

Voracious Ducks prime for Arizona State

Enright's making changes

It's spring in Autzen stadium, and regardless of the weather around the rest of Eugene lately, it has Dick Enright smiling to himself a lot lately.

Actually it's the Oregon football team that has produced a smiling Enright, while spring appears to be still quite debatable at this point.

Enright, head football coach going into his second year, likes the way spring football practice has been

"When they don't look forward to the hitting part, they'll get hurt," Enright said. "We make it so they like it. We alternate the hitting with what we call the slow-teach." In other words, when the body isn't working, the mind is.

"Then when we say go, we work hard, with a lot of fire and enthusiasm. The drills are short, but intense."

Meanwhile Norv Turner was busy stepping into the shoes of Dan Fouts. Of

good back when Bobby Moore was around to help, and Enright's own innovation — the slot back of the "Oregon option."

Ducks won't de-emphasize pass

Last season's not-so-famous "Oregon option" (sometimes known as the half-wishbone) produced a slot man (Maurice Anderson) with a double-threat as either a receiver, or runner in the triple option.

Basically, the move takes away a wide receiver and puts him in an I-formation in the backfield.

Enright insists, however, it isn't a de-emphasis of the pass. "We're not going to be a 'four years and a cloud of dust' team," Enright assured, "but we are working on the inside stuff now, because it's new. We have to concentrate on what's new."

The offensive shift to a formation was primarily dictated by his personnel.

(6-4, 236) may be one of Oregon's all-time best offensive linemen. Enright has compared him favorably with graduated Tim Stokes, a first round pro draft pick.

Although Hunt isn't any bigger (6-6, 291) from last year, he's a year older. As a freshman starter Hunt drew criticism from opponents last year who said he leaned in his stance just prior to the snap of the ball depending on what play was called. But the critics eventually shut up when they found out they couldn't get around him anyway.

Guy goes to offensive tackle

Mike Bolliger (6-3, 246) also figures in the plans in the offensive line, although at present he's throwing the hammer for the track squad. In a move to further strengthen the offensive line, which at times last year literally threatened Dan Fouts' life by letting so many opponents through, defensive end Tim Guy (6-6, 235) is trying his hand at offensive tackle.



Photo by Matt McCormick

Oregon quarterback Norval Turner

He's busy filling Dan Fouts' shoes

progressing out at Autzen (which is open to the public). "I'm really pleased. They're looking great," Enright said Monday, "for being out here just three days."

Practice started last Friday and the voraciousness of the hitting forces you to believe Arizona State is on everyone's mind.

Having fun means some contact

"There's a lot of enthusiasm out here. By far the most since I've been here," Enright said. "There's a lot of contact, but tough guys like that. That's the name of the game. We want them to have fun. We believe in having fun and knocking someone on the seat of his pants."

Enright has enforced a philosophy on his practice field much like that of Dick Harter's on the basketball court. Enright alternates light and heavy work loads for the players throughout the practice.

course, that's a pretty big order," but Turner's off to a good start.

Turner is establishing himself

Deftly flipping passes that brought back reflections of his predecessor, Turner quickly established his position at the top of the heap of a number of untested quarterbacks. Also battling strongly and currently the leading contender as back-up behind Turner, is Lee Huey, a red-shirt sophomore who lost some weight while retaining the superb passing touch that earned him credentials two years ago on the freshman squad.

But while Turner and Huey are throwing in September form, Enright has already moved to if not de-emphasize the pass, then at least to re-emphasize the run in a new Oregon offense. Adding a touch of Jerry Frei to his own game, Enright has come up with an offensive formation that combines the I-formation that made

Enright's new Mean Green:

"We believe in having fun and knocking someone on the seat of his pants. You know what really makes this team? These guys like each other . . .

This is a very close-knit team"

"We have to go with the material we've got. It takes big linemen and it takes a big, strong fullback to block to run the USC style of the I-formation."

Although Enright won't have any Bobby Moore at tailback, he has a long list of fleet-footed runners. The list, including some highly rated prep stars, is headed by Don Reynolds who averaged over eight yards every time he touched the ball last year. Making a strong bid for the spot in spring drills is Henderson Martin while Reynolds is poking line drives on Howe Field.

Sophomore George Bennett is also making his presence known for the first time after sitting out last season with an eligibility problem.

Brown, Herd battle at fullback

A good fullback battle is shaping up between Greg Herd, a 248-pound senior and sophomore Eugene Brown who lettered last year as a freshman.

The slot back, the key to Enright's new multi-optional offense is held by Maurice Anderson. Going in motion Anderson can become either an outside pass threat, or he can step back into a running pattern, or he can block ahead of the play. The evolution of the position last year saved Oregon's running attack which reached minimal production early last season with the split back set-up. Anderson was Oregon's second-leading ground gainer last year and also second-leading pass receiver.

Palm, Lindsey, Anderson return

Despite the possible de-emphasis of the pass, Turner will still have Bob Palm, Greg Lindsey and Anderson to throw at. Although Oregon lost ace pass catcher Greg Specht, the trio returning caught 66 passes between them.

The key to the offense remains in the offensive line. Enright knows if you blow a hole wide enough anyone can run through it. That's where LeFrancis, Arnold and Run Hunt come in. Arnold

"Guy is looking very good at offensive tackle," Enright reported. "The second group of linemen are also looking good, including Mike Salcido (6-5, 226) and Jeff Higbee (6-4, 232)."

"The Horse will also help us out," Enright nodded as big tight end Russ Francis walked by, "if we can keep him healthy." Last year Francis was sidelined after only the third game with a broken ankle. This year, anticipating a good year from Francis, Enright moved versatile George Martin (6-4, 218) from tight end to defensive end.

Defense: it looks strong

Martin will join a line that looks solid with returning veterans Keith Davis (6-4, 220), Art Webb (6-1, 220) and Reggie Lewis (6-1, 237) for starters. A strong linebacking corp also returns headlined by Bobby Green (6-2, 204), Mike Jodoin (6-2, 225) and Mike Popovich (6-1, 214). Although talented, the linebacking ranks are thin and inexperienced behind the three starters.

The weakest spot in the defense may be the secondary, because the only two seniors that graduated from the defense left vacancies in the secondary.

Steve Donnelly and Jack Connors return and Mario Clark, a freshman who received the Pacific-8 Defensive Player of the Week last year as a reserve (for his performance in helping Oregon upset Stanford), is ready for a starting assignment. The other vacancy may be taken by junior college transfer Frank Ehret.

"These guys like each other"

"But you know what really makes this team?" Enright asked. And without bothering to wait for a reply, he said, "These guys like each other. It's as simple as that. This is a very close-knit team. Through all of the adversity last year, this closeness really helped them come back late in the season. And that's the other name of the game. Besides contact, it's togetherness. And this team has it."