

Notre Dame The awe disappears



How do you prepare for Notre Dame?

At Monday practice in Autzen Stadium, this was a question being tackled by the Oregon football coaches as the Ducks started to work on their biggest non-conference foe of the year.

One might think the sputtering Oregon offense and the proud defense would somewhat be in awe of the famous Irish, for just the mention of South Bend, Ind., brings to mind a glorious history of footballers like Knute Rockne, who coached Notre Dame to a 105-12-5 record between 1919-1930, or quarterbacks like George Gipp, Jonny Lujack and Joe Theismann.

Yes, the Ducks could be in awe — but they're not. Although the two teams have never met on the gridiron before, Oregon is looking at this game with one thought. Business as usual.

Reggie Grant sat on the sideline at practice in his street clothes, and even as he talked, a huge circular saw was beginning to bite out chunks of the cement retaining wall that cost him a broken rib when he ran into it during the Utah State game. The junior cornerback is still sore — but he'll be suited up this weekend. He wouldn't miss it for the world.

"Sure, my ribs are still sore, and if we were playing Utah State, I'd probably sit out this week," said Grant. "But this is Notre Dame, and I've been looking forward to this all season. It's just another game, in the fact that they're just another team, but it would be quite an accomplishment to beat them at home."

Sound like a pipe dream? Grant isn't the only one who thinks the Irish aren't invincible. John Rosetti, the Ducks' big offensive tackle who was slowed last week with a knee strain, is equally as enthusiastic.

"It's the dream of a lifetime for me to be playing in South Bend," said Rosetti. "I really believe we can beat them. There's a lot of weaknesses in their defense, and we're out to win respect this season."

While it's true that confidence doesn't score touchdowns and enthusiasm by itself doesn't win ballgames, at least the Ducks are on the right track. There is no feeling of despair even after the 27-10 California loss. After all, Oregon is still 3-2.

Unfortunately, injuries will make any chance of an upset even slimmer. The list of hurt Ducks is running longer every game, and the names this week are big ones, including senior guard Les Duman, out with a shoulder injury and Jim Johnson, who is sidelined with broken ribs. Running backs Greg Gilchrist and Dennis Bullock are just now recovering full potential after injuries.

And it won't be merely a Saturday outing for Notre Dame, either. After an embarrassing opening-game loss to Pittsburg, the Irish have rolled over Purdue, Northwestern and Michigan State with seeming ease. With a 3-1 record and number 14 spot in the national polls, second-year head coach Dan Devine's squad will want no part of losing to Oregon in front of the 59,000 plus fans who are sure to pack Notre Dame Stadium.

Grant feels the Irish may have a built-in head start.

"It takes time and money to build a great team and Notre Dame has had lots of both," he said. "They've got great facilities, with practice fields covered with Astroturf and 15 Nautilus (weight-training) machines. Heck, they don't even play in their stadium except for games. Maybe someday Oregon can have such a tradition."

One very good way to start would be a victory Saturday.

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McArthur Court has had quite an affair with college coaches throughout the years. Some, like former UCLA mentor John Wooden, used to curse the fans and building alike.

Others, such as Washington head funnyman Marv Harshman, have mixed emotions about the Pit — depending on whether a win or a loss is registered.

But pity the poor professional coach, for that particular breed seems to sometimes have no feelings at all. When the Portland Trailblazers were booed during warmups in their game against Phoenix Sunday, and even when Bill Walton was exchanging words with fans under the south basket in the second half, Blazer coach Jack Ramsey was calm.

"You block out all the booing after a while," said the veteran Ramsay, who was head coach at Philadelphia and Buffalo before coming to Portland this year. "I quit hearing it a long time ago. I've been in a lot more hostile places — actually, I thought this place had a rather nice atmosphere."

Now, it's only the referees that get him upset.

Duck golfers dropped; Young medalist with 77

WEED, Cal. — San Jose State, backed by an overall good team effort, defeated Oregon 314-334 in women's golf action at Lake Shastina Golf Club Monday.

Kathy Young, the Ducks' number-one golfer, shot a 38 on the front nine, then backed it with a 39 on the back for a total of 77, earning her medalist honors.

Oregon's next match will be next week, when it hosts Stanford on the Lake Shastina course.

TEAM TOTALS—San Jose State, 314, Oregon 344.

OREGON SCORES—1, Kathy Young 38-39 — 77; 2, Mary Wilson 43-41 — 84; 3, Liz Cooper 47-46 — 93; 4, Karen Henry, 45-45 — 90; 5, Cheryl Wrede 52-54 — 106.

Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon JV runs over WSU

PENDLETON — Oregon's strong rushing game, lead by freshmen Jeff Wood and Curt Renstrom, pushed the junior varsity Ducks to a 29-14 football win over the Washington State University JV here Monday night.

Wood rushed for 102 yards on 25 carries and scored the game's first touchdown on a seven-yard romp. Junior Rich Mettler returned the opening kick 72 yards to set up the first Duck score.

Renstrom, a walk-on from Menlo Park, Calif., had two

touchdown runs: a three-yard run in the second quarter and a two-yard plunge in the fourth. He finished the game with 30 yards on eight carries.

Oregon had 190 yards rushing to just 90 for WSU, but the Cougars passed for 116 yards compared to only 19 for the Ducks. Mettler, a flanker, took over quarterback duties from starter Jeff Kellogg, also a converted receiver, and completed his only pass — a seven-yard strike to Pat McDougal for a touchdown.

sportfolio

Rugby club whips UW

The Oregon rugby club, fresh from a fourth place finish in the Northwest Seven-A-Side Tournament, defeated Washington 17-6 in the Duck's first home league game of the season.

Jim Crowder, Jim Dovey and Brady Sullivan pushed across scores for the Ducks while Neil Chenn added a point-after conversion and a penalty kick.

Cyclers meet tomorrow

There will be a meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13 in the EMU to introduce new students to the cycling team, and to discuss upcoming events. The room will be announced on Wednesday.

Racquetball club to meet

The Oregon Racquetball Club will have a meeting on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 6:30 p.m. the room to be posted in the EMU. The meeting will cover registration of new members, and anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Badminton meeting slated

There will be a get-acquainted meeting for all persons interested in the Oregon badminton club at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13 in the EMU, room to be posted. Rackets should be brought because there will be informal play in B-54 Gerlinger Annex following the meeting.

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