



HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Tony Voogd, SG , (GT): Pitch merits of a different school - Oregon

Two words strike fear deeper into the heart of an aspiring PCC coach than any other.

“Duck Jam”

For a team that’s won 67.6% of their games in the Buck Wild era, the thrilling three point attack is life. Just last season, hosting a revitalized 3-0 Minnesota squad, the Ducks made quick work of the Gophers, hammering down 21 of 37 three point attempts. Oregon would score a 105-75 demolition, with the home crowd going absolutely wild. The Gophers would lead the country in three point attempts on the season, but on this night they were just another victim of “the jam” in the pacific northwest. Last season, you were one of only two starters on Oklahoma State to shoot more than 40% from deep. You’ve got what it takes to become the next member of the band in Eugene, sniping teams from outside the arc to the raucous roars of Knight arena.

This offseason, Oregon brought in two fellow graduate transfers in Scootie Myers and Malachi Simon, loading up with veteran talent to prepare for another run at the elusive PCC title which has evaded them by just a single game for three of the last four seasons. But they’re both forwards. In fact, five of Oregon’s top six are forwards, and they don’t have a shooting guard on their roster. You’re the last missing piece the Ducks need, Tony, the conductor if you will, to form a team that can organize the complex positions necessary to deliver the deadly three point barrage this squad is famous for. Without a leader, the jam can’t be the symphonious masterpiece Oregon fans have come to expect. Your baton is waiting for you Tony, left neatly on the stage by Torian Martin before he departed to pursue his dreams in the NBL. This team is ready to win now, so pick up the baton, take advantage of your final season by being a leader, and make music on the court.

And when you’re done living out the college basketball experience you dreamed about as a kid, you can follow in the footsteps of Scott Ryckbosch, Torian Martin, and Marcus Reddick and chase your own dreams in the NBL. Oregon had seventy players drafted into the pros through its



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history, and your role as the leader of one of the consistent contenders in the nation, with six straight national tournament appearances, puts you in the perfect position to be the next. Scouts won't see you as just another sharpshooter. They'll see you as a *director*, someone who made a system tick, someone who led a team to greatness. You have one season to put your name in the history books Tony. The PCC title, the *National Title*, and the pros, they're all in reach as a Duck. So do just like you will hundreds of times in the green and gold, bet on yourself, and *take the first shot* towards your future.

Oregon's unique appeal doesn't stop on the court. Eugene offers the perfect opportunity to connect with the natural world around you, with 94 miles of nature trails winding throughout the beautiful mountains, lakes, and waterfalls around the city. No matter where your interests take you, there's always something for you in Eugene. Interested in Ornithology? The cascades raptor center offers a chance to come within just a few feet and take in the beauty of a Bald Eagle or come face to face with a symbol of the West Coast, the California condor. Want a peaceful bike ride? In the spring, the Willamette River bike trail really hits its stride, as you pedal through rows of roses on the banks of the Willamette river, passing by the ducks and Kayakers slowly heading downstream, the quiet splashing of the water only adding to the peaceful serenity. Need a quick hike to unwind after a long day of practice? The McKenzie River National Recreation Trail offers some of the most breathtaking views in the nation, with a crashing waterfall obscuring the entrance to a carved out cavern in the cliffs emptying into a crystal clear basin, all to the backdrop of the giant Douglas firs towering over 100 feet above.

Once you get on campus, coach Buck Wild will be able to tell you about even more of the hidden gems of the city though I'm sure even by the end of your year in Oregon you'll still be finding experiences you can't believe you hadn't tried earlier. Coach Buck is one of the loyalist coaches I've met, Tony. He's never cut a scholarship player, and has remained the coach - the producer - of "duck jam" for nine seasons. He's committed to keeping the concert going on the court, and helping his players succeed off the court. He recently put pen to paper on an extension that will reaffirm his ironclad commitment until 2086, making it clear "duck jam" isn't just a phrase he throws around lightly, it's a movement. At Oregon, you're not just a cog in the system, you're a star in the show, and with your help the Ducks can create an award winning



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masterpiece, reaching levels of success not seen since the magical 2058 season in which they cut down the nets and won the National Championship. If that team could do it, going from underdogs with just one tournament appearance in the last four years to immortals in just one season, this team has what it takes as well, and with you at the lead, they can cement their place in the history books, leaving a legacy future Ducks *and* future Cowboys will aspire to replicate.

From hours spent in the Allan Price research library, to the Knight Graduate Internship Program, offering an accelerated master's program with a built-in internship in a real-world environment of companies, labs, and research institutes that will help you build your network, Oregon also offers you the opportunity to continue your academic journey in a top tier environment. The University of Oregon graduate school ranks in the top fifty in the nation in Education, Environmental Law and Earth Sciences just to name a few, and no matter which program you choose, the networks and connections you build with company representatives and your fellow students will leave you prepared to face to world and make real change upon your graduation.

So go to the Ducks. Join the “jam”, and make a masterpiece.