

Page waits for officials to decide his fate

Ken Page is playing a waiting game. The Ducks' senior wide receiver, who broke his leg in the third game of the season against Texas Christian, is hoping, somewhat in vain, that a group of Pacific-10 Conference officials will be magnanimous enough to grant him another year of eligibility through the redshirt process.

"Normally if a player is hurt in the first two games there is no problem getting eligibility," says Oregon coach Rich Brooks. "The third game, though, makes it very doubtful.

"All we're doing is compiling the information on how much he

(Page) played as a freshman and sophomore and hope we can catch the people in the conference in a generous mood."

The information will be presented in the form of a petition at the conference meeting in January. Page's hope rests on the fact that the two-game rule is not concrete. "Every case is looked at individually, and the faculty representatives vote on it," explains Brooks.

And what are the chances Page will play next year? "I would say they're slim," Brooks says.

Page was a reborn man when Brooks was hired in the winter of 1977. After two frustrating years under coach Don Read, during which he played a total of about one-half of a game, Page was through with Oregon and left school for his home in Inglewood, California. When Brooks was hired, Page's friends in Eugene convinced him to return. Things would be different under Brooks they said.

Page's fortune did, indeed, soar. During his junior year last

season he led the Ducks in receiving with 40 catches for 591 yards and three touchdowns.

He began this season with an 11-yard scoring grab against Colorado and then caught four passes and picked up 37 yards on two end-arounds against Southern Cal.

And then while returning a punt against TCU he suffered a compound fracture of his left leg. He now hobbles about on crutches, lugging along a full-leg cast which will be with him for five more weeks. That will be replaced with a walking cast which stays on another five weeks.

"I'm being optimistic about it," he says of his chances for gaining redshirt status. "I'd like to play another year, because I really haven't played much college foot-

ball except for last year."

Page could use the extra year to work toward achieving a degree as well. His major is still undeclared and he figures he needs at least another year in order to earn a diploma. If he doesn't play football next year he feels he will not get an athletic grant to finish school. "You play for four years, and they give your scholarship to someone else," he says.

"Everyone can't finish up in four years, especially athletes. That comes with your scholarship; that's understood when you're recruited.

"You try to get financial aid. I guess that's all you can do."

Undaunted, Page is going about his business — which includes three classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and two

classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays — while waiting for others to decide his future.

"My injury hasn't deterred me from my goal — pro football," he says. "I'll just go out there in June and try out (with a pro team) and give it my best shot."

Or maybe he'll be giving his best shot for the Ducks in spring practice.

sports haps

Field Hockey

The University women's hockey team meets Southern Oregon State today at 5 p.m. on the Amazon Field behind South Eugene High School.

Saturday's game with Oregon State has been cancelled, but the Ducks will play an exhibition game at Autzen Stadium following the Oregon-Brigham Young football game.

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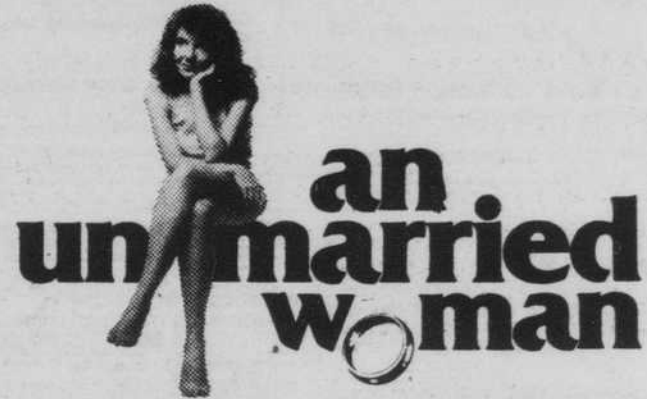
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