



john harris

Ducks elicit fear? Oh, come on

The Brigham Young football team is scared of the Ducks. At least that's what this week's press release from the BYU publicity office says.

"There is a general feeling that Brigham Young University may have picked the wrong time, and wrong place, for Saturday afternoon's football game against winless University of Oregon," states the release.

Like the Ducks, the Cougars are more concerned about not losing than winning. They own a 3-2 record, but last week before a homecoming and regional television audience were crushed 24-7 by Utah State. The Cougar's highly-touted passing game, led by junior quarterback Marc Wilson, managed only 119 yards.

Last year Wilson passed for 341.6 yards per game, the best mark in the nation. Naturally, big things were expected of Wilson this year, but so far he has connected on only 47 percent of his passes and has been intercepted 10 times.

BYU coach Lavell Edwards even had to resort to using Wilson's backup, sophomore Jim McMahon, to pull out one of the Cougars' three wins. McMahon came off the bench against New Mexico and rallied BYU to three fourth-quarter touchdowns and a 27-23 victory. For his efforts he was named Western Athletic Conference Offensive Player for that week.

There has been some talk in the Cougar's camp this week that McMahon might get the starting nod for Saturday's game at Autzen Stadium, but the chances are better that Wilson will be at the helm.

Of course it really shouldn't matter to Oregon who starts at quarterback for BYU, since backup passers have proved the demise of the Ducks' in the last three weeks.

Oregon coach Rich Brooks rates BYU as much better than Texas Christian, who beat the Ducks 14-10, and comparable to Wisconsin, to whom Oregon fell 22-19.

Brooks is particularly concerned with holding Wilson in check. "Our biggest problem with him will be containment," explains Brooks. "We have to get him into a position where we can get a pass rush on him, because he gets outside very quickly."

When Wilson leaves the pocket he is equally effective running or passing, and he will provide the Ducks' sometimes susceptible secondary with a stern test. Oregon's defensive backfield, which has given up an average of 160 yards per game and ranks seventh in the Pac-10, will consist of safeties Mike Nolan and Kenny Bryant, with either Jerome Covington or Rock Richmond joining senior Rick Hudnell at the corner spots.

"Hudnell's playing better than anyone in the secondary right now," says Brooks.

Covington suffered a hyperextended elbow last week against California and is a probably starter, but if he isn't ready Richmond will fill in.

Senior center Steve Kleffner is the only other seriously hurt Duck. He pinched a nerve in his neck last Saturday and will probably not play. Freshman Mike Delgado will replace Kleffner.

Another freshman, linebacker Mieke Berkich, gets the starting call over Derrick Dale, who started last week as a replacement for injured Bryan Hinkle.

A number of other Duck freshmen are beginning to emerge as "players." In addition to Berkich, Ed Haggerty and Andy Voboara have received praise from Brooks for their linebacking play. Dwight Robertson is making his presence felt returning both kickoffs and punts. He's eighth in the conference in kickoff returns with an average of 18.6 yards in seven runbacks, and he has returned four punts for 27 yards.

"Some of these young people are really starting to do things," says Brooks. "Something big, maybe?"

Women runners test altitude

By MARK STEWART
Of the Emerald

The women's cross-country team meets Oregon State at Scott Lake Saturday in an attempt to simulate the high altitude conditions it will be facing at the national meet in November.

"We want to get some experience running cross country at altitude," coach Tom Heinonen said. "Cross country is an aerobic exercise (needing plenty of oxygen) and you have to realize that

you will run slower at that altitude."

The AIAW national meet in Denver will be run at 5,200 feet and the meet at Scott Lake at 4,800 feet. Heinonen said he wants the team to run at altitude before the national meet so the runners can adjust their style to running in thinner air.

"If you run a sea-level pace at altitude, you'll regret it," Heinonen said. "You can't physiologically do it; it's not possible."

If you run the first mile in 5:40,

you can continue but you will build up an oxygen debt that you won't be able to tolerate at later stages (in the race)."

Theoretically a runner will run about 10 seconds per mile slower at 5,000 feet.

Several members of the squad will miss the OSU meet, including Heather Tolford, who is recovering from an appendectomy performed on Tuesday; Lori Alzner, who has a tendon problem, and Lotta Ralving, who has an ankle problem that was aggravated at the Gary Franklin Classic two weeks ago.

Heinonen said he hopes Tolford can do some light running next week and would like to see her run at the national meet in six weeks. "But we'll have to wait and see" he said. "There's no point in pushing (her). She was the most fit she had ever been in September when she ran a 2:46 marathon. If anybody can recover quickly from surgery, she can."

Oregon State enters the meet after finishing seventh in a nine team field in last weekend's California Invitational. Meanwhile, the Ducks finished second behind Cal, and placed all eight entrants ahead of the top Oregon State runner.

ney said. "It's too early yet."

In Los Angeles, Trail Blazers owner Larry Weinberg said there were no changes in Walton's status. Weinberg has said he will try to trade his team's star player, but team officials have said they won't make a deal unless they receive adequate compensation.

Walton, who has one year remaining on the five-year contract he signed with Portland as a rookie out of UCLA, has dropped out of the public eye after being interviewed on a Portland radio show and jetting off to Egypt with the rock group Grateful Dead last month.

Walton out indefinitely

PORTLAND (AP) — Disgruntled National Basketball Association star Bill Walton still has his foot in a cast and won't be able to play basketball until at least next February, his attorney said Thursday.

Attorney Charles Garry said Walton has been under the care of Dr. Robertt Kerland, the team physician of the Los Angeles Lakers and a specialist in sports medicine.

"His leg is still in a cast and will be for another month," Garry said in a telephone conversation from his San Francisco law office.

Garry said Walton, voted the NBA's most valuable player last season, won't be able to play at least until February and maybe not until next September. He said his information came from Kerland.

Walton remains under contract to the Portland Trail Blazers, the team he led to the 1977 NBA title, but he has demanded to be traded, saying he doesn't like the team's medical policies.

Garry said Walton is in his hometown of San Diego this week. "I don't know where he's living," Garry said. "I expect to hear from him any minute."

Garry said Walton will follow through on his promise of several weeks ago and will speak for himself.

"I don't know when," the attorney said.

Women booters' record on line in venture to Washington

The Oregon women's club soccer team travels to Washington this weekend for games against Western Washington and the University of Washington.

The Ducks boast a 3-1 Northwest Collegiate Soccer Conference record, and one of those victories came last week over Washington, 2-1, at Autzen Stadium.

Oregon meets the Huskies Sunday in Seattle. On Saturday they play Western Washington in Bellingham.

Leilani Luke, the Ducks' goalie who has registered two shutouts this season, will return to action after missing part of last Sunday's Washington State game when she was shaken up in a collision with an opposing player.

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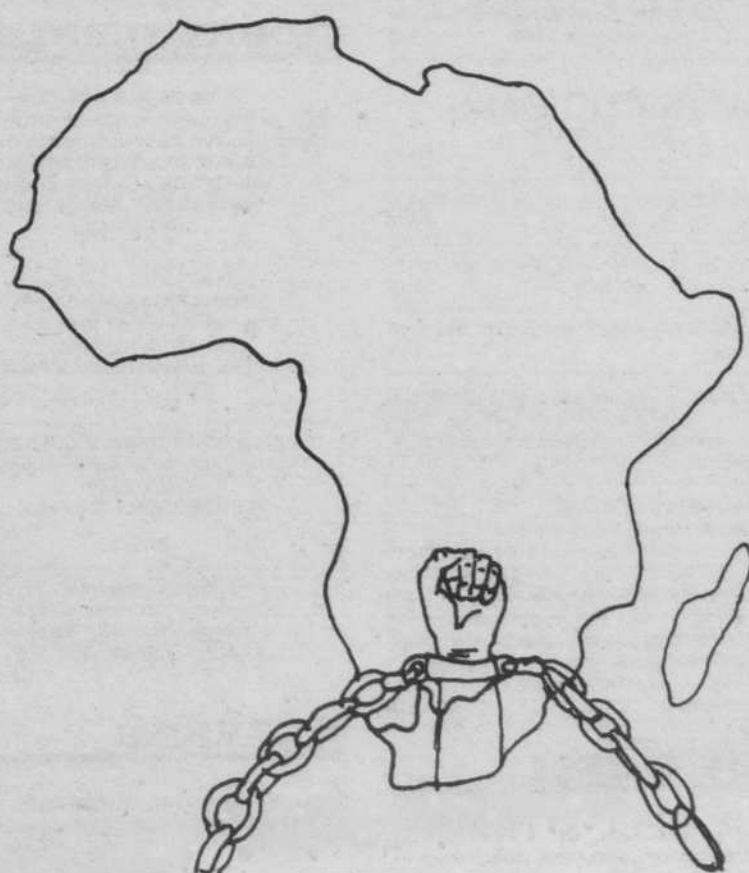
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