

# METRO

The Portland Observer

## 'Dreamgirls' Lead Image Award Nominations

Six members of the musical ensemble earn acting nods

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SECTION

# Brothers of Basketball

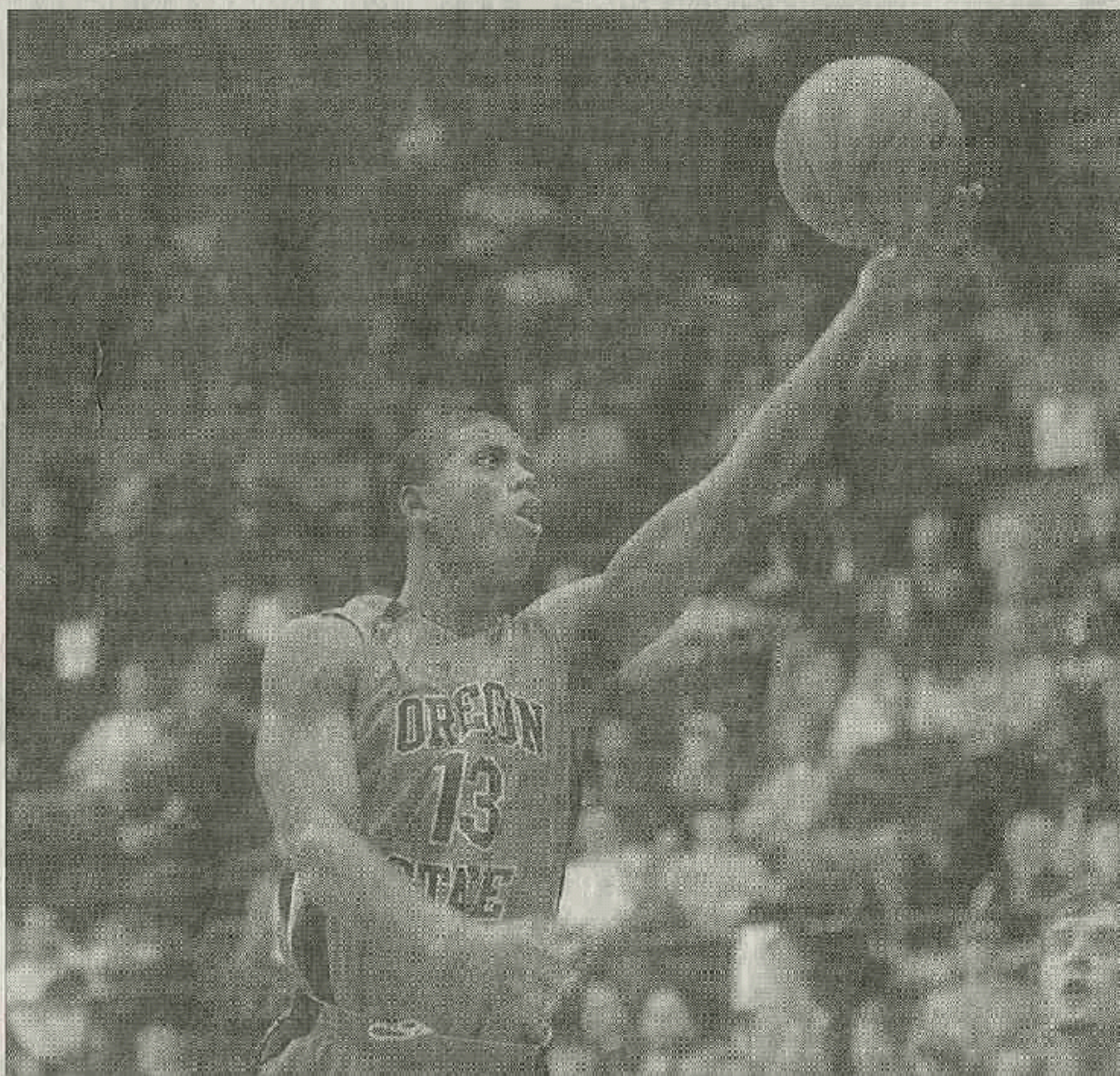
## Portland's dynamic duo at OSU

BY CHARITY PRATER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two brothers from northeast Portland who have been competing on the same basketball teams since childhood are continuing that tradition with the Oregon State University Beavers in Corvallis.

Josh and Seth Tarver, born only two years apart, are succeeding both on and off the court while competing in the top echelons of college basketball.

Josh, 20, is a 6 feet 3 inches, 185-pound guard and starter on the Pac-10 team. He's technically a freshman, returning as a red shirt player. Seth, 18, is also a freshman, coming off the bench in the guard/forward position at 6 feet 5 inches and 205 pounds.



The Tarvers started honing their basketball skills as soon as they were old enough to walk. It helped to have an athletic father who was a NFL running back from 1972 to 1975 and an older brother, Shon, who was a guard at UCLA from 1991 to 1994.

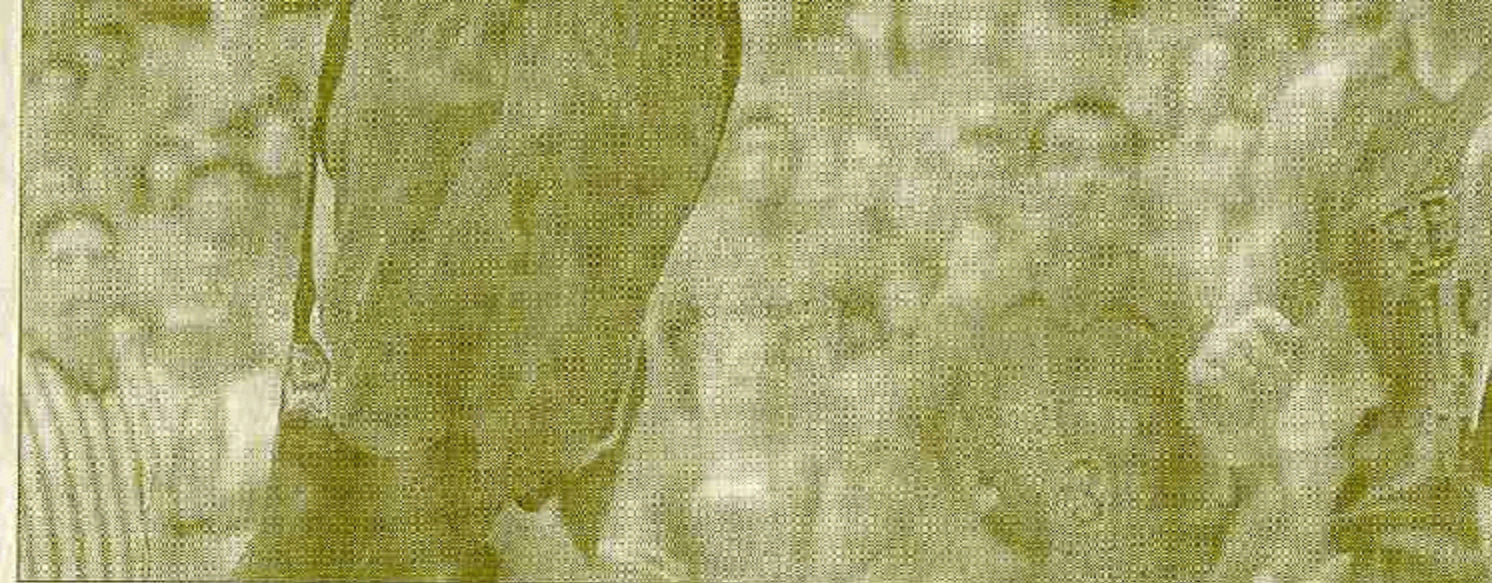
"Our older brother who is 33 right now used to play basketball with us all the time," said Josh, "we really look up to him."

Learning to run the court as easily and importantly as learning to breathe, the young siblings have both been playing on the same courts for more than 14 years.

"We played basketball whenever we could," said Josh, "At school, day, night, anytime we got a chance."

The brothers also played basketball together in kindergarten, middle school and high school. They attended Portland's Jesuit High School where they played together on the school's championship basketball team, and in grade school at Trinity Lutheran in northeast Portland.

Josh admits the most difficult aspect of



*Seth Tarver joins his brother as a member of the Oregon State University Beavers in Corvallis.*

playing ball is trying to meet everyone's expectations, especially when people become aware of the athletic history of the Tarver family. His brother agrees.

"We work hard to prove ourselves to everyone every time we set foot onto the court," said Seth.

Both off the court and on, Josh and Seth see themselves succeeding. Playing a team sport allows the brothers to compare their skills with other players. Seth admits that he enjoys being able to outrun another

player or score when the other team isn't expecting it.

"The best time we had was when we won the state championship in high school. We were down by a lot of points and surprisingly we came back and won the game," says Josh, "It's like we weren't suppose to win, but we did."

There are many advantages to having a spot on the Beavers team. The team's intensive conditioning and practices for up to six hours a day builds their bodies



*Josh Tarver of northeast Portland is starter on the Oregon State University basketball team.*

physically to top form.

Athletes across the nation have been known for run-ins with the law. From driving under the influence to fighting, some players haven't been the best role models. But Josh and Seth aim for higher standards. Being a good role model, a great player and having fun are all equally im-

portant to the Tarvers.

"People look up to athletes in general," said Seth, "You have to be cautious about everything that you do."

"We have to be role models," Josh agrees.

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# Brothers of Basketball

*continued ▲ from Metro*

Seth says losing is his least favorite part of playing basketball.

"We always try to be as competitive as possible and play to win," Josh agrees.

Although a losing streak is something the brothers don't have a lot of experience at, when they do have a dud game they reach for ways to regain their confidence.

"After you lose you just have to put it behind you," Josh said, "Then you have to look back at the game and learn from what you did wrong."

"Playing another game and winning helps too," Seth said.

The Tarvers offer no secrets to aspiring younger athletes.

"There are no secrets," said Seth, "You just have to work hard."

The brothers do agree you have to have passion for the game in

order to play it, and they know that working their hardest will make them the best players that they can be.

"You may be working hard," said Josh, "But always remember that there is someone out there working just as hard or harder than you, so you need to always do the most you can to achieve your goals."

Playing basketball keeps the Tarvers very busy and leaves them with little free time. Our interview

was even cut short when they were called to practice.

They dedicate as much time as they can to the game and both hope to make it a winning season, hit the high scores academically and keep their fans on the edges of their seats.

"Everyday we try to find new weaknesses and improve them," said Seth.

"We just try to work hard and have fun with it as well," said Josh.