# Adams: Being a fan is a right and privilege

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period. So the next time you're sitting alone (save for your best friend, Matt Dietz) in the student section, watching your team be obliterated by a hated rival in the pouring rain, stay put. Enjoy yourself in any way possible and soak in the defeat knowing that in a few years the scoreboard is going to read differently when the Huski ... other team comes back to play you. If you leave your team early, you may miss a Music City Miracle, or "The Play" or a 21-point turnaround in less than three minutes (yeah, it's been done). Be a true fan; stay with your team and

support it. Let the team know it has someone in its corner when the bleeding won't stop. At least stay to vindicate your hours wasted standing in line trying to get a ticket.

I know there is a lot of gray area for those living in states not home to a professional team. For them the best thing to do is just root for the team your family loves, because in doing so you can be proud of yourself for passing on a special bond from one generation to the next — is there any better way to show your loyalty? My family is an exception to this, I guess. If you knew my grandpa, the biggest Dodgers fan, and my dad, the biggest Giants fan, you'd

understand. They've been loyal to their teams since they lived on the East Coast.

Being a fan is as much a right as it is a privilege. So don't knock your club when they fall below .500; feel lucky to even have a local team to share misery with. Things could always be worse. At this time I'd like to recognize the most factually loyal fans in sports: Chicago Cubs fans. The pride of the North-siders truly knows no boundaries. For them and every professional team and fan, remember this: Your day will come.

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### IN BRIEF

# Suns forward goes under knife; out four months

The Phoenix Suns will be without all-star forward Amare Stoudemire for about four months after he underwent surgery to repair damage to his injured left knee Tuesday.

The extent of the injury was determined during "diagnostic" surgery by team doctor Thomas Carter, who then proceeded with the repair, Suns president Bryan Colangelo said.

Stoudemire, who turns 23 next month, signed a five-year, \$73 million contract extension last week, the maximum allowed under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement with the players union.

Colangelo said the team knew of Stoudemire's knee problem during contract negotiations, but was not aware of the extent until Tuesday's surgery. The team projects Stoudemire to return around the All-Star break Feb. 17-21.

Carter detected the defect in an MRI exam several weeks ago and initially deals with it through treatment and rest.

Stoudemire first talked about the soreness several weeks ago. After it worsened during last week's training camp in Tucson, he sought the opinions of three doctors before giving Carter the go-ahead for arthroscopic surgery.

—The Associated Press



# Water Polo: Ducks end regular year in Corvallis against OSU

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Slavich said.

Standing out among the new faces suiting up for Oregon is freshman Trapper Felt, who, despite his youth, will see significant playing time.

"He has good fundamental knowledge of the game and is very dedicated to the team," Slavich said.

The coaching staff echoes the concept of team exemplified by Felt and others.

"(Water polo) is six people working together toward a common goal," Imperiale-Hagerman said.

Most of the Ducks' depth of talent and experience won't be on display until they are fortunate enough to advance to the national tournament, because of the grueling nature of the competition.

"There are a lot of good teams and

lots of games in a short amount of time" Slavich said.

Before it arrives at nationals, Oregon must utilize its veteran skills and play well throughout the season without sinking to the level of play common in the weak Northwest division.

"(The team) understands the caliber of play in games that really matter," Imperiale-Hagerman said.

The Ducks will round out the regular season next weekend with a four-match tournament in Corvallis, which includes a dangerous meeting with Washington and another rematch with the Beavers, before advancing to the regional tournament to defend their title.

"The only way we will lose is if we don't bring our 'A' game," Imperiale-Hagerman said.

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