

Written by Matt Prehm

When you think of the state of Oregon not many big name recruits come to mind as the state isn't known for producing a lot of top end talent. That said, the state has had it's fair share of good Quarterbacks come through the high school system and go on and play college football. Joey Harrington, AJ Feeley, Kellen Clemens, Derek Anderson, and Kevin Riley are just a few of the players who started their dreams of playing Division 1 football within the state. One of the next Quarterbacks who looks poised to do big things in the college ranks is to-be Junior Brett Smith from West Salem High school in Salem, OR.

Smith is a 6'2 180 pound quarterback with 4.7 speed and is currently working hard in the off-season getting himself and his teammates ready for the regular season in hopes to finally win a state title.

"To be honest, right now I am not focusing much on my recruiting process. I am just throwing with my teammates in the afternoons and lifting weights. Pretty much just working out and getting myself and the team ready to win state," says Smith.

While the recruiting process is picking up for this talented single caller he has other plans on how he will be handling the process.

"Well I take every letter I get seriously but right now like I said, I am strictly focusing on my team right now. I've been invited to a few camps and I am going to be going to those but right now, like I said, I am just getting the team ready. Recruiting will take care of itself if we win and I do well with the team," explained Smith.

While living close to two top Pac-10 schools in Oregon and Oregon State he's not really grown up a fan of either school and instead he's grown up a fan of good Quarterbacks in the college game. Primarily Brady Quinn at Notre Dame a few years ago, Matt Leinart at USC, and current QB Tim Tebow for the Florida Gators.

"I followed Quinn a lot when he was at Notre Dame. I also thought Matt Leinart was a really special QB. Both guys showed true heart and leadership skills that I'd love to be able to copy and use in my game. I looked at all the quarterbacks and liked the guys who were doing well. I liked the fact that both Quinn and Leinart could take over a game and be very successful. I try to do what they did. Right now my favorite player is Tim Tebow though. I love his passion for the game and his leadership and I try to mold that into my game," says Smith.

With three big time idols to follow Smith didn't hesitate to make it known he is trying to blaze his own path and not be a copy of one of the three mentioned above.

"I think every QB wants to be their own style. I try and grab a few things all good Quarterbacks

do and make it my own, but I want to be known as Brett Smith, and not like Tim Tebow or Brady Quinn. I want to be known as Brett Smith," said Smith.

While looking for players to mold himself after Smith has developed into one of the Northwest's best Dual-Threat Quarterbacks in the game. He's capable to stick in the pocket and rocket the ball in a tight spot. If the pocket breaks down he isn't afraid to scramble out and make something out of nothing with his legs.

"I think I am pretty good at getting my feet set and throwing the ball. I am also a pretty good runner when needed and I am pretty strong. I tend to never give up and always try and make that play, and sometimes it puts me in a bad spot because I never want to concede a tackle or a bad down. I will do whatever it takes to get the ball moving forward," said Smith.

While Smith is hoping for a state title, some colleges have already started their pitch to land this talented signal caller.

"Right now I am getting letters from Oregon, Oregon State, Washington, Washington State, Cal, UCLA, and Notre Dame. I don't have any offers but I've been invited to a lot of camps this summer and I am going to try and see how many I can attend," said Smith.

Check back with DuckTerritory for the second installment tomorrow to read what Smith has to say about each school that is currently recruiting him, what he is looking for, and what his thoughts are on the Oregon Ducks and his upcoming visit to Eugene.