

Ducks fly high at NBA's Summer League

By Zach Silva
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Former Oregon Duck basketball players have been taking the NBA's Las Vegas Summer League by storm.

And it all starts with the defending NBA Champions the Golden State Warriors. The Warriors, who have essentially become a southern reunion of Ducks, feature Oregon's Jordan Bell, Dylan Ennis and Chris Boucher from this year's team and Elgin Cook from last year's Oregon squad. While Boucher is still out with an injury, the rest of the Ducks are still active.

Bell, the 38th pick in the draft, has been turning heads throughout Summer League. Last Tuesday he recorded the elusive 5x5 stat line which features at least five points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocks over the course of one game. This feat has only been done in an NBA regular season game 16 times and was most recently completed by Bell's new teammate Draymond Green.

After this game, that Bell also grabbed 11 rebounds in, he took to Twitter to state that he was "just trying to be like Draymond."

While the Warriors lost the game by three, Bell finished with a plus-minus of +29. Outside of this anomaly of a game, Bell has averaged 5 points, 9.8 rebounds and 2.8 blocks in his first four games.

As for the other Ducks on the Warriors, Cook has been playing 11 minutes a game and averaging 6.8 points while Ennis has gathered 13 minutes of playing time a game and 4.8 points.

The other Duck that was turning heads was the Memphis Grizzlies 45th pick Dillon Brooks. Brooks who was Pac-12 Player of the Year last season has been averaging 12 points a game and 3.7 rebounds.

His best game came against the Utah Jazz when Brooks shot 9/11 from the field, including 4/5 from three, and finished with 24 points. Much to the chagrin of Duck fans who witnessed Brooks' clutch shots throughout his career at UO, he was taken out of the game when it was tied with 2.6 seconds left in regulation.

Outside of former Ducks, the Portland Trail Blazers have also been participating in Las Vegas Summer League. The star of the show has been 26th pick Caleb Swanigan out of Purdue University. Swanigan is one of just four players in Summer League averaging a double-double as he is at 15 points and 10.5 boards a game. The other Blazers' first round pick Zach Collins, who was selected 10th, was averaging 6.3 points, 5.7 rebounds, two steals and two blocks per game until he injured his right quad in the third game and was ruled out for the remainder of Summer League.

Bad news only got worse for the Blazers when bench player and fan favorite Pat Connaughton went down with a left hamstring injury.

Special Olympic team wins big at State



The Cottage Grove and Creswell Special Olympics track and field team that competed at State last week.

PHOTO C/O BECKY VENICE

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Last week 17 athletes from Cottage Grove competed in the Special Olympics State Games in Corvallis.

The annual event, that works to promote values of sports and community with youth and adults who are living with intellectual disabilities, saw over 2,000 participants in track and field, bocce, golf and softball. The Cottage Grove contingent saw nine different participants in track and field and four teams of two for the bocce competition.

The weekend began with the opening ceremonies taking place at Reser Stadium. Each group of athletes was paraded into the stadium with a sign that said where they were from being held by a member of the Oregon State football team.

The track events began Saturday at Corvallis High School and in races from the 50 meter to the 200 meter and in the softball throw, Cottage Grove athletes were bringing home the hardware. William Craft got bronze, Natasha Cosper and Kendall Thiel walked away with silver and Ian Miller, Rebecca Peanella and Jill Vavreka all claimed gold. Additionally, the team also earned 11 ribbons.

"It went really well," said head coach Bob Alexander. "For a small town team that's pretty good."

On the bocce side, each of the four teams came home with a medal. The duo of Monica Venice and Carmen Dowell and the pair of Gary Hilgendorf and Eric Nilson all placed second. Then Ryan Britton and Jonathon Meade and the team of Rob Brooks and Travis Thomas both took first.

"I enjoy working with these guys, they're fun to be around. And they try so hard they give their heart," said Alexander of both groups. "They just improve physically



Oregon State lineman Travis Mackay leads out the Cottage Grove and Creswell athletes during the opening ceremonies.

and their ability to do their sport improves vastly."

The athletes and members of their families spent the weekend in the dorms at Oregon State. This was an opportunity to mingle with old and new friends and share meals.

Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week is Ryan Britton. Ryan and teammate Jonathan Meade won gold at the Special Olympic Games last week in the bocce event. In addition to finishing first, Ryan was also awarded with the sportsmanship award at the event.



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