

Chester “Tre” Simmons III

Senior, Guard, University of Washington, Ht. 6-5, Wt. 200

High School: Garfield HS, Seattle, Wash.

Birthdate: July 24, 1982 (Seattle, Wash.)

University of Washington

Two-year letterman ... Garnered first-team All-Pac-10 acclaim in 2005 ... Outstanding long-range marksman ... Departs Washington as the school record holder in single-season 3-pointers with 80 in 2005 ... His 128 career 3-pointers are the third-highest total in school history ... Completed his career ranked No. 4 among all-time Huskies by hitting 41.2 percent of his 3-point attempts ... Tallied double-figure points 46 times as a Husky ... Hit a 3-pointer in 52 of 64 career games and had multiple treys on 33 occasions ... The cousin of Donny Marshall who played collegiately at Connecticut before playing with Cleveland and New Jersey in the NBA.

2004-2005: As a senior, played 33 games and started 32 of them ... A first-team All-Pac-10 team selection ... Voted the Feb. 28 Pac-10 Player of the Week after leading UW to a home sweep of the Arizona schools ... Named to the All-Pac-10 Tournament team ... A second-team NABC all-district selection ... His 80 treys broke the previous school single-season record of 75 set by Deon Luton in 1998 ... Finished second on the team with a 16.0-point scoring average that ranked seventh among Pac-10 players ... Led the team and ranked second in the Pac-10 with a 86.8-percent free throw accuracy ... Averaged 2.42 3-pointers per game, the third-highest figure in the Pac-10 ... Tallied double-figure points in 28 of 33 games ... Registered nine 20-point performances, including a career-high 29 on two occasions ... Poured in 29 points at USC (Feb. 3) and against Arizona State (Feb. 24) ... Paced UW with 18 points, nine rebounds and four assists in the Pac-10 Tournament championship game victory over Arizona (Mar. 12) ... Hit a 3-point basket in 30 of 33 games, including 19 multiple-trey outings ... Made a career-best six 3-pointers three times, against Oregon State (Jan. 15), USC (Feb. 3) and Arizona State (Feb. 24) ... Hit 6-of-7 treys against Oregon State (Jan. 15) ... Led the team in rebounding a team-high 12 times ... Recorded a double-double against Oregon (Jan. 13) with 15 points and 12 rebounds ... Helped the Huskies to a 29-6 record, tying the 67-year-old school record for wins in a season ... Washington won its first Pac-10 Tournament championship and received a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament for the first time ever ... The Huskies advanced to the Sweet 16.

2003-2004: As a junior, played all 31 games, starting 12 of them ... One of five Huskies to average double figures with a 10.8-point scoring average ... Led all Washington scorers seven times, tying for the team lead ... Tallied double-figure points during seven of the last eight games ... Ranked eighth among Pac-10 players in 3-point percentage, hitting 40 percent (48-119) of his attempts beyond the arc ... Amassed 14 treys in the final five games, including five during a Pac-10 Tournament semifinal win over Arizona (Mar. 12) ... Broke open a one-point game in the second half of the 75-62 win over No. 1 Stanford (Mar. 6) with three straight 3-pointers ... Hit at least one 3-pointer in 10 of the final 11 games and had 14 multiple-trey outings ... Poured in a season-high 22 points at Arizona (Feb. 26), including 4-of-6 shooting from beyond the arc ... Helped the Huskies to a 19-12 record and their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1999 ... The 12-6 Pac-10 record and second-place conference finish were UW's best since 1986.

Green River Community College (Auburn, Wash.)

As a sophomore in 2003, twice reached the 50-point plateau in games with a 51- and 50-point performance to his credit ... Amassed 29.8 points and 9.2 rebounds per game ... The 2003 West Division MVP of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) after leading the conference in scoring ... Erupted for 50 points and 19 rebounds in a 105-80 win over Pierce College (Jan. 29) ... Hit 5-of-7 shots from 3-point range in that game and converted all nine of his free throw attempts ... Broke his own school record with 51 points in the second meeting with Pierce CC ... Rated among the nation's top junior college prospects entering his sophomore season ... Ranked as the No. 3 junior college wing forward in 2003 by Van Coleman's *FutureStars* magazine ... A fifth-team JC All-America selection by *Street and Smith's* magazine and a top-10 small forward pick by *The Sporting News*.

Odessa Junior College (Odessa, Texas)

As a freshman in 2002, averaged 12.3 points, 5.1 rebounds and 2.0 steals during his only season at Odessa ... His best game was a 17-point, 12-rebound effort during a 79-75 win over Clarendon ... The Wranglers finished with an 18-4 record after advancing to the 2002 regional tournament ... Odessa placed second in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference with a 7-1 mark.

Garfield High School (Seattle, Wash.)

As a senior in 2000, averaged 13 points and eight rebounds ... Helped the Bulldogs reach the Washington state tournament semifinals where they lost 54-52 to eventual champion Foss of Tacoma.

Simmons' Washington Statistics

YEAR	GP/GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-A	PCT	FT-A	PCT	OR-DR	TOT	AVG	PF-DQ	AST	TO	BK	ST	PTS	AVG
2003-2004	31/12	677	21.8	122-272	.449	48-119	.403	42-55	.764	28-77	105	3.4	64-0	45	59	4	28	334	10.8
2004-2005	33/32	864	26.2	185-409	.452	80-192	.417	79-91	.868	59-101	160	4.8	83-3	52	67	5	44	529	16.0
TOTALS	64/44	1541	24.1	307-681	.451	128-311	.412	121-146	.829	87-178	265	4.1	147-3	97	126	9	72	863	13.5

Tre Simmons Game-by-Game 2004-05 Season Statistics

Opponent	Date	GS	Min	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		----REBOUNDS----											Pts	Avg	
				FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	PF	FO	A	TO	Blk			Stl
vs Oklahoma	11/26/04		27	4-11	.364	1-4	.250	4-4	1.000	1	5	6	6.0	2	0	2	2	1	1	13	13.0
vs Alabama	11/27/04	*	32	5-13	.385	3-6	.500	2-2	1.000	4	5	9	7.5	2	0	4	3	0	4	15	14.0
at Gonzaga	12/02/04	*	22	2-8	.250	2-7	.286	0-0	.000	4	2	6	7.0	5	1	4	3	0	0	6	11.3
EASTERN WASHINGTON	12/05/04	*	30	8-13	.615	1-3	.333	3-3	1.000	0	1	1	5.5	3	0	0	2	0	4	20	13.5
SAN DIEGO STATE	12/07/04	*	26	9-13	.692	5-7	.714	0-0	.000	0	2	2	4.8	4	0	1	2	0	0	23	15.4
at Loyola Marymount	12/12/04	*	29	10-17	.588	4-6	.667	2-2	1.000	3	6	9	5.5	4	0	1	3	0	2	26	17.2
NORTH CAROLINA STATE	12/19/04	*	30	4-10	.400	0-1	.000	4-5	.800	3	3	6	5.6	2	0	2	1	0	2	12	16.4
SACRED HEART	12/22/04	*	20	6-12	.500	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	0	0	4.9	2	0	1	0	0	2	13	16.0
HOUSTON	12/24/04	*	20	4-7	.571	1-2	.500	7-8	.875	3	6	9	5.3	3	0	3	2	1	0	16	16.0
CALIFORNIA	12/31/04	*	22	6-10	.600	2-3	.667	4-4	1.000	0	2	2	5.0	4	0	0	2	1	3	18	16.2
STANFORD	01/02/05	*	30	6-14	.429	1-2	.500	4-5	.800	3	4	7	5.2	0	0	2	1	0	0	17	16.3
at USC	01/06/05	*	23	8-13	.615	4-5	.800	2-2	1.000	2	5	7	5.3	4	0	1	2	1	2	22	16.8
at UCLA	01/08/05	*	29	7-15	.467	2-4	.500	3-3	1.000	4	3	7	5.5	3	0	1	1	0	1	19	16.9
OREGON	01/13/05	*	34	6-16	.375	1-6	.167	2-2	1.000	5	7	12	5.9	2	0	1	6	0	3	15	16.8
OREGON STATE	01/15/05	*	25	8-14	.571	6-7	.857	4-6	.667	1	6	7	6.0	1	0	4	1	0	1	26	17.4
WASHINGTON STATE	01/23/05	*	24	3-10	.300	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	2	2	4	5.9	1	0	0	0	0	2	7	16.8
at Arizona	01/27/05	*	26	4-14	.286	4-11	.364	1-2	.500	1	2	3	5.7	5	1	0	2	0	0	13	16.5
at Arizona State	01/30/05	*	26	5-11	.455	1-6	.167	4-4	1.000	1	1	2	5.5	3	0	1	1	0	1	15	16.4
USC	02/03/05	*	26	11-21	.524	6-14	.429	1-4	.250	2	4	6	5.5	0	0	3	3	0	2	29	17.1
UCLA	02/05/05	*	26	4-13	.308	1-6	.167	2-2	1.000	3	3	6	5.6	0	0	1	3	0	2	11	16.8
at Oregon	02/10/04	*	27	1-11	.091	0-5	.000	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	5.3	5	1	0	1	0	1	4	16.2
at Oregon State	02/13/05	*	28	6-14	.429	1-7	.143	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	5.1	3	0	1	2	0	3	15	16.1
at Washington State	02/19/05	*	20	5-12	.417	4-10	.400	2-2	1.000	2	3	5	5.1	2	0	0	1	0	0	16	16.1
ARIZONA STATE	02/24/05	*	33	9-19	.474	6-7	.857	5-6	.833	1	3	4	5.1	3	0	1	2	0	1	29	16.7
ARIZONA	02/26/05	*	32	9-14	.643	5-10	.500	1-2	.500	1	2	3	5.0	1	0	2	4	0	4	24	17.0
at California	03/03/05	*	24	7-19	.368	4-10	.400	2-2	1.000	3	1	4	5.0	1	0	3	1	0	0	20	17.1
at Stanford	03/05/05	*	25	3-7	.429	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	1	1	2	4.9	3	0	1	5	1	0	8	16.7
vs Arizona State	03/10/05	*	19	4-8	.500	1-3	.333	8-8	1.000	0	3	3	4.8	3	0	0	4	0	1	17	16.8
vs Stanford	03/11/05	*	25	1-7	.143	0-5	.000	0-0	.000	3	5	8	4.9	2	0	2	3	0	1	2	16.2
vs Arizona	03/12/05	*	32	7-14	.500	2-6	.333	2-3	.667	3	6	9	5.0	1	0	4	0	0	0	18	16.3
vs Montana (NCAA)	03/17/05	*	25	6-12	.500	3-7	.429	0-0	.000	2	3	5	5.0	2	0	4	3	0	0	15	16.3
vs PACIFIC (NCAA)	03/19/05	*	28	4-11	.364	3-8	.375	4-4	1.000	0	3	3	5.0	3	0	2	1	0	0	15	16.2
vs Louisville (NCAA)	03/24/05	*	19	3-6	.500	2-4	.500	2-2	1.000	1	0	1	4.8	4	0	0	0	0	1	10	16.0
Totals.....		32	864	185-409	.452	80-192	.417	79-91	.868	59	101	160	4.8	83	3	52	67	5	44	529	16.0

Games played: 33

Points/game: 16.0

FG Pct: 45.2

3FG Pct: 41.7

FT Pct: 86.8

Rebounds/game: 4.8

Assists/game: 1.6

Turnovers/game: 2.0

Assist/turnover ratio: 0.8

Steals/game: 1.3

Blocks/game: 0.2

Tre Simmons Game-by-Game 2003-04 Season Statistics

Opponent	Date	GS	---TOTAL---			---3-PTS---			---REBOUNDS---												Pts	Avg
			Min	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl			
PORTLAND STATE	11/21/03		3	1-2	.500	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2.0	
UC RIVERSIDE	11/24/03		12	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	2	2	4	2.5	1	0	2	1	1	0	5	3.5	
EASTERN WASHINGTON	11/29/03		22	6-10	.600	3-3	1.000	4-4	1.000	0	4	4	3.0	1	0	3	0	1	0	19	8.7	
GONZAGA	12/03/03	*	22	1-7	.143	1-6	.167	0-0	.000	1	3	4	3.3	2	0	2	1	0	1	3	7.3	
at Wyoming	12/06/03	*	26	3-10	.300	0-5	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.8	3	0	1	0	0	1	6	7.0	
at Houston	12/20/03	*	30	3-10	.300	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	3	3	6	3.3	2	0	2	1	0	1	6	6.8	
at San Diego State	12/27/03	*	18	5-10	.500	2-4	.500	1-1	1.000	1	3	4	3.4	4	0	0	2	1	2	13	7.7	
COLUMBIA	12/30/03	*	22	5-9	.556	3-5	.600	2-2	1.000	1	3	4	3.5	2	0	1	4	0	0	15	8.6	
at California	01/02/04	*	33	5-8	.625	2-4	.500	4-4	1.000	0	0	0	3.1	4	0	4	1	0	1	16	9.4	
at Stanford	01/04/04	*	27	4-7	.571	2-2	1.000	3-4	.750	2	1	3	3.1	2	0	3	1	0	2	13	9.8	
USC	01/08/04	*	30	3-10	.300	1-5	.200	0-0	.000	0	2	2	3.0	2	0	3	4	0	1	7	9.5	
UCLA	01/10/04	*	28	2-8	.250	0-2	.000	1-2	.500	1	4	5	3.2	4	0	3	5	0	0	5	9.2	
at Oregon	01/15/04	*	26	0-3	.000	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	2	0	2	3.1	4	0	1	1	0	1	2	8.6	
at Oregon State	01/17/04	*	27	5-10	.500	1-2	.500	0-2	.000	0	5	5	3.2	1	0	0	3	0	2	11	8.8	
at Washington State	01/24/04		20	3-8	.375	1-3	.333	3-4	.750	1	8	9	3.6	3	0	0	2	0	0	10	8.9	
ARIZONA	01/29/04		17	2-8	.250	1-5	.200	2-2	1.000	2	0	2	3.5	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	8.8	
ARIZONA STATE	01/31/04		22	7-10	.700	3-6	.500	4-4	1.000	0	1	1	3.4	2	0	1	3	0	1	21	9.5	
at USC	02/05/04		24	6-11	.545	1-3	.333	1-2	.500	1	3	4	3.4	3	0	1	2	0	2	14	9.7	
at UCLA	02/07/04		17	1-7	.143	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.2	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	9.3	
OREGON	02/12/04		11	0-3	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	3.2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	8.9	
OREGON STATE	02/14/04		22	7-13	.538	2-6	.333	1-1	1.000	0	3	3	3.1	3	0	4	1	0	0	17	9.2	
WASHINGTON STATE	02/19/04		20	4-11	.364	4-7	.571	0-0	.000	1	0	1	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	9.4	
at North Carolina St.	02/22/04		22	3-7	.429	1-3	.333	2-3	.667	0	3	3	3.0	0	0	3	2	0	2	9	9.3	
at Arizona	02/26/04		26	9-14	.643	4-6	.667	0-1	.000	1	4	5	3.1	3	0	2	1	0	0	22	9.9	
at Arizona State	02/28/04		17	4-8	.500	0-2	.000	3-4	.750	1	2	3	3.1	3	0	1	4	0	0	11	9.9	
CALIFORNIA	03/04/04		24	6-14	.429	2-5	.400	2-4	.500	0	4	4	3.2	2	0	3	2	0	1	16	10.2	
STANFORD	03/06/04		20	6-10	.600	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	2	1	3	3.1	1	0	2	3	1	3	16	10.4	
vs UCLA	03/11/04		18	5-7	.714	2-4	.500	3-3	1.000	1	2	3	3.1	2	0	2	1	0	2	15	10.5	
vs Arizona	03/12/04		22	6-11	.545	5-8	.625	2-2	1.000	2	4	6	3.2	3	0	0	6	0	2	19	10.8	
vs Stanford	03/13/04		24	3-10	.300	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	2	2	4	3.3	0	0	1	2	0	0	7	10.7	
vs UAB (NCAA)	03/19/04	*	25	5-12	.417	2-5	.400	1-2	.500	1	6	7	3.4	4	0	0	3	0	1	13	10.8	
Totals.....		12	677	122-272	.449	48-119	.403	42-55	.764	28	77	105	3.4	64	0	45	59	4	28	334	10.8	

Games played: 31

Points/game: 10.8

FG Pct: 44.9

3FG Pct: 40.3

FT Pct: 76.4

Rebounds/game: 3.4

Assists/game: 1.5

Turnovers/game: 1.9

Assist/turnover ratio: 0.8

Steals/game: 0.9

Blocks/game: 0.1

Simmons' Washington Career Highs

Points: 29, vs. USC (2/3/05) & vs. Arizona State (2/24/05)

Rebounds: 12, vs. Oregon (1/13/05)

Assists: 4, on seven occasions, last vs. Montana (3/17/05)

Blocks: 1, on nine occasions, last at Stanford (3/5/05)

Steals: 4, on three occasions, last vs. Arizona (2/26/05)

Minutes: 34, vs. Oregon (1/13/05)

From city streets to UW threes

By Mike Baker

On the backside of Tre Simmons' forearms, scrawled in an elegant font, are two tattoos that unite to exude a short statement -- "God's Gift."

In the midst of the Washington guard's exceptional senior season, those arms have proven to be the perfect gift for the Husky men's basketball team, a particularly special present, considering that two years before graduating high school Simmons had no plans to play any sort of collegiate basketball.

As a freshman at Garfield High School, formal competitive basketball wasn't even on Simmons' radar, as the undersized freshman resolved to keep up his hoops skills by playing street ball. High school basketball, he said, didn't allow him the "freedom" he wanted.

Instead, Simmons was exercising his teenage freedom elsewhere -- roaming the streets of Seattle.

"My ninth- and 10th-grade year, I was just bad," the soft-spoken Simmons said. "I didn't care. I was just hanging out with my friends on the streets until one o'clock in the morning doing things I wasn't supposed to be doing."

Basketball players at Garfield High School were calling on Simmons, known well for his basketball exploits at Madison Park, to turn out for the squad. Even Husky junior guard Brandon Roy, then an entering freshman at Garfield, recalled approaching Simmons, who had sprouted to about 6-foot-4 at the beginning of his junior year, about joining the team.

"Tre, you've got to come out with the team," pleaded Roy. "You're good, you're tall, and man, you can play."

Simmons responded with his usual mantra, "Yeah, man, but my grades aren't any good and I can't ever seem to get them right."

In fact, Simmons hadn't attended classes on a consistent basis for two years. But, after airballing his first two years of high

school academics, Simmons' life took a dramatic change.

Simmons' grandfather, Hilton Galloway, passed away at the beginning of Simmons' junior year, causing the quiet street kid to reconsider his life.

"That's when I was like, 'I've really got my stuff together,'" Simmons said, recalling his close relationship with his grandfather and the role of support that Galloway played in his life.

It wouldn't be easy. Simmons' lack of participation in the classroom had left him years behind the academic grade. But the tall, street ball star had it in his mind to do everything in his power to get his life straight.

"I was trying to get my school situation right, play basketball, maybe even play college basketball," Simmons said.

For the next two years, Simmons dedicated himself to taking night classes every quarter while also contributing on the basketball court. Simmons was still so far behind that he didn't even bother to take the SATs and had no chance at attending a Division I school. Nevertheless, the devoted student had squared himself up to an open shot to a junior college.

"It was really draining, but it was worth it," Simmons said.

In the fall of 2001, Simmons qualified and enrolled at Odessa College in Texas, where he gained some exposure in the Western Junior Athletic Conference. In April of 2002, the UW hired Lorenzo Romar to coach men's basketball, and, thanks to some prodding from former Garfield teammate Will Conroy, Romar went to watch Simmons play. The Odessa freshman, averaging 12 points per game at the time, made a good impression.

Before coming to Washington, Simmons played one more year of junior college ball, this time for Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash. It was at Green River that Simmons' shooting really took off.

Simmons dominated Green River's small league, leading the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges with 29.8 points per game, and, on two occasions, the perimeter specialist bagged more than 50 points in a game.

Simmons led the Gators to a 20-10 record and to the championship game of the NWAACC. Green River came up two points short in the finals, much to the chagrin of the sophomore sensation.

"That was the only game I didn't score over 20 points," Simmons said. "I just felt like it was my fault."

Today, Simmons, who has a tattoo of the Space Needle etched on the side of his leg, is standing tall in Seattle and in search of a more noteworthy championship. Known for his silky shooting motion, Simmons is ranked sixth in the Pac-10 in points per game despite starting the season on the bench. The shooter is becoming a go-to-guy for the Huskies, shooting 47 percent from the 3-point line.

"He's also becoming one of our best defenders if not our top defender," Romar said. "He's becoming an all around good basketball player."

Despite his outstanding season, the coy swingman has struggled to gain any recognition outside of his team's locker room. Roy and junior guard Nate Robinson, and not Simmons, are the ones receiving nationwide press and respect.

"It's amazing that he doesn't get more recognition around the country," Romar said.

If Simmons continues to clip along at his current pace, however, he may soon gain his recognition in the NBA.

Until then, Simmons is focused on finishing out his collegiate career and his academic work in American Ethnic Studies. Once an academic casualty, Simmons will be the first person in his family to earn a degree from a four-year institution.

Everything's falling for Simmons

By Blaine Newnham

Washington plays a raucous brand of basketball, darting on defense, dashing on offense, all over the floor, reflecting the impishness of Nate Robinson.

But in the midst of this creative chaos is Tre Simmons, a player who lays in wait, waiting to deliver the decisive blow.

Simmons is what Washington has lacked for almost forever: a shooter.

Every time he pulls up and releases a shot, you expect it to go in.

Last night, in a startling easy 108-68 win over Oregon State, he was mesmerizing.

In seven second-half trips down the floor he zeroed in on four three-point shots, added a couple of free throws when he was fouled and dished off for two more buckets, a lob to Robinson and a unselfish handoff to Mike Jensen.

That was 14 of his 26 points, tying his career high at Washington.

Deon Luton was a streaky shooter for the Huskies in the 1990s.

But Simmons is better than Luton. In fact, he might be the best Huskies shooter since Clarence Ramsey in the early '70s, maybe the best shooter the Huskies have ever had this side of Bob Houbregs' hook-shot artistry of the '50s.

Simmons slips fluidly between defenders, waiting for the defense to be distracted, waiting for the ball from his teammates, waiting to shoot.

He makes just about half his shots, and is better than that (51.5 percent) from beyond the three-point arc.

From the dependable distance of the free-throw line, he is shooting 89 percent.

Last night he started by missing four of his first five shots. And his first free throw.

"I said to myself, 'You're a better shooter than that.' I kind of talked myself into it," Simmons said later.

In the second half, he made 5 of 6 shots and scored 17 points in 10 minutes.

With 11 seconds to go in the first half, the Huskies ran a play to him, something they'll do when they really need it. Will Conroy handed off the ball near the top of the key, and Simmons connected on a three over two Beavers.

"It was more dramatic than it needed to be," said UW coach Lorenzo Romar with a smile.

Simmons wasn't always a great shooter.

In fact, at Garfield High School, where he played with Conroy, Brandon Roy and Isaiah Stanback, Simmons was the point guard.

"I was an OK shooter," he said this week, "but I was the point guard, more of a one-on-one, cross-you-over dude. It wasn't until I got to Green River that I became a shooter. My coach (Travis DeCuire) told me if I could get my shot down, I could be one of the top players in the country."

And so the extra work began. Hours and hours of shooting. Twice at Green River Community College in Auburn, he scored more than 50 points in a game.

Bob Bender, then the UW coach, didn't recruit Simmons in high school, going hard after his teammate Roy instead, while also taking backup point guard Conroy as a walk-on.

When Romar replaced Bender, Conroy started talking up his former high-school teammate and wouldn't quit until Romar agreed to watch Simmons in an open-gym situation.

"No one could guard him," said Romar. "He wasn't a great defender, but he was quick enough to keep people in front of him. And he had this uncanny knack of squeezing down the baseline for a shot."

Simmons left Garfield for community-college basketball in Odessa, Texas, mostly because his mom wanted him to.

"I wasn't doing very well around here," he said. But there was no doubt he wanted to come back. After going to Green River, he considered Texas, Nevada-Las Vegas and Oklahoma State before picking the Huskies.

"I trusted Coach Romar," he said. "He's a good guy on and off the court. He's not some fake dude."

Against Oregon on Thursday, Simmons hit just 6 of 16 shots. But he still had 12 rebounds and spent some of the night guarding Oregon's Aaron Brooks. Last night was the 12th game in a row he has scored in double figures.

His overall game has improved immensely, partly because he has worked on it, and partly because he has needed it to make up for the loss of Roy, who missed time after knee surgery.

Roy is called Washington's best all-around player, but the 6-foot-5 Simmons dominates the numbers for Washington.

In the Pac-10, he is first in free-throw percentage, fourth in three-point percentage, sixth in scoring and steals and ninth in rebounding. He leads the Huskies in rebounding, and with his 26 points last night he took over the UW scoring lead from Robinson.

"I don't remember a better, more consistent shooter at Washington," said Romar.

"Tre had good size for a shooter, he can put it on the floor and he can pass the ball," he continued. "He has developed into a very good all-around player."

Not just some "cross-you-over" dude.