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BEAT THE EXPERT FOOTBALL CONTEST

This week's guest guessers are Fred Beckley and Paul Barnhart, partners in Merlin's Bookstore, 825 E. 13th.

RULES OF THE GAME

All you need to do is check the winners box and pick more correct winners than the expert guesser (as indicated by the asterisks)! Entry forms must be dropped off at the campus Steven J's store by Friday prior to these games. Winners will be posted at Steven J's and Duffy's the following week. Winners will receive a 25% discount on the featured items of the week and a chance at the end of season grand prize! The more times you win the more chances you get at the grand prize, so play every week!

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Home team
in this column

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WASHINGTON* ☐
STANFORD* ☐
USC* ☐
IDAHO* ☐
GEORGIA TECH* ☐
MICH ST.* ☐
YOUNGSTOWN ☐
MISSOURI* ☐
IOWA* ☐
TEXAS A & M ☐
COLUMBIA* ☐

ARIZONA ST. ☐
OREGON ST. ☐
CAL. ☐
WEBER ST. ☐
FLORIDA ☐
WISCONSIN ☐
VILLANOVA* ☐
COLORADO ☐
PURDUE* ☐
RICE* ☐
RUTGERS ☐

PRO:

SEATTLE* ☐
OAKLAND* ☐
CINCINNATI ☐

DENVER ☐
SAN DIEGO ☐
HOUSTON* ☐

HIGH SCHOOL:

V. BEND ☐
SHELDON ☐

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Entry blank for Oct 25
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*EXPERT'S GUESSES

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED ITEM

100% wool crew neck sweaters for men and women. It may be sunny outside but there is a definite chill in the air. Beat the cold with warm wool.



Photo by Mike Baer

The defensive backfield has been hurt by its small size and inexperience at the major college level. While secondary coach Milt Jackson claims the defensive backfield is improved from last year, the secondary is rated last in the Pac-10.

Jackson: Backs play too safely

Mistakes plague secondary

By STEVE JETT
Of the Emerald

Eddie Lewis, defensive back for the San Francisco 49ers once said: "playing cornerback is like being on an island — people can see you but they can't help you."

The Oregon secondary would most likely agree. In losses to Texas Christian, Wisconsin, California, and Brigham Young, the Duck secondary has been on a true survival mission.

Pacific-10 statistics offer proof. The weakest link in the Duck defense, the secondary, is ranked last in the Pac-10 in pass defense.

But Milt Jackson, coach of the Duck secondary, knows that playing defensive back is something unusual.

"I think the defensive back has to be the best athlete on the football field," explained Jackson. "We have really improved over the first of the season. And they all know when they have made mistakes."

Recognized as a defensive blemish since last spring, the unit survived the first two games. Now, despite its early promise, problems exist.

"About three or four games ago, we were eleventh in the nation in pass defense. Then it just bounced up on us real quick," said Jackson.

Part of the problem is that three of last year's four starting defensive backs have graduated, which forced the use of personnel that is inexperienced at the Pac-10 level. Starting cornerbacks Rock Richmond and Jerome Covington are both junior college transfers and free safety Mike Nolan is just a sophomore. Only senior Kenny Bryant returns from last years starting backfield.

Size represents another headache. Covington stands only 5-8 while Richmond is an inch taller.

"If those two guys did not have the character they have, I would not have recruited them," continued Jackson. "Rock is really quick (4.5 seconds for 40 yard dash), and he plays bigger than he is. And

Covington has been lifting weights. They are both finding out that this is not like junior college."

Bryant, the 6-2 senior and an honorable mention All-American at free safety last year, plays strong safety this year.

The starting secondary is 30 percent better than last year, according to Jackson. And despite relinquishing 181 yards-per-game, the secondary has not turned to stone until the waning moments of play.

"For 57 minutes, a lot of things have been overlooked about our secondary because of what has happened at the end," said defensive coordinator Howard Tippett.

"In the beginning (of the season), they were playing tough. Now they are not taking the challenge because they are playing too safe. When they get down there (near the goal line) they are playing cautious," continued Jackson.

The Ducks have tangled with a pair of passing wizards in California's Rich Campbell and Brigham Young's Marc Wilson. But, they have also been dissected by reserve quarterbacks.

Wisconsin's Mike Kalasmiki (16 for 32, 232 yards) and BYU's Jim McMahon (10 for 19, 204 yards) are two backup quarterbacks who have also beaten Oregon.

The Oregon opposition has thrown 159 times but the defensive front line often dictates the success of the secondary.

"We are basically good against the run and everybody we have played, but Colorado, has thrown a bunch. And also when we do not get a good pass rush we are in trouble," said Jackson. "You are going to play teams all the time that are going to have more yards passing then running."

This weekend the Ducks defensive backfield will be challenged by yet another passing ace, Washington State's Jack Thompson, who owns a fistful of WSU and Pac-10 passing records.

emu

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