and spent about three weeks last summer climbing in Yosemite with a group of friends.

"Aside from extremely aesthetic climbing, it's a gorgeous place," Grover said.

Her interest in mountaineering has also increased her travel opportunities. She discovered the sport in high school and has since done most of her mountaineering in the Oregon Cascades. Her first mountaineering experience was on Mount St. Helens; her first full climb was Diamond Peak.

"Mountaineering is both an outward experience and an internal experience," she said. "It's about getting up high into the mountains and having a vantage of the world many people never see. It's also about testing your physical limits and pushing yourself to exposed places that test you mentally."

Raised in Eugene, Grover came to the University with an interest in the Outdoor Pursuits Program. Now a seasoned OPP veteran,

Grover has taken most of the program's courses. Her favorites: Ice Climbing and Glacier Rigging and Rescue.

Though many students in the program have taken a multitude of OPP classes, Grover is unique in that she helps instruct them.

She also works for the OPP as program assistant. She helps teach students map and compass skills, tips for dressing for the outdoors and environmental friendliness techniques in the OPP's introductory-level Wilderness Survival course each term. She has also helped lead Rock Climbing III, Principles of Outdoor Leadership and backpacking courses. This spring, she will add mountaineering to the list.

"Teaching is actually something I'm really passionate about and might want to do as a career," she said. "I love taking people out and seeing them experience something for their first time."

Grover's OPP counterparts appreciate her hard work and dedicated personality.

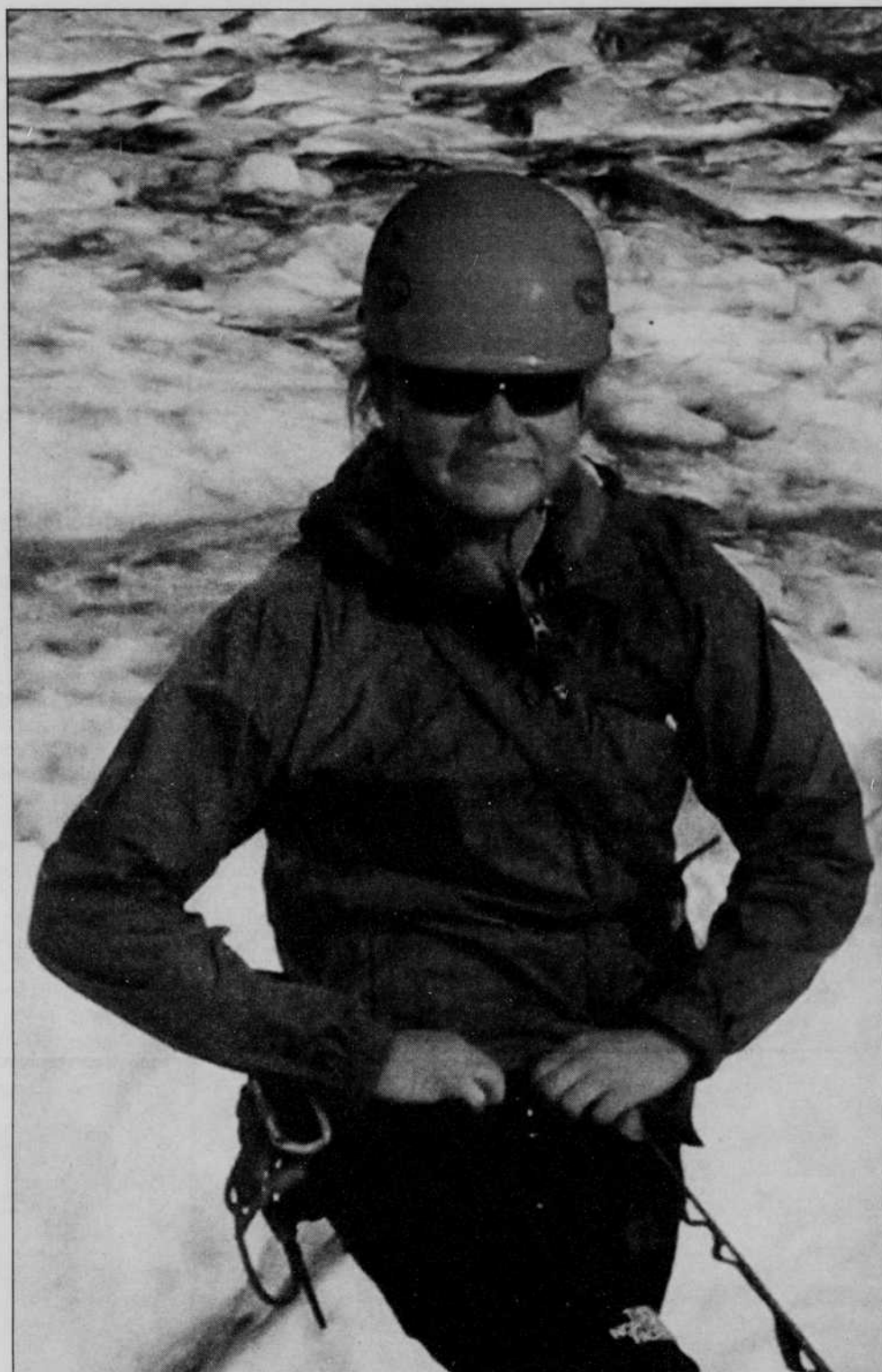
"She's very detail oriented and responsible," Coordinator Michael Strong said. "If she has a good idea, she'll let you know. She thinks on her feet and is always trying to improve things."

Outside of teaching, climbing and mountaineering, Grover's courses have also helped her become more aware of the environmental aspect of outdoor pursuits.

"An interest of mine that goes along with my outdoor recreation activities is an interest in the environment, about the rocks that I'm climbing and the trees I'm walking through," she said.

After graduation, Grover will take her outdoor pursuits to a new level with international travel. She and a friend will travel to Australia and New Zealand and include a stop in Nepal for a trek in the Himalayas. For now, Grover will keep busy with outdoor pursuits and her responsibilities with the OPP.

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COURTESY

University student and outdoor enthusiast Breanna Grover climbs the Middle Sister during a Glacier Rigging and Rescue course in 2003. Grover has developed a passion for teaching courses such as this.

■ Duck football

Other Williams emerging in spring practices



Redshirt freshman Jaison Williams hits a dummy during one of Oregon's spring practices last week. Williams' size and speed are receiving much attention this spring.

LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Jaison Williams is using his speed and 6-foot-5, 237-pound frame to compete for minutes with other Duck receivers, like Demetrius Williams

741BY JON ROETMAN*
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

Both positive and negative connotations come to mind when a football player is said to have "potential."

On one hand, the athlete possesses the size and skill necessary to have a quality, if not stellar, career.

On the other hand, the potential for greatness means an athlete isn't great yet.

Jaison Williams is one such player labeled with the "P" word. The redshirt freshman wide receiver is listed at 6-foot-5 and 237 pounds on Oregon's spring roster. He can power clean 320 pounds, squat 420 and has the speed to cause headaches for any defense.

In short, Williams is a matchup problem waiting to happen.

"Jaison is an eye-ful," head coach Mike Bellotti said. "He's (big) and runs about 10.6 or 10.7 in the 100 meters, so that in and of itself gets your attention."

Bellotti, however, said that Williams' improvement from last season is as important as

his size. The Inglewood, Calif., native is becoming a more consistent receiver and is slowly working toward earning a spot in the Ducks' new wide-open offense.

"He's made a real improvement this spring and over the course of the year in catching the ball," Bellotti said. "He's catching the ball more consistently, he's running routes better, he understands (the offense better), and he's a big receiver that's a tough matchup. He's got a bright future now, and if he continues to improve, he'll be fighting for a starting spot."

"Jaison is becoming the receiver we hoped he would be when we recruited him."

Williams' talents were on display during Tuesday's practice when he snared a Dennis Dixon pass over the top of cornerback Marques Binns deep down the right sideline. While such catches certainly help his confidence, Williams said he needs to make more plays, be more physical with defenders and continue learning his assignments.

"I can do a whole lot better," Williams said.

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