

# Sports Person of 2003: Samie Parker

by Jerry Thompson

Throughout the University of Oregon's sports history there have been an elite group of outstanding two-sport athletes. Arguably the best ever were George Shaw and Mel Renfro who both achieved the rare honor of being All-Americans in two sports: Shaw in football and baseball and Renfro in football and track. Now record setting wide receiver and All-American track sprinter, Samie Parker from Long Beach, California joins them as well as such stars as Dick Wilkins, Woodley Lewis, Phil McHugh, Jerry Tarr, Russ Francis, Don Coleman, J.J. Birden, and Latin Berry, to name a few, as Oregon's greatest two-sport athletes.

Parker was the obvious choice for the Oregon Duck sports person of 2003 as he worked hard to improve tremendously in both football and track and he also overcame injuries and a difficult personal tragedy in 2003. In the spring Parker became the second fastest 100 meter sprinter in Oregon history by running a torrid 10.18 in Los Angeles at the Pac-10 Championships. In football he started the year with well, but then had to persevere through nagging injuries and the loss of his stepdad who was murdered early in the fall. Samie finished with a flourish by winning the MVP award in the Sun Bowl game on December 31st and in so doing broke 4 school receiving records:

#### Samie's School Records:

1. Receptions in a game: **16**  
(old record 11 by 7 players)
2. Receptions in a season: **77**  
(old record: 67 by Bob Newland

3. Career receptions: **178**  
(old record: 173 by Keenan Howry 1999-2002)

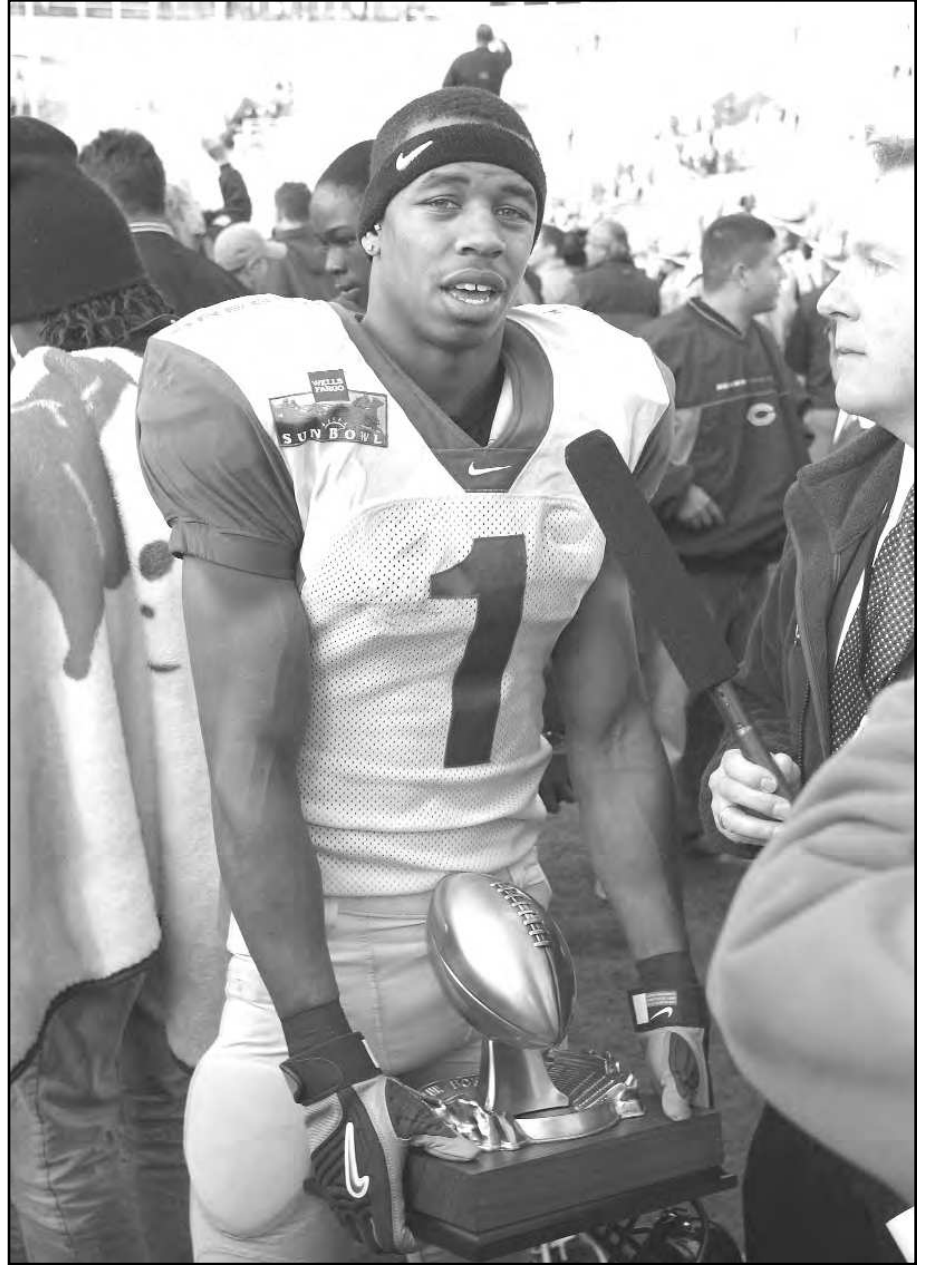


Samie set a Sun Bowl record with 16 catches.

4. Career receiving yards: **2,761**  
(old record: 2744 by Tony Hartley (1996-99)  
Our runner-up for best Duck

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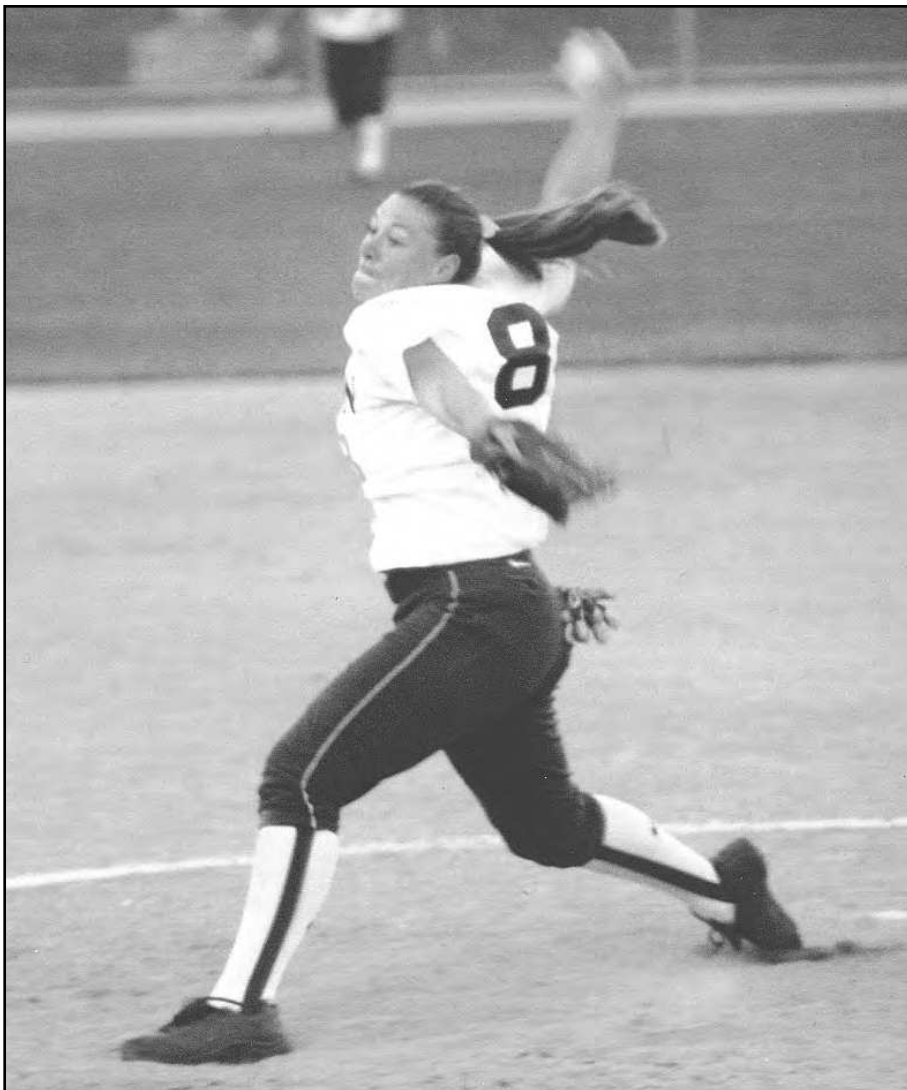


Samie was honored as the Sun Bowl's most valuable offensive player.

sports person was senior softball star **Andrea Vidlund**. Andrea, from Citrus Heights, California was one of the main contributors to an incredible season that saw the Ducks under new coach Kathy Arendsen go from the conference doormats to finish 3rd in the Pac-10, win 5 games in the NCAA playoffs, and come within one hit from

earning a trip to the College World Series. Vidlund set school records for home runs in a season (16) and a career (37) and also was an outstanding pitcher winning 6 games and saving 11.

Congratulations to Samie and Andrea for some truly outstanding performances in 2003. **O**



Andrea Vidlund was our runner-up for the Sports Person of 2003.

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