

"My grandmother told me after the USC game that he had told her that he wanted me to go to the NFL. I'd do anything he wanted."

UCLA tailback Maurice Drew announcing that he will honor his late grandfather's wish and enter the NFL draft.

■ In my opinion



SHAWN MILLER
FULL-COURT PRESS

Chronically immature Vick finally gets sacked

Marcus Vick has thrown his name into the NFL draft.

What a shocker. After strike six, or however many it is up to these days, Vick was thrown off the Virginia Tech football team on Jan. 6.

Vick, the younger brother of Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, most recently faced trouble after stomping on the left calf of Louisville defensive end Elvis Dumervil during the Gator Bowl on Jan. 2. That came just more than two weeks after being pulled over for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

Whether on the field or in the general public, Marcus Vick has continued to throw away a talent that very few are lucky to possess. Not only can he outrun almost anyone, but Vick's arm allows him to launch a pass 60 yards with a simple flick of the wrist.

However, the extension of that arm got him into trouble in early October when he made an obscene gesture toward fans when the Hokies played at West Virginia.

Vick was also arrested Feb. 17, 2004, and charged with four misdemeanors: three counts of allowing underage girls to have alcohol and one count of having sex with a 15-year-old girl. Three months later he was convicted of the three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, but was found not guilty of having sex with the teenager.

You would think that any rational person would learn his lesson and not put himself in a dangerous situation again. Evidently, Vick is not a rational person.

Less than two months later he was charged with reckless driving and possession of marijuana. Three days after that he was suspended from the football team and on Aug. 3 of that year, Vick was suspended from the university for the 2004 football season. He was cleared to enroll again in January 2005.

During that time, older brother Michael took the immature Virginia Tech reject into his home in a failed effort to help little Vick mature.

This isn't the only case of an athlete gone wild, it is just the most prominent one that scrolls across the BottomLine on ESPN.

Too many athletes are treated like gods and are given free passes out of trouble at a young age. They are taught that if they can run faster, throw farther or score more points than their opponents can, they can literally get away with murder (O.J. Simpson). It is time for coaches, administrators and especially parents to stand up and set a good example.

Marcus Vick was given several chances and after being suspended from the Virginia Tech football team twice in one year, he still didn't learn his lesson.

At least now he can go to the professional level, where earning millions of dollars will cure him of acting like a teenager.

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■ Women's basketball

Stanford guard drops 37 points

A flurry of late mistakes combined with hot Stanford shooting costs Oregon an upset win

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
SPORTS REPORTER

A trio of late three-pointers helped No. 16 Stanford escape upset Saturday night against Oregon. Stanford's Candice Wiggins sank two of the three-pointers en route to a game- and career-high 37 points, leading Stanford to a 76-64 victory.

The Ducks led for most of the second half but could not keep the defending Pacific-10 Conference champions down. Oregon scored on its first two possessions of the game before the Cardinal went on a 12-0 run to take a 15-5 lead. It was the first of many scoring droughts Oregon suffered.

"I think we played a good game of basketball for about 34 minutes," Oregon coach Bev Smith said. "We made poor mistakes, and they capitalized on them."

The Ducks took command early in the second half, jumping to a seven-point lead, their biggest of the night. They battled Wiggins, who showed why she garnered Pac-10 Player of the Year honors last season. The sophomore guard guided Stanford (10-4 overall, 5-1 Pac-10) back in front 57-56 midway through the second half.

"She's just such a great player," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "What separates Candice from other players is her competitive desire. She plays with such intensity and has the ability to make other players around her better."

With 6:22 left in regulation, senior forward Carolyn Ganes tipped in a short field goal giving Oregon (10-4, 1-3) a 60-57 lead. From there, Wiggins and Krista Rappahahn got the Cardinal offense moving. The two guards led Stanford on a 10-0 run. VanDerveer aided the offense by switching to a full-court press

that overwhelmed Oregon. Stanford forced nine turnovers in the final nine minutes of the game. The Ducks were held to one field goal in the final two minutes.

"I knew she (VanDerveer) was going to call it, and we just threw the ball away," Smith said. "We were deer in the headlights, and we absolutely have to be stronger than that because good teams are going to do that to you."

VanDerveer feels the full-court press made the difference in the game.

"I didn't want to come out with it early in the second half and tire out the team," VanDerveer said. "I thought we brought it out at the right time and it was key in the win."

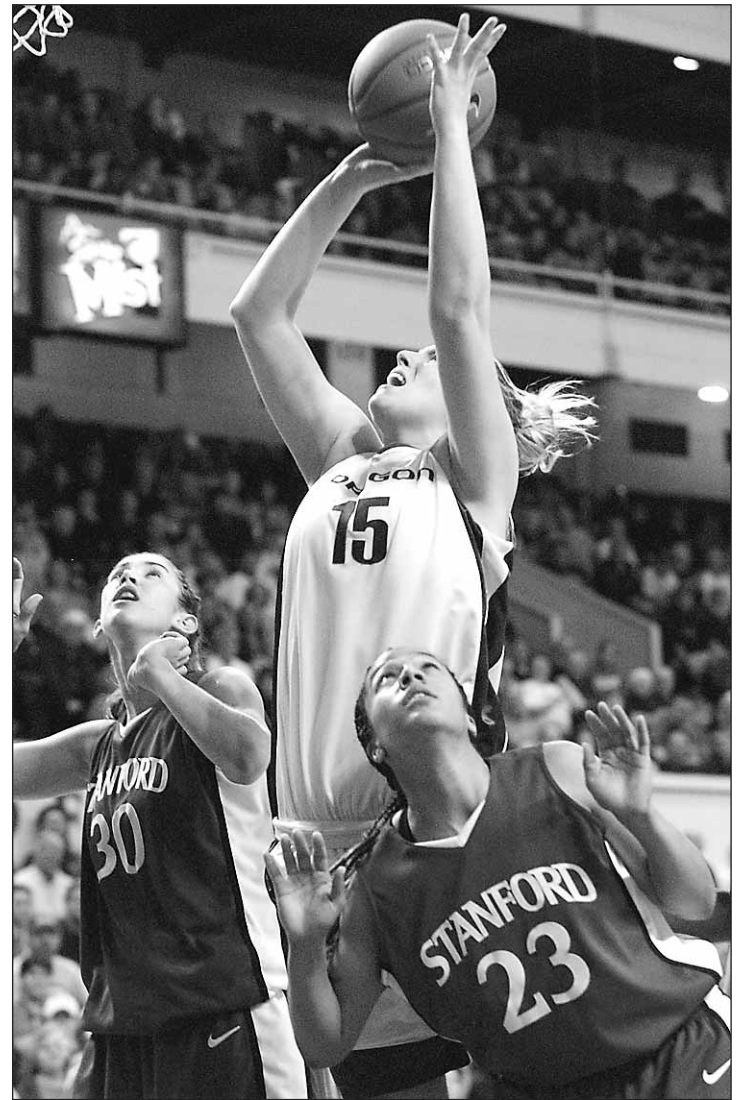
The 5,062 fans on hand marked the biggest crowd to watch a women's basketball game at McArthur Court this season. They witnessed Stanford defeat Oregon in Eugene for the first time in three years. The Ducks had not lost at home since Nov. 12 against Temple.

"Oregon is always a tough matchup for us coming up here, and this year was no different," VanDerveer said. "This is a huge win for us and I think this is our biggest win of the year so far."

On offense, senior Chelsea Wagner and Ganes led the Ducks with 15 points apiece. Wagner made five of nine shots including three of six from beyond the arc. Ganes grabbed seven rebounds, Wagner ended with five.

Center Brooke Smith dominated on offense in the first half for Stanford. The junior from San Anselmo, Calif., played the entire period, scoring 13 points and forcing five turnovers. She added one more in the second half to end with six.

Smith and her teammates



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon's Carolyn Ganes scores two of her 15 points against Stanford's Rosalyn Gold-Onwuode (23) and Brooke Smith. The No. 16 Cardinal defeated the Ducks 76-64 Saturday at McArthur Court.

limited Richards and Cicely Oaks to less than 10 points each. Stanford is the first team to accomplish this feat since St. Mary's on Dec. 12. Richards ended with eight points and three rebounds. Oaks managed four points, her lowest scoring total since St. Mary's held her to three. She missed all four attempts from three-point range.

The Cardinal has now won

four straight games and sits atop the conference standings. Oregon has lost three of its last four Pac-10 games. Stanford returns to the Bay Area next week to face its rival California on Jan. 14. Oregon visits the Grand Canyon State to take on Arizona State Thursday and Arizona Saturday.

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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon's Malik Hairston, seen earlier this season against Oregon State, scored 21 points against Stanford. However, the Ducks fell to 1-2 in conference play after a controversial no-call on the game's final possession allowed the Cardinal to escape with a 64-62 victory at home.

■ Men's basketball

Late, controversial no-call helps Cardinal clip Ducks

Malik Hairston's 21 points isn't enough to help Oregon come back from a 13-point second-half deficit against Stanford in Palo Alto

BY SHAWN MILLER
SPORTS EDITOR

Controversy surrounded a 64-62 Oregon loss at Stanford Saturday as the Ducks remained winless away from McArthur Court.

Perhaps the most questionable no-call of the season ended the game and continued a 20-game losing streak at Stanford (6-6 overall, 2-2 Pacific-10 Conference).

Trailing by two points, Oregon (7-8, 1-2) put the ball in the hands of point guard Aaron Brooks. Brooks drove from the right wing toward the unguarded basket in the final three seconds. As he shot the ball, two Stanford defenders made contact, sending Brooks and the ball airborne. The only whistles that were blown were to signal the end of the game.

"Aaron Brooks made a great, great move," Oregon coach Ernie Kent said. "We had the right

play on, we just didn't get the right call and there is nothing we can do about that."

Malik Hairston, who scored the Ducks' final nine points, recorded 15 of his game-high 21 points in the second half.

"We called his number every time down the stretch," Kent said of Hairston. "We called his number, he delivered. He looked like the big-time player tonight that he is."

Stanford led by as many as 13 points early in the second half, but Oregon clawed its way back into the game. Bryce Taylor hit a three-pointer in transition with 13:55 remaining, highlighting a 9-0 run to cut the deficit to four points. From that point the Ducks never trailed by more than six points, but were unable to get over the hump.

"I would love to have gotten the lead on