



john harris

Civil War — for past, present, future

Following his first encounter with Southern California as head coach of UCLA, Tommy Prothro was asked by the Los Angeles media what he thought of the USC-UCLA rivalry. Prothro, who had spent the previous 10 years as head coach of Oregon State, acknowledged that USC versus UCLA was certainly a big game, but he added, "For pure hatred, there's no rivalry that matches the Oregon-Oregon State rivalry."

The Civil War—the annual football battle between the Ducks and Beavers—will take place once again Saturday afternoon when Oregon travels to Parker Stadium in Corvallis for a 1:30 game.

The Ducks will be attempting to beat Oregon State for the fourth consecutive time, something Oregon has not accomplished since 1932-35. Despite the Ducks' 1-9 record, the oddsmakers pick the game even, which is not a bad bet considering the tradition behind the rivalry.

"The game is more important than most of them because of the tradition," says Oregon coach Rich Brooks, who has been a part of 10 Civil Wars as a player, assistant and head coach. "Even though they're 3-6-1, and we're 1-9, I don't think that detracts from the players' attitude going into this contest."

The Ducks have had abundant time to lick their wounds from 10 games and mentally prepare themselves after taking a break last Saturday, while the Beavers were being beaten 44-22 by Arizona State.

Following their 24-3 loss to Arizona 10 days ago, the Ducks were given Tuesday and Wednesday off while the coaches hit the recruiting trail, watching films and games, and meeting prospects.

Despite its benefits, the short vacation was not all that pleasing to Brooks. "I don't like byes. Anytime you break your normal routine you don't know what's gonna happen," he explains.

"If we're going to have a bye, I'd like to have it early in the season. It's almost like starting the season over again for one last game."

But of course, the Civil War is not just one last game. Although Brooks downplays the importance of the outcome of the contest on recruiting, the winner will have proven an important point. Oregon State, in its third year of rebuilding under Craig Fertig, has shown significant improvements this year. The Beavers have won three times, including a 15-13 victory over ninth-ranked UCLA in which they limited the Bruins to 45

yards total offense in the second half.

"I think this victory ranks among the great ones in OSU history and it is very important to our program," says Fertig. "You can't make this in monetary value or whatever, what this means to our program. It was a tremendous win for us and the state of Oregon and the people of the state of Oregon."

Well, most of them maybe. For Brooks it was evidence that Oregon State can do what the Ducks have failed to do—not only win, but be a giant killer as well. In the recruiting struggle for Oregon high school football players the importance of a win such as the one over UCLA can't be overstated.

On the other hand, Oregon is a vastly improved team as well, and a victory over the Beavers Saturday would be further proof that the Ducks are the best team in Oregon, at least in recent history.

Last year Oregon won 28-16 on the strength of a running game that cranked out 298 yards. But although the Ducks have rushed for more yards than any other Oregon squad since 1971, Brooks expects to find the going against the Beavers rougher this year. "We were able to do that last year, but I think it would be very difficult to match that with their defensive

front as good as it is," he says.

The biggest, if not the best, member of Oregon State's defensive line is Jerry Wilkinson, a 6-9, 261 pound senior end.

Tim Durando will again start at quarterback for Ducks, although Mike Kennedy, the regular signal-caller who was hurt against Brigham Young, is ready and will

probably see action.

The game will attract little national attention because of the two team's records, but in lieu of the Rose Bowl it's the best thing going in Oregon. "I've been involved in 10 of 'em," says Brooks, "one tie and nine wins, and I don't want to start losing them."

But then, who does? Especially in the Civil War.

San Diego worries Haney as Ducks plan for opener

Oregon basketball coach Jim Haney leads the Ducks into their opener against San Diego State Friday with some doubts.

"We have cut down on the foolish errors," he says, "but we still commit foolish fouls. We have to avoid sending our opponent to the foul line so often."

Haney says the Ducks need a good defensive effort to win. "I think we caught them by surprise last year," he says of the Ducks' two-point win in the Dayton Classic.

Haney says San Diego State has a good offense, and has good offensive rebounding strength. "They look like a team, on paper, that could take advantage of some of our weaknesses."

On the other hand, the Ducks' offense has improved. "We did show a better knowledge of get-

ting into our offense, and we did a better job of recognizing the situation," Haney says of Saturday's intrasquad game.

More improvement is needed though, says Haney. "We did not get good enough execution of what the situation called for."

Much of the Ducks' offense relies on the play of junior center Dan Hartshorne. "It's my job to pass and set picks, and if I get the chance, I look for the shot," he says. "I'm a trailer on the fast break, and I can see myself getting a lot of points if I play against a slow center."

San Diego State boasts 6-11 center Steve Malovic, who averaged 13 points and eight rebounds a game last year, while shooting 56 percent. Aztec coach Tim Vezie thinks the Hartshorne-Malovic matchup is

important. "It will be an interesting confrontation — Steve is a vital part of our team," he says.

Vezie says his offense is versatile, and all players contribute. "We have real balance. Last year, four of our five starters averaged on double figures," he says.

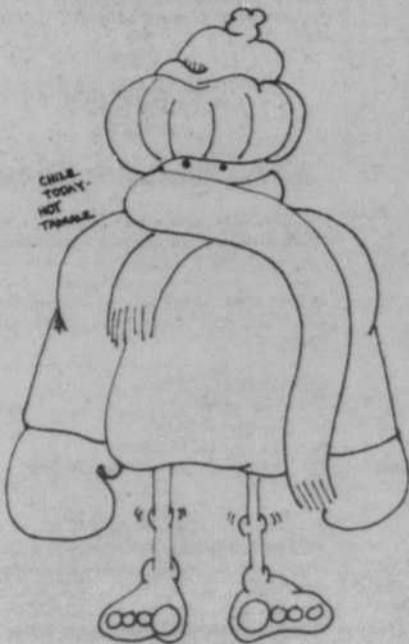
The weakest part of the Aztec game is the defense, says Vezie. "We have to improve our defense, but our new players are more aggressive."

Haney says his defense has to give the offense time to adapt. "It's just going to take time for the players to become comfortable with our offense," he says.

Haney admits the Aztecs will provide a challenge.

"Their personnel is good. They have outstanding shooters and big people — it'll be a severe test," he says.

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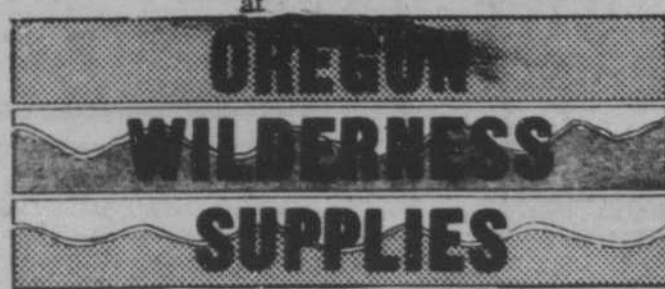


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