

# Grimble returns to practice for Beavers

Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Jalen Grimble is back at practice for the Oregon State football team this spring.

Grimble, a defensive lineman, tried to get on the field early in spring practice but decided to rest his leg.

He was on the field for his first full practice of the spring on Thursday.

"I wouldn't say I wasn't ready but I just wasn't comfortable enough to give it my all and I didn't want to come out here and be behind everybody else and hurt myself even further or take up reps that weren't up to the coaches' par while other people could be getting those valuable reps, so I took it off to get my leg strong," Grimble said.

"The plan was after spring break when I got back if I was good enough to go, I'd go. And I went."

Grimble missed six games last season after suffering a knee injury at Southern California. He tried to

come back late in the year but had not fully recovered.

Grimble said he enjoyed the contact that coach Gary Andersen and his staff allow during practice.

"It's full-go. I give everything I have," he said. "I will admit I'm a little rusty from not practicing, but there's nothing wrong with banging heads with people for a couple hours."

Grimble, who plays tackle in the 4-3 used by the Beavers under Mike Riley, was playing defensive end in the 3-4 for the Beavers. He's familiar with the defense and praised the younger players for taking on a large load of new information.

"It puts them two times behind the 8-ball because I'm a senior but I've had experience. I've had two times to learn a different defense," he said. "I know what it takes to learn a defense, to come around the curve, but it's kind of new to them. But they've been holding up, they've been keeping up, they've been asking questions and they're willing to learn."

# Prosecution rests in Aaron Hernandez murder trial

By MICHELLE R. SMITH  
Associated Press

FALL RIVER, Mass. — The prosecution rested Thursday in the murder trial of former New England Patriots star tight end Aaron Hernandez after spending more than two months presenting a case that he killed the boyfriend of his fiancée's sister.

Hernandez has pleaded not guilty to murder in the June 17, 2013, killing of Odin Lloyd, who was found shot in an industrial park less than a mile from Hernandez's home. At the time, Hernandez had a \$40 million contract with the Patriots.

Prosecutors called 131 witnesses since testimony began Jan. 29, including team owner Robert Kraft, who testified this week that two days after the killing, Hernandez looked him

in the eye and told him he was innocent. They also submitted hundreds of pieces of evidence, including surveillance videos from inside Hernandez's home that showed him holding a black object that appeared to be a gun less than 10 minutes after Lloyd's killing. A joint found near Lloyd's body had DNA from both men on it.

Hernandez's legal team has gone after that evidence, calling into question the testimony of an employee of weapons manufacturer Glock who had identified the black object as a gun and arguing instead that it was a piece of electronics such as an iPad or a TV remote. They also have gone after the police investigation, painting it as bumbling and inept and saying Hernandez was targeted as a suspect because he is a celebrity.

## NIT Championship

# Stanford claims NIT crown

## Cardinal beat Hurricanes for title

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chasson Randle hit two free throws with 3.4 seconds left in overtime, and Stanford won the second NIT title of his career, edging Miami 66-64 on Thursday.

Sheldon McClellan's double-pumping 3-point attempt that would have won it at the buzzer wasn't close to going in.

The short-handed Hurricanes had rallied from a 13-point second-half deficit to force the extra period and led 64-61 with less than a minute left. But Randle twice got to the line, making four straight foul shots for the victory.

The senior, who became the Cardinal's all-time leading scorer in Tuesday's semifinals, finished with 25 points Thursday to end his career with 2,375.

McClellan led Miami with 17 points.

The experimental 30-second shot clock being used in the NIT proved critical after Randle's free throws pulled Stanford to 64-63 with 38.9 seconds left. With the regular 35-second clock, the Cardinal (24-13) probably would have need-



AP Photo/Frank Franklin II  
Stanford's Reid Travis (22) and Miami's Ja'Quan Newton (0) fight for control of the ball during the second half of the championship game at the NIT college basketball tournament Thursday, in New York. Stanford won 66-64 in overtime.

ed to foul. Instead, they played defense, and Deandre Burnett missed a 3-point attempt that might have clinched it.

Randle then leaned into Davon Reed on a jumper to draw a foul and the chance to put Stanford in front.

Miami (25-13) threw the ball away on the ensuing inbounds pass, and after Brown made a free throw with 3.1 seconds to go, the Hurricanes appeared to do it again. But the officials went to the monitor and reversed the call, ruling Stanford touched the ball last. That gave Miami one last chance with the ball under the basket and 1.8 seconds

left. With the scored tied 55-all and just over a minute left in regulation, the game became a contest of the teams' top scorers driving to the hoop. Twice Randle hit shots to put Stanford in the lead only for McClellan to draw a foul on the other end and hit both free throws to tie it.

After McClellan made it 59-59 with 16.8 seconds to go, Stanford worked the ball around for an open 3-point attempt by Marcus Allen, who had made some big second-half shots. But he missed it at the buzzer to send the game to overtime.

# Shaka Smart to become next Longhorn coach

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Shaka Smart is leaving Virginia Commonwealth to coach the Texas Longhorns.

VCU sports information director Scott Day confirmed to reporters gathered at the campus Thursday night that Smart was making the move. Smart met with VCU players earlier in the evening at the Siegel Center, the team's home arena, and at least one player was seen crying when he left.

Texas athletic director Steve Patterson flew to Richmond on Thursday to close the deal.

Smart, who has won at least 26

games in each of his six seasons at VCU, has been one of the hottest names in college coaching since leading the Rams to the Final Four in 2011. Patterson has zeroed in on bringing Smart to Texas immediately after firing former Longhorns coach Rick Barnes last weekend.

Terms of Smart's contract were not immediately released and VCU said a statement would be released Friday. Barnes made \$2.62 million last season. Smart made \$1.8 million with the Rams.

The coach slipped into the building Thursday without speaking to the

media gathered. VCU players were escorted from the meeting by university public relations and did not comment.

At VCU, Smart took over a program that had had great success under Jeff Capel, and then Anthony Grant. Smart hopes to avoid the pitfalls at Texas that his predecessors encountered when they left to take over programs at universities considered "football schools."

Capel lasted five years at Oklahoma before being fired, and Grant spent six at Alabama before he was dismissed.

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