All American heads Duck football recruits

By MIKE MARINO
Of the Emerald

Oregon football got its biggest victory of the off-season yesterday, as at least 18 recruits — among them high school All-American running back Reggie Young of Sacramento — signed national letters-of-intent to come here in the best recruiting year for the Ducks in recent memory.

Young chose Oregon over countless powerhouses, namely USC, Arizona State, Washington, Washington State, and California. But the 6-1, 194-pounder chose to bring his 10 yard-a-carry average to Eugene. He led Rancho Cordova High School of Sacramento to the number one ranking in California, and is generally considered to be the best running back on the West Coast, if not the nation.

Joining Young in signing were at least ten all-League stars, including offensive linemen Garrett Earle, a 6-5, 240-pounder who apparently was earmarked for Southern Cal.

The Ducks kept their promise to keep top Oregon preps within the state, as they signed Rourke Lowe, a top wide receiver from Aloha in Portland, his teammate Clifford Gibson, a linebacker, and Randy Zimmerman, a defensive back from Jackson, also in Portland.

In addition, Oregon nabbed Tim Tyler, a running back from Benson High in Portland, and Andy Vobora, a linebacker from Medford. Those signings were announced last week.

The Ducks signed a total of five players from the Los Angeles area, eight from the Northern California-Sacramento area, two from Washington and one from Chicago.

Dwight Robertson, brother of L.A. Rams linebacker Isaiah Robertson and a top running back in Louisiana, reportedly announced his intentions to attend Oregon Tuesday night on local radio.

The Ducks also signed place kicker Pat English, 5-11, 160 pounds out of Carmichael (Rio Americano H.S.), Calif.

Linebackers — Andy Vobora, 6-4, 205, Medford, Ore.; Jim Arranian, 6-2, 215, Van Nuys, Calif.; Clifford Gibson, 6-3, 190, Portland (Aloha), Ore.; Mike Honeycutt, 6-4, 250, Arlington, Wash.; Ed Haggerty, 6-2, 215, Chicago (Immaculate Conception), Ill.

Running backs — Charles Bisharat, 6-0, 205, Carmichael (Jesuit), Calif.; Tim Tyler, 6-2, 205, Portland (Benson), Ore.; Reggie Young, 6-1, 194, Sacramento (Rancho Cordova), Calif.

Quarterbacks — Kevin Lusk, 6-2, 180, Seattle (Tyee), Wash.; Andrew Paige, 6-1, 200, Santa Ana (Santa Ana Valley JC), Calif.; Wilson Pica, 6-2, 195, Concord, Calif.

Wide receivers — Rourke Lowe, 5-11, 175, Portland (Aloha), Ore.; Devall Webster, 6-1, 185, Oakland (Harry Ells), Calif.

Offensive linemen — Garrett Earle, 6-5, 240, Montrose (Crescenta Valley), Calif.; Chris Cosgrove, 6-3, 212, Stockton (Stagg), Calif.; Mike Berkich, 6-2, 215, Concord, Calif.

Defensive backs — Randy Zimmerman, 6-3, 185, Portland (Jackson), Ore.; Ken Lawler, 6-2, 185, Los Angeles (Verbum Dei), Calif.; Jerome Covington, 5-9, 175, Los Angeles, (Mt. San Antonio J.C.), Calif.

Defensive lineman — Jeff Kubitz, 6-4, 230, San Jose (Santa Teresa), Calif.

Kicker — Pat English, 5-11, 160, Carmichael (Rio Americano), Calif.

Separate Award — Jamey Mathews, 6-3, 235, walk-on last season awarded a football scholarship. He will be a sophomore.

Hoopers take their 'together act' to Stanford, Cal for Pac-8 games

By MIKE MARINO
Emerald Sports Editor

Oregon returns to the scene of last year's wildest weekend tonight, as fresh off a win over Washington to break a six-game conference losing streak it travels to the Bay Area to face a rising Cal. and a frustrated Stanford.

Last year, you'll remember, the Bears began the season horrendously, but came on after a five overtime, 107-102 win over the Ducks, a game that set a conference record for nearly everything — including frustration.

"It's the same situation this year," said Oregon Coach Dick Harter. "They started slow but now they're playing like most of us thought they would."

Cal tripped the Pac-8's number two team, USC, 70-68, on the strength of two Gene Ransom free throws last Saturday. And the 5-9 junior is currently averaging 16.7 points a game to lead the Bears, who are tied with Oregon at 3-6.

But first, it's Stanford tonight. And right now the Cardinals are viewed as the angry dog that's very, very dangerous. In the last two weeks they have lost two games by virtue of two baskets with a total of two seconds left — both to USC. After heading into the Pac-8 at 8-2, they've nosedived to an 11-11 overall mark, 1-8 in the conference — and sole claim on last place.

"We've played hard," said Card Coach Dick DiBiaso, "but even though we've played hard, we've come up short."

The Ducks need only take a gander back to January 7 to see how scrappy the Stanford team can be. The game was close until the last few minutes, when the Cards went foul-crazy and Oregon won it at the free throw line, 74-64.

"Stanford has played hard against everybody, but certainly against us," Harter said. "We've had the edge in winning the games, but they're not easy."

This one figures to be little different. Stanford has its two senior captains — 6-7 George Schader and 6-5 Jay Carter — back to nearly full strength, and perhaps one of the West Coast's hottest forwards in 6-7 Kimberly Belton.

"But now we need a little bit of luck," DiBiaso said. "Just as it was against Cal-Poly, Hawaii, Alaska, St. Mary's and the rest, we've played tough in the conference. We just haven't been successful in the end."

Oregon is in a position now where things are starting to jell team-wise. "It started with Cal-Davis, and we've played hard, which I've been pleased to see," Harter smiled. "There have been some moments we haven't played well, like the last ten minutes in Seattle, but it's been good and I want to see it continue."

What it all means is that, yes, both games in the Bay will be close. And even though Oregon and its opponents have won seven Pac-8 games collectively, much is at stake for Oregon; a winning season record, "and proof," Harter said, "that you can start four freshmen in the conference and win."

Spinks wins title

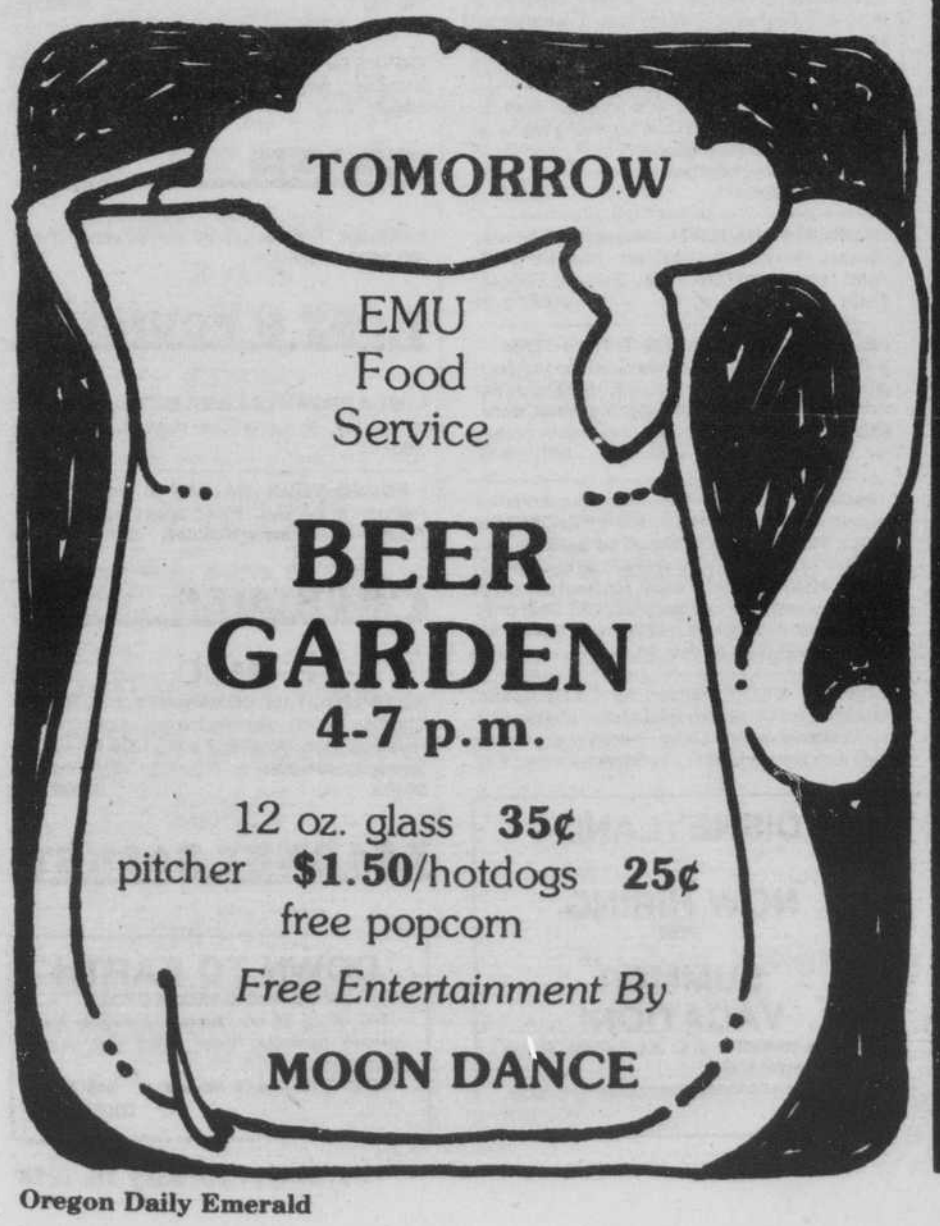
LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Leon Spinks, turning tiger in the final rounds, scored a shocking upset Wednesday night with a split-decision victory over Muhammad Ali to become the new heavyweight champion of the world.

Philly story names Dick Harter as top Penn State candidate

A story in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin has named Oregon basketball coach Dick Harter as a possible successor to the head job at Penn State, the Emerald has learned.

The story named Harter and a Nittany Lion alumnus now coaching at Delaware as the top candidates to succeed John Bach, who announced his retirement effective at the end of this season. Penn State currently stands at 5-18 on the season with a seven-game losing streak.

"I've got a lot of friends who are sportswriters back there who like to write," said Harter, who came to Oregon from the University of Pennsylvania. "It means nothing."



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