

# SPORTS

## GETTING CASUAL WITH CAS

by George Beres

### Cas The Telecaster

Even in retirement, Len Casanova remains the most respected sports figure in the state of Oregon. As football coach and then athletic director at the University of Oregon (1951-1970), Cas has earned respect not only for his many achievements on the playing field, but for his concern for people and his interest in the needs of the individual. Cas continues to be active as a good will ambassador not only for the Ducks, but for intercollegiate sport itself. Where his pace once was hectic, it is now comfortable, which leads to this series of columns entitled, Getting Casual with Cas.



Len Casanova

Coaches usually are the subject of the second guessing of broadcasters. But there was one time when Len Casanova got the chance himself behind the mike during a game. It was before a regional TV audience for ABC-TV in 1967.

Memories of that day came flooding back when it was announced that Oregon's first game of the 1985 season had been rescheduled for Aug. 31 in order to be televised.

Cas's one and only opportunity as a game broadcaster was for the first game ever played in Autzen Stadium, Oregon vs. Colorado. It came because of a strike by AFTRA—the TV performers' union—which prevented the professional telecasters, Keith Jackson and the late Jackie Jensen, from crossing picket lines to do the game.

So Cas, the UO athletic director, and former Colorado coach Dal Ward were called upon to do the color commentary, while a San Francisco TV sales executive, Ken Flowers, fumbled his way through the play-by-play.

"We got along OK," said Cas, "except we kept interrupting each other when we felt we had something important we needed to say, and forgot that one of our partners already was talking into the microphone."

Cas didn't deny one newspaper account that described him as looking "so nervous that he looked like he was about to play Washington for the national championship."

As for this year's TV game, Cas believes that, while the large TV fee will give the competing schools, Oregon and Washington State, a financial boost, it will create concerns for Oregon coach Rich Brooks.

"We know Rich dislikes open dates in the season. This now gives him three this year: September 7, October 12 and November 9."

On the same 1967 day that Cas was sweating out the TV assignment in Eugene, I was doing the same thing in Evanston, Ill. ABC-TV had asked me, the radio broadcaster for Northwestern at the time, to join the Big Ten Conference publicity man in subbing for the striking telecasters who were to have done the Miami (Fla.) game at Northwestern. At the last minute, however, the broadcasters, Bill Flemming and Terry Brennan, chose to cross the picket lines.

There was frustration mixed with relief felt by the two would-be telecasters. But the frustration was forgotten a week later, when we each received checks for \$400 from ABC-TV "for our troubles."

Did Cas get any pay?

"Not a cent," said Cas. "Dal and I had an interesting experience. We enjoyed the view on the TV monitors, and some of the press box's cold pop on a hot day. But that was it."

To make things worse from Cas's view, Oregon lost the game, 17-13.

## RUNNING: PRE'S TRAIL & BEYOND

### Nike 25K

The date for the new Nike 25K run, which takes the place of the former OTC-Nike Marathon, is fast approaching. It is Sunday, September 8, starting at 8 am. The start and finish will be near Hayward Field.

The route goes through the University Campus by way of 13th Avenue, then to Pearl by 15th, then all the way up to the end of Amazon Blvd., which will have a double run to 24th Avenue and return before going back to Hayward Field by the way of East 24th Avenue and Agate St. Total distance: 25 kilometers or over 15, nearly 16, miles. The entry price is \$5 and finishers of the race will get T-shirts. Drawings will be held for other awards.

Still earlier, on September 2, will be the Nike sponsored Autzen

### by Jack Craig

Stadium Labor Day "Pre's Trail Run." This will include a 5K run, starting at 9:30 am and a 10,000 meter competitive race at 10 am. The preregistration entry fee is \$5 with T-shirts promised to all registered runners at 8:30 am on Race Day. The race-way is to the Greenway Bridge at Valley River and the return is by the Willamette Corridor Bike Way—an unusually beautiful along-the-water run, both coming and going.

Still no word about the whereabouts of the Pre's Trail sign which was stolen from the footbridge site near Autzen Stadium earlier this summer. The sign was most important for trail users and particularly for visiting runners.

Persons knowing or having any tips or information on what happened to the sign, please call me at 686-0812.

### Upcoming Runs

11th Annual Pre's Trail Run, Sept. 2 at Autzen Stadium, Eugene. Registration and T-shirt pickups at 8:30 am with 5K fun run at 9:30 am and 10K race at 10 am.

Nike-OTC 25K, Sunday, Sept. 8, starting on Agate Street, near Hayward Field, Eugene at 8 am. Registration at Nike, Eugene, \$5. All finishers get T-shirts.

Prefontaine Memorial Run, Coos Bay, on Saturday, Sept. 21, beginning at 11 am at 4th and Anderson in downtown Coos Bay. Application blanks available at local running stores.

## What's HAPPENING

The Eugene area's guide to  
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## MEN'S GROUP

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Americans and Russians, a world apart,  
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"It was incredible: we saw each other, spoke to  
each other..."

Moscow News

"You had a feeling we were reaching out as  
hard as we could to touch them."

San Francisco Chronicle

## THE BEYOND WAR SPACEBRIDGE

A special TV satellite "spacebridge" joins together people of the US and the USSR to honor two distinguished doctors, one from Boston, the other from Moscow. Musician Paul Winter, jazz singer Rita James, and folksinger Jeanne Bialewskaya join with children's choruses from both countries.

Sunday 10PM Ch. 7  
September 8