

Dan Lindahl



Stalking the elusive Oregonian

Scott Tiesing, freshman flanker for UCLA, gazed out at the rain drenching Autzen Stadium from beneath the protective cover of an Autzen tunnel. His mind was obviously elsewhere.

"I think I'll stay down in L.A. over Christmas if we go to the Rose Bowl," Tiesing laughed after a long pause. "I'd really like to have one of those big rings."

Tiesing, an All-American for Sunset High School last year, is getting his first taste of major college football. And after slow starts by both him and the team, each is making progress.

UCLA didn't exactly come out of the blocks like a wild boar this season. The Bruins first gave away a game to Houston in which kicker Frank Corral and star runner Theotis Brown were injured, then two weeks later lost to an unimpressive Minnesota team. Five weeks into the year UCLA was 2-3 and apparently ready to start preparing the defense of their Pacific-8 basketball title.

Tiesing wasn't tearing up any secondaries either. Not that he is now, but he is getting playing time and getting the feel of being in a Rose Bowl race.

And he likes it just fine, thank you. Tiesing, and teammate Scott Stauch of Grants Pass, exemplify what many point to as the major problem with the recruiting efforts of Oregon and Oregon State: the failure of both to land the top in-state athletes.

The administrations and coaching staffs in Eugene and Corvallis are ripped for allowing the few blue chippers Oregon turns out to get away. The players are harassed and criticized for a lack of loyalty.

But can you really blame them? Consider where

Tiesing and Stauch are now. Neither is starting, as they probably would at Oregon or OSU, but both are playing. More importantly, both are associated with a winner. And that carries a lot of weight.

I know that I would rather be playing a minimal amount now for a contender in the sunshine, than playing a lot for a team mired in losses and rain. And eventually Tiesing and Stauch will be mainstays for UCLA and chances are the Bruins will still be winning. If they had opted for Oregon there is the distinct possibility that they would have never played for a winner.

It is difficult to sell a losing program to a player like Tiesing. In two years of varsity play at Sunset he lost two games and won the state title twice. He's used to being on the winning side of those 54-0 scores.

Winning is a tough habit to change and not one many people like to try to. So good-bye Oregon, California here I come.

What more could any prep player ask for? Sun, beach, large crowds, friendly young coach, winning tradition. Apparently not much more since UCLA raped the nation with its national recruiting effort last year.

The problem then, is for Oregon to come up with a means of offsetting the attributes playing in Los Angeles has to offer.

Oregon athletic director John Caine expressed the belief that whenever they can convince a recruit to take one of his six allotted trips to Oregon, the University has an excellent chance to convince him to stay. Eugene undeniably has its charms. Anyone with a

liking for clean air, clean water, bike paths, jogging trails and a slower pace of life than a big city offers would be right at home here.

He would also have to get used to cold days and nights, lots of rain, small crowds, a lack of nightlife, and losing. None are easy to do individually. Collectively it might be impossible for a player from a large metropolitan area.

But an Oregonian can handle it.

Except for a few inconveniences, the change from Portland to Eugene is small. And moving to Eugene from Roseburg, Corvallis or Medford would be a step up which wouldn't require any major psychological adjustments.

Which is why it is so important to successfully recruit Oregon athletes. This year in particular is marked by an abundance of excellent players, especially running backs. It is essential to get those people to build a winning program.

Historically Oregon has been built around Californians. The day that Oregon starts winning championships the roster will still contain Californians, but the list will read like a who's who of Oregon prep football. It's not the number of Oregonians that matters, but the quality. Oregon and OSU must get the top grade instead of what's left after UCLA and Stanford pick the group over.

Maybe Oregon coach Rich Brooks will be able to make inroads into the home-grown talent. After all, it was Brook's, while still an assistant at UCLA, who first lured Tiesing to Los Angeles.

Beavers not playing favorites in Bowl race

CORVALLIS (AP) — Coach Craig Fertig says the Oregon State Beavers don't care who goes to the Rose Bowl — they're just looking for a win.

Fertig takes his 2-7 Oregon State Beavers to Los Angeles Saturday to meet the Pasadena hopeful UCLA Bruins. Fertig, a former USC quarterback and assistant coach, says he doesn't mind, however, if the Bruins are looking ahead to playing the Tro-

jans for the bowl invitation.

Fertig described his team as frustrated, but not down, after a 24-10 homecoming defeat at the hands of Washington State last Saturday.

"That is the best they've been shut down all season," the OSU coach said. "When you hold a quarterback of the ability of Washington State's Jack Thompson to 11 completions and 111 yards and WSU to 247 yards

overall, you have played outstanding defense. But offensive breakdowns and penalties killed us."

The Cougars went into the game averaging 410 yards a game. That made it the fourth defeat this season in which the Beaver defense has held the opposition significantly below its average.

The Beavers were inside the

Cougar 30-yard line five times without scoring.

The Beaver defense suffered a major loss in the game. Tackle John Marshall, 6-3 250 pound senior from Lake Oswego, was carried off the field with torn cartilage in his left knee and is through for the season. Marshall was the top defensive tackle in the conference this year in the Beaver staff's

opinion. He won Pac-8 lineman-of-the-week honors in the Beaver's 17-10 loss to USC earlier.

The Beavers will have the services of quarterback John Norman, who left late in the first quarter after catching a helmet on the chin. Half a dozen stitches were required, but X-rays revealed no fracture.

sportfolio

Hockey team plays

Oregon's women's field hockey team will play its final home game of the season today when it hosts Oregon College of Education at 3:30 p.m. at 18th and Agate.

The field hockey team has lost only twice all season to collegiate competition.

Lacrosse club meets

The University lacrosse team will hold an organizational meeting Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU. The room number will be posted.

The purpose of the meeting is to organize for spring and order equipment. Additionally, a scrimmage following the football game will be discussed. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Gophers escape probation

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — An indefinite probation against all men's sports at the University of Minnesota — except basketball — has been lifted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the school announced Monday.

The university basketball program remains on probation until Oct. 28, 1978, the announcement said.

The lifting of the probation was expected since the university ended an impasse with the NCAA by declaring basketball players

Michael Thompson and Dave Winey ineligible.

The NCAA had contended that Thompson, the Big Ten Conference scoring champion last season, had sold season tickets for more than their face value and that Winey had accepted free lodging at a lake home from a university booster.

The basketball probation dates from the day University Pres. C. Peter Magrath informed the NCAA of the ineligibility action taken against the two 6-foot-10

basketball players.

The basketball probation actually amounts to an increased penalty and means the team will not be able to appear in post-season tournaments next spring or on NCAA-sponsored television games this season.

The basketball program had been placed on a three-year probation, which was due to expire in early March, 1978, for dozens of recruiting violations which occurred under former Coach Bill Musselman.

Board Position Available ATTENTION SOPHOMORES

There is a vacancy on the Board of Directors of the University of Oregon Bookstore. The position available is for the remainder of a one year term of office: freshman position. For purposes of membership on the Board of Directors, any full time student of sophomore standing who is registered at the University may apply for this position.

All interested students or anyone wishing to nominate a person for the position should come to the main office of the Bookstore, first floor. Anyone having questions regarding the duties of the position should contact Jim Williams at the Bookstore. Applications will be taken until 5:30 p.m., Thursday, November 10th. Interviews will be given on Friday, November 11 and a selection will be made at a forthcoming board meeting.

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