

Ducks' Smith leaving pond for bigger waters

Seven months ago, Kabisa Akili Maradu Smith couldn't seem to find people willing to interview him. But that was before he burst onto the national scene September 9, destroying number 23 Michigan State.

After passing for 266 yards and 4 touchdowns in the first half, Smith rested most of the second as the Ducks won 48-14. From that moment, everything Smith did just improved his stock in the eyes of scouts.



JAMES KHOSRAVI

Soon after Smith arrived at Oregon from Grossmont Junior College as the top ranked JC player in the nation, many fans seemed to forget that he was a newcomer still learning the offense, screaming for Jason Mass to be playing instead of this "other" quarterback. The Smith followers were few and far between back then. But it's funny what success can do to people. Now everyone seems to love Smith.

Even up until the Ducks' season opener this last season against Michigan State, Smith was not the clear-cut starter. Jason Mass was still in contention to platoon with Smith.

As rumors continue to fly about which prospects will go where in the draft, newspapers and magazines around the country write articles on the top athletes. *Sports Illustrated*, *The Sporting News*, and *ESPN The Magazine*, to name a few, have interviewed Smith. Newspapers around the country have written articles about him.

But in all the hype about Smith, the commonly asked question, "Is he real or just a one-year wonder?" clouds the truth about him. Even local papers are swept up in the mess, as the recent *Oregonian* article on Smith was titled "No. 1, or one-year wonder?"

What seems to be forgotten is that Smith was never given anything on the football field. Unlike the University of Kentucky's Tim Couch, he was never billed as the savior of his program. Most "experts" never expected this of him. He enrolled at Grossmont JC after giving Pro baseball a try. There he played his way from an unknown to the top JC prospect in the nation. At Oregon, he arrived to compete for the starting job. Most of his junior season, people clamored to get Smith out and to stick with Mass. Smith was too rough and didn't know the offense as well. No one wanted to see the potential sitting there.

No one cared that Smith was still learning the offense. When he made some bad decisions in the off-season between his junior and senior years, the papers and fans were clamoring to get rid of him, as Oregon didn't need his type. It's funny how few friends one year ago at this time Smith had.

Coach Bellotti suspended Smith indefinitely. Two weeks later he was let back on the team, with one last chance.

Smith spent the spring and summer learning the offense. He spent his summer with Offensive Coord-

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INTERNET

Clackamas hands Centralia first two losses

Cougars rebound from two losses to Mt. Hood at home to sweep Trailblazers on road

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

The Clackamas softball team showed signs of resiliency last week.

After being swept by Mt. Hood at home last Tuesday, two wins were necessary to remain in the hunt for a league title.

Against the Saints in the first contest, the Cougars played a hard-fought game before a bad call by the field umpire resulted in the go-ahead run being scored by Mt. Hood in the sixth inning, according to Clackamas Head Coach Paul Fiskum.

"I got a little too upset as a result of that call," noted Fiskum. "We lost our composure and it carried into the second game."

In the opener, Melanie

Warthen pitched the 2-1 loss. Katie Brewster and Jessica Rowley led Clackamas with two hits each.

In the second game, the Cougars committed eight errors in a 9-5 loss.

Cortney DuPree pitched—allowing only three earned runs on five hits.

"The bad call in the first game really carried over into our second game," said Fiskum. "That shouldn't happen."

"We had eight fielding errors which is just horrible. We can't let our hitting effect our defense and our defense effect our hitting."

Brewster led Clackamas with three runs batted in and a two-for-four performance at the plate. Cecily Burton went two for four with an RBI.

"Brew hit the cover off the ball," noted Fiskum. "Cecily has been a little under the weather these last few weeks but she was tough at the plate."

On Friday, the Cougars rebounded to sweep a strong Centralia squad on the road.

In the first game, Warthen [4-3] pitched a 1-0 shutout as Summer Conroy drove in Jessica Farnsworth from third base in the fifth inning.

"This was a really hard-fought game by both teams," noted Fiskum.

"We went from committing eight errors the game before to only one error."



Freshman third baseman Melissa Cedillo sets herself against the Mt. Hood Saints last Tuesday. Cedillo and the Cougars are 4-2 in league play.

JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

"We can afford to lose tough games when we play well. It was good for us to get this victory."

In the second game, Clackamas hitters unleashed for four runs in the first inning en route to an 8-3 win.

DuPree [2-3] got the win behind a two for four performance at the plate by Brewster.

"Centralia was 6-0 coming off of a sweep of Lower Columbia

"We can afford to lose tough games when we play well."

Paul Fiskum
Head Coach

which is one of the best teams in the Northwest," said Fiskum. "Melanie is pitching as well as any pitcher in our league."

The Cougars took on Mt. Hood last night in a double-header at Delta Park in Portland.

Scores were not available at press time.

Clackamas currently sits in

fourth place in the region with a 4-2 record. Mt. Hood is in second place with a 3-1 league record.

"We're in a good position right now," noted Fiskum. "We moved the batting order around a bit which really made a difference against Centralia."

"We just need to remember to keep our composure all of the time."

The Cougars are scheduled to take on Southwester Oregon Community College tomorrow afternoon at home. First pitch is set for 3 p.m.



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print
Freshman Kirsten Richards, first baseman, steps into the box against Mt. Hood.