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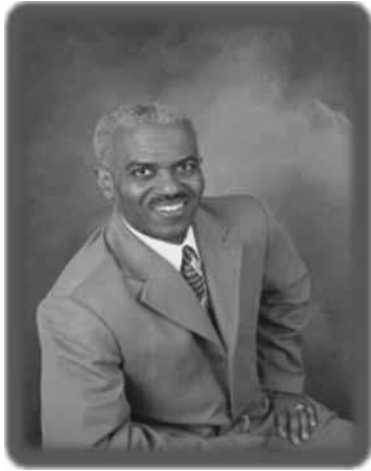
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A Voice for Refugees

A Portland student with a passion for social justice and immigrant law won the statewide Poetry Out Loud competition Saturday, making her a contender for the nationwide competition.

Belise Nishimwe, a sophomore at St. Mary's Academy, was born and raised in a refugee camp in Tanzania before moving to America at the age of five. Now a U.S. citizen, she has dedicated herself to being someone who can create a platform that gives voice to immigrants and refugees and the representation they need.

"This is everyone's victory," Nishimwe said. "I wanted to do Poetry Out Loud because when I was younger I wanted that representation that I rarely ever saw. I wanted to see other immigrants like me participate in a variety of activities



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON ARTS COMMISSION
Teen Poet Belise Nishimwe, a sophomore at St. Mary's Academy in Portland, is the 2019 Oregon Poetry Out Loud state champion.

and succeed, so that I could know that I could achieve that too."

Poetry Out Loud is organized in Oregon by the Oregon Arts Commission in collaboration with the

NEA and the Poetry Foundation. Nishimwe will advance to the national Poetry Out Loud competition in Washington, D.C., at the end of next month.



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Portland's Cameron Scarlett who is now a running back at Stanford University in California drives into the end zone for a touchdown against Notre Dame in this Nov. 25, 2017 photo from AP.

Another Scarlett Brother Shines

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Coming into the game, there was some of the talk about how players were opting to sit out including starting running back Bryce Love. How did you approach the game?

Bryce is a great running back. As for his decision, I can't really control the situation, I had to come ready to work and be ready to play.

In addition to your MVP performance (22 carries, 94 yards and 2 touchdowns), can you talk about your fumble recovery in the end zone that pushed the Cardinal on top, 14-13?

It was a bang – bang play. I knew something was up when he (Pittsburgh quarterback K.J. Costello) didn't hand the ball off. So I look back and I see the ball was coming right to me.

You've played in four different bowl games (Rose Bowl, Al-

amo and Sun Bowl twice), how has the experience been?

Bowl games are cool. They're a great finale for the season. You prepare so long for them and then it turns out to be this hard fought game.

How has your Stanford experience been so far? What are you studying and what are your future plans?

All four years went by fast.... I've enjoyed my time. I'm graduating this spring with my degree in Science, Tech and Society. I've only got four more core classes required: two this quarter and two in the spring. I get to take classes from different majors: economics, science and business. My focus is on innovation and organization. I'm a creative person... I know it sounds cliché but I think outside the box. I have an interest in tech stuff like computer science. I'm also taking an interest more into

the business world.

A few years ago, your brother was also in grad school and had a year of playing left and now he's with the Houston Texans. What kind of advice has he given you?

Enjoy this time. You won't have this time again for your life.

You're set to graduate in spring 2019. What's next for you?

I'll apply to graduate school. (Cameron has since been accepted into Stanford's master's degree program in communications). I'll still have a year left of football because I decided to redshirt my freshman year.

The author of this piece, Paul Marshall Jr. is from Portland and a graduate of the University of Oregon's Professional Master's program. His relationship with the Scarlett family dates back to the 2000s when he attended north Portland's Holy Redeemer Catholic School with both Brennan and Cameron Scarlett.

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