

■ In my opinion



JEFFREY DRANSFELDT
THREE TO WIN

Internship in Nebraska leaves deep impression

He didn't promise anything but his interest. Weeks passed with exchanged e-mails and phone calls.

The opportunity of an internship with a daily newspaper proved worthy of waiting for. The minor details: It was unpaid and it meant that this life-long California resident had to move to a small town in a state he had never seen before.

By reading this column, you, the daily reader, can see the internship through managing editor Mike Konz and The Kearney Hub in Kearney, Neb., paid off because that intern was me, and now I am fulfilling my dream as a sports writer.

What's important about this experience? Many people have had quality memories of hands-on experience for a future occupation.

When Drake coach Amy Stephens and her team played the University of Oregon Monday night, memories of Nebraska fare, such as rhubarb pie and Runza (hamburger, onions and cabbage), filled my head.

Stephens, a former coach at Division II power Nebraska-Kearney, had just started coaching at Drake in 2003 when I interviewed her on her former point guard Nicole Gruntorad.

The ensuing feature I wrote resulted in one of numerous experiences I gained writing for a daily newspaper. For a recently graduated high school student, leaving in the summer of 2003 and spending six weeks in Nebraska left me with more knowledge gained than I thought possible.

If you have the chance for an internship — even if it's small — take it.

I conformed to a dress code, worked from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and covered sports, news and features. The natural writer in me shuddered at taking photos, but I grew to enjoy shooting front-page art.

I would never have considered tasting rhubarb pie or Runza without Konz's helpful nudging.

Cultural and lifestyle differences came too. I had faithfully driven my car to school each day only to switch to riding a bicycle to work.

Changes, although requiring adjustments, also came with benefits.

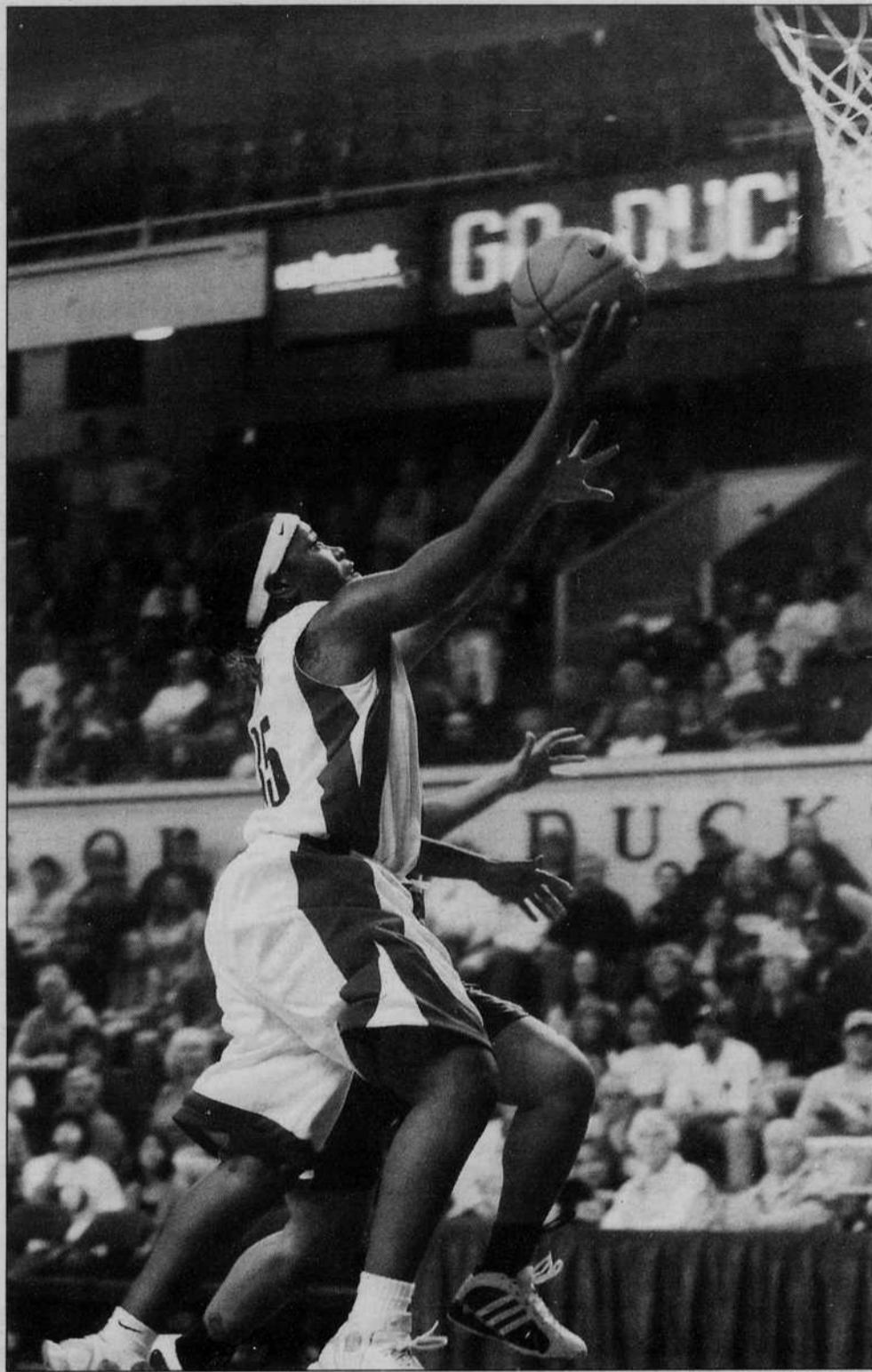
I witnessed and covered high school basketball at its finest in the Mr. Basketball and Miss Basketball tournaments. Top basketball talents from across the country visit Kearney every summer. The alumni list is revealing: Chicago Bulls guard Chris Duhon, Memphis Grizzlies forward Mike Miller and New York Knicks forward Channing Frye to name a few.

The player I remember most is Josh Dotzler of Creighton. He possessed extraordinary vision and found teammates with pinpoint accuracy.

I experienced many new things, including writing an article on an annual car show and visiting the Archway Monument, which commemorated the old wagon trail.

Looking back, it's easy to forget details, but the true effect — becoming a stronger writer and gaining a willingness to try new things — lasts a lifetime.

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ZANE RITT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Terry Jonz, the new voice of Oregon women's basketball, called the Ducks' victory over Drake Monday, including Cicely Oaks' layup.

HEARD BY MANY, seen by few

Eugenean Terry Jonz couldn't refuse KSCR's offer to become Oregon's new radio announcer

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
SPORTS REPORTER

Terry Jonz's story of becoming the new voice of Oregon women's basketball starts with a noticeable L-shaped scar on his right elbow. The surgical wound followed an injury he suffered while pitching for Oregon State in the early 1970s. For Jonz, the injury ended one career and began another.

Jonz's journey to covering women's basketball at Oregon is the result of his odyssey both to and from his hometown of Eugene. His elbow injury was just the beginning for him. With it, he shelved his cleats and textbooks and entered the working world after two years of college. One thing he kept in his back pocket was his dream of becoming a play-by-play announcer. Because he was in need of a well-paying job he could only find elsewhere, his career behind the microphone was left for another day.

"Without baseball I didn't see a need to stay at Oregon State so I left early," Jonz recalls. "I wanted to get into the radio business but had to put that on hold. I started working in finance for Honeywell."

Jonz climbed the corporate ladder with ease at Honeywell. The company sent him to Ohio where he worked until a death in the family brought him back to Eugene.

"My grandmother passed away and I came home thinking I'd stay for only a few days," Jonz said. "It turned out to be years."

Eugene felt like home for Jonz, who was more accustomed to having the rolling hills of the Willamette Valley as his backdrop.

"I asked people in Ohio if there were any mountains around and they told me 'yeah,'" Jonz said. "Then they pointed to one no bigger than one of the hills you see heading up 18th Street and I was like 'you got to be kidding me.'"

Staying in Eugene turned out to be Jonz's biggest career move. One of his co-workers at Honeywell had friends working

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Marathon champ shares wisdom

Alberto Salazar, a two-time Olympian and Oregon graduate, spoke and went on a run with the Eugene Nike Running Club

BY KAI-HUEI YAU
FREELANCE REPORTER

It's not every day that one has the opportunity to meet with an icon.

The Eugene Nike Running Club received such a treat when Alberto Salazar paid a visit Wednesday.

"Too many people showed up, so we'll have to reschedule this," joked Salazar as he began his talk.

At the Eugene Nike Store, Salazar gave tips to the approximately 15 runners at his talk. He also went on a run with them on the trails lining the Willamette River.

Salazar is a legendary marathon runner who is best known for winning three consecutive New York City Marathons from 1980 to 1982. He also won the Boston Marathon in 1982, which was the only Boston Marathon he competed in. He was on the 1980 and 1984 Olympic teams, and has spent the last 24 years promoting running with Nike as a part of the Nike Oregon Project, which trains Olympic-caliber athletes. In addition, Salazar has been a mentor and coach to 19-year-old University track and

cross country star Galen Rupp.

"It's especially fun for me to come back here," said Salazar, who helped Oregon win the 1977 NCAA cross-country title and is a former co-owner of the Oregon Electric Station. "This is where Nike started. There's a lot of history and heritage. It kind of brings me back to where we all started."

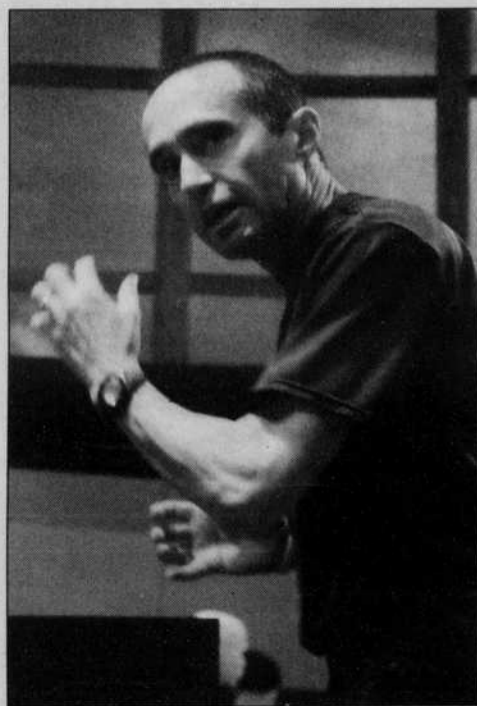
"Keeping running going strong in this town is still very important for us. It's my paycheck and also my hobby," Salazar added.

Salazar offered running tips and fielded questions before going on a run with the club. He stressed that runners should seek to develop themselves as complete athletes because running can be debilitating. He demonstrated a few stretching techniques.

"You're only going to be as flexible as your least flexible tendon," he said.

He also spoke about how much running has changed since he was competing professionally because of the improvements in running shoe technology and sports medicine. Marathon runners are now able to train for 120 miles per

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KAI-HUEI YAU | FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

Alberto Salazar gives running tips during his visit with the Eugene Nike Running Club Wednesday.