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Don started his minor league career at single A Walla Walla, hitting .319 and worked his way up to the "show". He hit .333 at Amarillo and his team won the Texas league title. In 1977 he was hitting near .370 in mid-season at triple A Hawaii when he broke his leg sliding into home. In 1978 Don worked hard during the winter and made the Padres' major league team. He played all year, mostly as a pinch-hitter, and hit .253. Reynolds said the toughest pitchers he faced were Houston's J.R. Richards and Hall of Famer, Steve Carlton. In 1979 he made the Padres again, but was sent back to Hawaii, and then was called up again in late summer. His last year was 1981 with the AAA Seattle Mariners. One of the highlights of his major league career was rooming with Ozzie Smith in 1979 before he joined the St. Louis Cardinals a couple of years later and getting his first major league hit, a pinch-hit double against Phil Niekro. He had a good friendship with Dave Winfield and also played with fellow-Duck Dave Roberts during the 1979 season. One of eight children, one of Don's younger brothers is Harold Reynolds who played in the major leagues and is now a prominent analyst on ESPN.

After coaching high school football and helping OSU baseball Don was hired by the Seattle Mariners in 1987 to help counsel their new phenom, Ken Griffey, Jr. "For me he was a very good young man to be


around. I enjoyed being around Kenny," Don said. From Seattle he was hired by Houston as a psychological skills instructor to help the players with their mental tools to enhance their performance. He later became a hitting coordinator in AA and AAA. In 1999-2000, he became farm director/director of player development with the Montreal Expos who were managed by Felipe Alou.

Reynolds was a great example of a true "student-athlete". "One of the things I'm most proud of is the fact that I played the two sports and still graduated in four years," Reynolds said recently. Don was a psychology major and later went on to earn a master's degree in guidance and counseling, ironically from Oregon State. After his pro baseball career Don came back to Corvallis in 1985 to help out Jack Riley with the OSU baseball program (since Oregon had discontinued theirs) and made use of his time to obtain the counseling degree. Don said that he loves the Ducks, but because of having so many friends who played for OSU, and having helped the baseball program, he doesn't hate the Beavers as many fans and former Duck players do.

For the past few years Don has been living in Portland with his wife Jan and their two children, Simone (8) and Isaac (4). Don would like to use his counseling degree to help athletes succeed in school and also develop the character and

discipline they need to succeed after graduation. "Some athletes are looked upon as thugs who can't put a sentence together. They will all become better players, but will they become better people? Character does matter and I'd like to help make sure the athlete has become a better person than when he or she came to school," Don explained. He is looking for an opportunity to settle down with his family in Oregon and share the knowledge and experience he gained in football and professional baseball with young athletes. It would be great to see Reynolds come back and help his alma mater. It's not inconceivable however that Mike Riley might want Reynolds on his team again. That wouldn't be good news for Duck fans. That might give the Beavers a little too much of an edge! **O**

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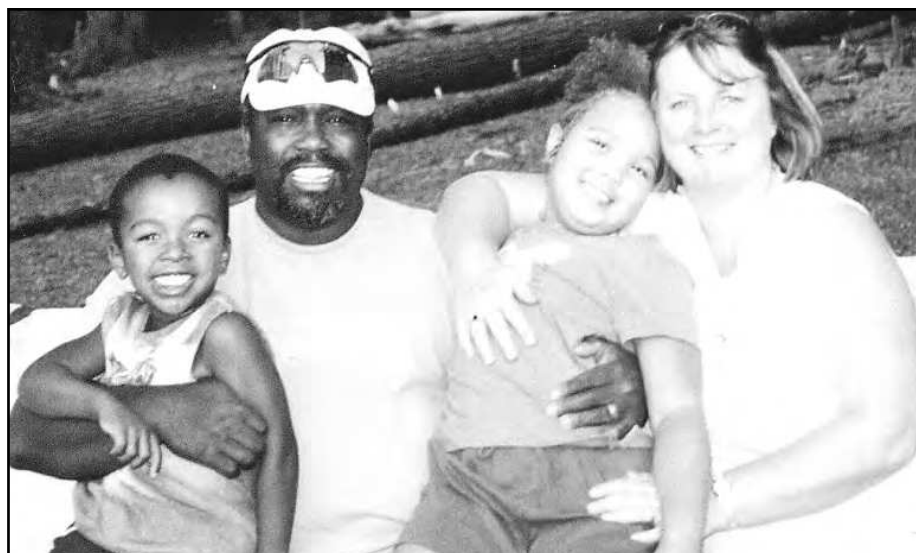
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Don and family in Portland: (l-r) son Isaac, daughter Simone & wife Jan.

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