

football

Transfers: *They came in relative obscurity, but they could take Oregon places*

By NICK DAWSON
Of the Emerald

If you haven't heard the news by now, Oregon has three brand new players for its football team. The three are all junior college transfers. Two of them are All-Americans.

Rock Richmond is a 5-10, 170 pound cornerback with blazing 4.4, 40-yard speed. The other All-American is Mike Kesler, a 6-5, 215 pound defensive end. Incidentally, Kesler runs a 4.7 40. The third recruit is the biggest of the group. Sherman Anderson, a defensive lineman, is 6-5, 250 pounds.

Not a bad haul actually. All of these players were prime recruiting prospects for Rich Brooks' second year program, and all should help the Ducks immediately.

"We wanted them all," said Brooks, obviously pleased over the new additions to his team. "They're all filling areas that we're very thin in."

Brooks' program will obviously get a shot in the arm from the new recruits. They have proven they can play football in the JC ranks, and Brooks feels there is no reason why they can't play Pac-8 ball for the Ducks.

The fact that all three were recruited heavily by at least three other conference schools each proves Brooks' contention.

Perhaps the most exciting catch of the three is Richmond. With the graduation losses of Reggie Grant, David Haynes and Bruce Jensen, Richmond will be counted on to fill a big gap.

"He was more sought after than the others," Brooks said of Richmond. "Hopefully, he will take over one of those spots for us. We obviously feel he can, or we wouldn't have recruited him here."

Unless Brooks recruits heavily at Condon Elementary School, it is unlikely the Ducks will have too many players smaller than Rich-

mond. The press releases list him at 170, though Richmond admits to being closer to 160. But with this player, size doesn't seem to matter.

Richmond decided on Oregon over a number of other Pac-8 schools, including USC and UCLA. He was also recruited by Colorado, Kansas, and as Richmond said, "it's a whole lotta others." If you judge a person's potential by such a ruler, then Oregon will benefit from Richmond's decision to become a Duck.

He chose Oregon for a number of reasons.

"I wanted to play in the secondary where I knew some people," Richmond said. In this case, it was free safety Ken Bryant. Richmond played with Bryant for one year at Los Angeles Valley College under the tutelage of present Oregon offensive coordinator John Becker.

Richmond knew Oregon was a team trying to pick itself off the floor after having been there for too many years in a row, but that didn't turn him off. "The players' attitude is good here," Richmond said. "They have a positive attitude."

"It seemed like the best place for me."

Unlike Richmond, who comes from sunny California, Kesler is a native, in a roundabout way, of the Pacific Northwest. The sophomore defensive end was born in the San Francisco Bay area, but moved with his family to Seattle when he was 10.

Having been raised in Seattle, Kesler would seem a natural for a Washington Husky uniform. Such is not the case.

"I wanted to make a name for myself here. Up at Washington, I would have been just one of the Huskies," said Kesler.

Brooks is high on him. "He's a good football player, otherwise he wouldn't have made that JC All-American team."

Kesler is just as high on the coaching staff as they are on him. "I really think the coaches got their act together," he said. "I like the people down here, and I think the program is going to turn around."

Brooks likens him to former Duck All-Coast selection Mel Cook, only Kesler is bigger and faster. Kesler also likes to hit.

"If I got something to say to somebody on the field, it'll be hitting the guy," he said. Some of his statistics bear him out. In one game last year for Walla Walla Community College, Kesler made 28 tackles. He also finished the year with 38 quarterback sacks.

Anderson was recruited by a number of Pac-8 schools, including California, UCLA, Washington State, and several schools from the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference.

Former graduate assistant Bill Bryant recruited Anderson to play for the Ducks, with the possibility of starting being a primary factor. "He was the one that laid the truth to me. He laid it in the line," stated Anderson.

"I figured on the chances of starting," said the veteran from the College of the Siskiyous. "I had a better chance here than anywhere else. They gave me the honest rundown on who was coming back, who was gone, and who was redshirting."

Anderson perhaps exemplifies the attitude being brought into a program that is on the way up.

"This year, the goal that I'm looking for, to be satisfied, is to have a winning season. The year after that, a bowl game. The main thing that I'm worried about is winning. I wanna win, man. That's all I can say."

Oregon's program has a long way to go, and you can bet Rich Brooks is well aware of that. However, things are looking up already.

Just ask Rock, Sherman and Mike.



Photo by Mike Baer

Rock Richmond, Oregon's newest defensive back and one of the trio of prize catches, was recruited by no less than Colorado, Kansas, UCLA, USC, and "a whole lotta others." But in what might be a new trend, he chose Oregon instead.

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