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emerald sports

Spring football Spring football takes on an important role in Rich Brooks' plan to bring Oregon football back to respectability — who will be looked to lead the team next year?
By Mike Marino p. 3B

Frank Morris Frank Morris started out as an outstanding athlete before polio struck him down. Now, he's an outstanding coach.
By Mark Stewart p. 4B

Kevin Tabler Kevin Tabler started out the year as just another player off the JV team, but the senior has quickly made a name for himself.
By Nick Dawson p. 5B

Double Trouble Debbie Borchers and Mo Hermann have shown that individual training and talent can be formed to make a winning combination.
By Tim Leonard p. 6B

Crew Oregon's Club Sports crew team faces numerous disadvantages every time they hit the water, but things are looking up.
By Greg Taube p. 7B

The Emerald Sports weekly supplement is published every Wednesday and is designed to cover the University's athletic programs.

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Nick Dawson, Tim Leonard, Greg Taube

Cover photo by Mike Baer

Gary Beck quits grid for good

Gary Beck, the splendid sophomore in whom Oregon's football program held so much promise, decided late Monday that he was quitting the team, leaving school and returning to his home in La Crescenta, Calif.

Beck, who led Oregon to its final game win over Oregon State with a 131-yard rushing effort, talked with Duck Head Coach Rich Brooks before Monday's spring practice and did not work out with the team that afternoon.

He returned to his home in Southern California that evening.

Beck had requested a switch in assignments this spring, asking to play in the defensive backfield instead of at a running back position.

In the spring line-up, he was slated as the Ducks' top free safety, while also projected for kick running duties.

Beck told the Emerald last Monday that he wished the safety spot on the basis of it being "more fun" for him, but his decision to leave the team was based on the fact that the game itself was no longer fun, and that he had lost interest.

Beck had left school the week following the OSU game, but was persuaded to come back for winter term.

He came to Oregon last spring after graduating early from high school. The only freshman in spring drills, Beck soon established himself as an all-around player — so much so that he played both offense and defense in the 1977 season.

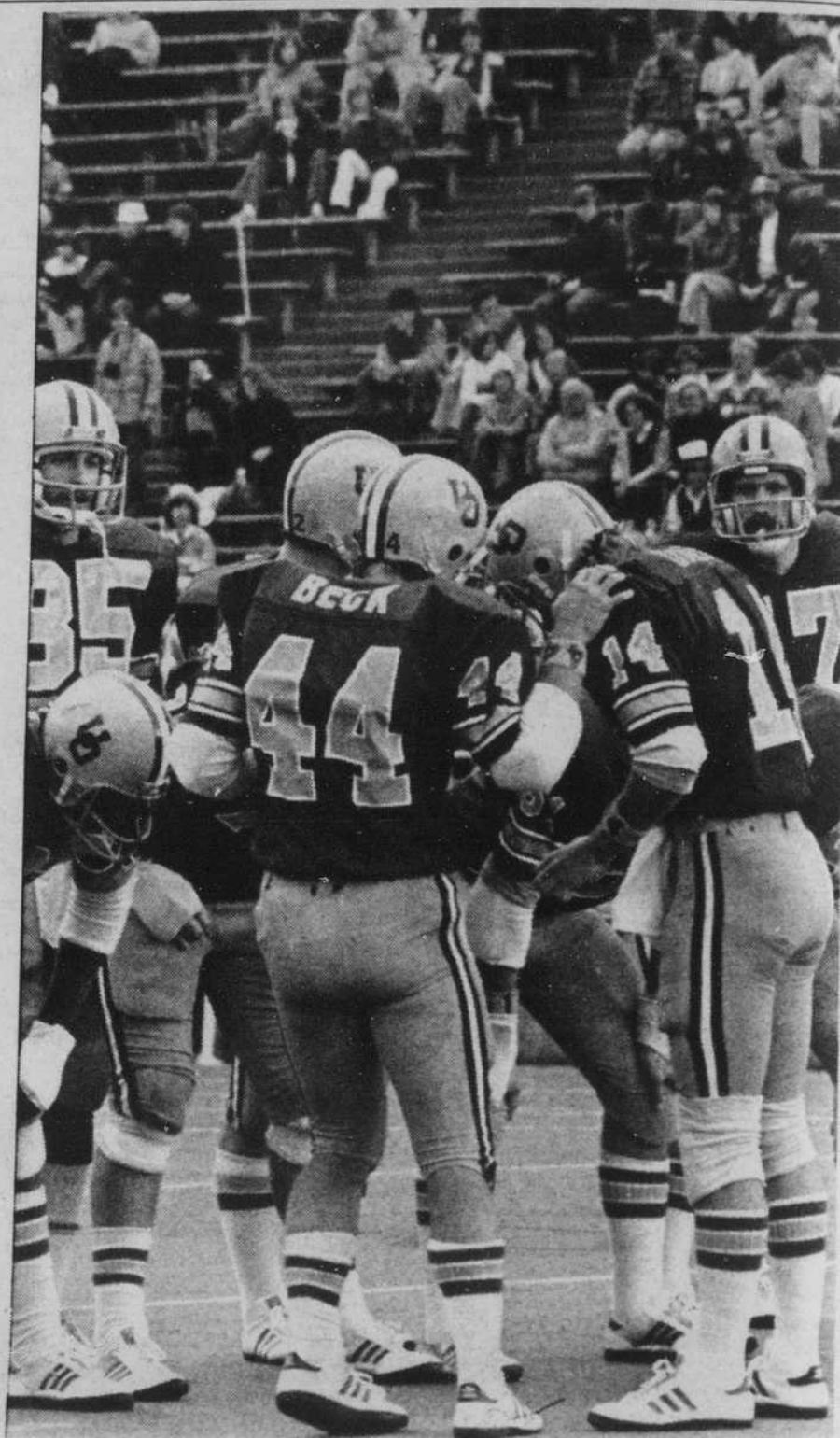


Photo by Mark Stewart
Gary Beck ended the 1977 with promise, and his 131 yards gained against Oregon State was the Ducks' top effort by a runner all year. Now, though, he's decided that he's had enough of football and has left the team.

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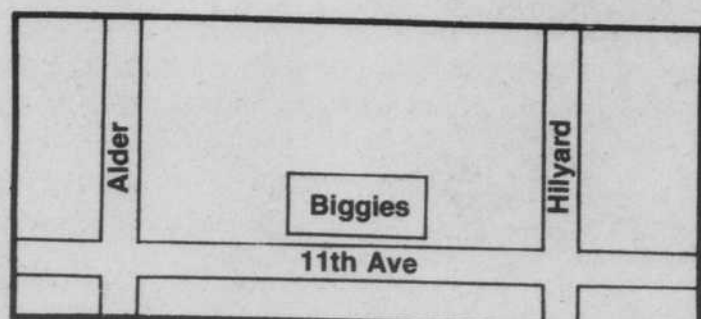
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Blazers choke in second half

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Marvin Webster and Dennis Johnson combined for 31 second-half points Tuesday to lift the streaking Seattle Super-Sonics past the defending National Basketball Association champion Portland Trail Blazers, 104-95.

The victory gives Seattle a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series and takes the home court advantage away from the Blazers.

Portland jumped to an 11 point lead several times in the first half behind the shooting of Larry Steele and Johnny Davis.

But Fred Brown shot the Sonics

back into the game late in the second period and set the scene for the Sonics' rally early in the second half.

Bill Walton, playing in his first game since Feb. 28, hit his first five shots from the field and scored 17 points, but got little help inside from Maurice Lucas or backup center Tom Owens.

Rookie Jack Sikma and Webster dominated play inside in the second half and the Sonics finally took the lead when Gus Williams blocked a Lionel Hollins shot and scored on a lay up to make it 66-64 with 5:32 to go in the third period.

The Blazers regained the lead

briefly but Seattle took the lead for good on Brown's 20-footer with 1:01 to go in the third period, to make it 76-75.

Seattle moved out to a 12-point lead in the fourth quarter, 93-81, before Walton led a charge that sliced the lead to five, 100-95, on Lloyd Neal's basket with 1:26 to go.

But a steal and a pair of free throws by Williams in the final seconds wiped out any Blazer comeback hope.

Webster led Seattle with 24 points, 17 in the second half. Dennis Johnson scored 19, 14 in the second half. Davis scored 22 for the Blazers.



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