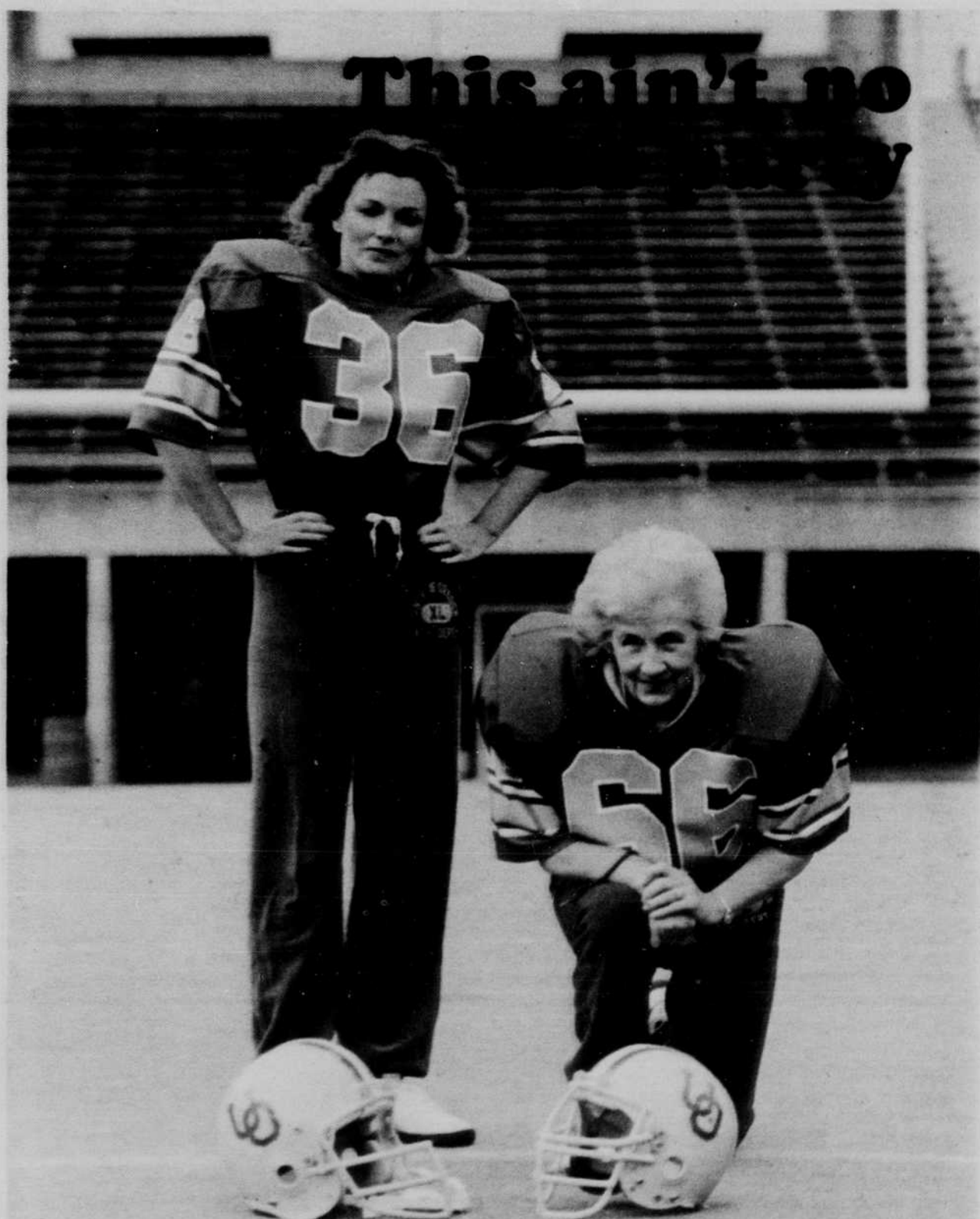




No, these women aren't secret weapons for Saturday's game against Arizona State. Susan Lang (left) and Yvonne O'Herron are Daisy Ducks — volunteer supporters of University athletics since 1971.

Photo by David Corey

The Daisy Ducks are no ordinary booster club

By SCOTT COE
Of the Emerald

Picture a noon-time women's luncheon group at the Chuck Wagon Restaurant on a recent Tuesday, following an Oregon football game. A heated discussion is underway at one of the tables.

"I tell you, Millie, Oregon should have run the play action fakes to freeze the 'backers, then hit Thomas on a flanker screen."

"No, no Clara. The Ducks should stay with their bread and butter. Pound the tackle slots with Vince Williams blocking and "Truck" carrying the ball."

This is hardly the discussion one would expect at a ladies luncheon. But then again, a meeting of the Daisy Ducks is not just your run-of-the-mill tea party.

The Daisy Ducks is an organization of women interested in assisting and enjoying Oregon athletics. The current membership tallies 116, but has been as high as 200 in recent years, all of whom pay a \$15.00 annual membership fee.

"We're the only organization of our kind anywhere in the country," claims current Daisy Duck president Yvonne O'Herron.

The club was started by former Duck football coach Dick Enright ten years ago. "Coach Enright's idea was to familiarize women with football so they would enjoy going to the games with their husbands," said O'Herron, herself a charter member. Today, the Daisy Ducks have a committee for every men's and women's sport, not strictly football.

"Each committee is allotted \$5.00 per athlete, per sport, and it's up to the committee to do what they want with the money," said O'Herron.

What they do is lend an enormously helping hand. Besides the traditional baking of cookies for away games, each team gets either a potluck dinner or a picnic, usually depending on the weather, according to O'Herron.

Away from the athletes, the Daisy Ducks are second to none in voluntary service.

"Without the Daisy Ducks' volunteer work, the athletic department would certainly have to increase its budget," said athletic director Rick Bay, who recently became only the second male member in the history of the Daisy Ducks.

"What with the pressure from Title IX nowadays, they really had no choice other than to let me in," said Bay.

The Daisy Ducks also have raised funds for special projects, which include significant contributions to Oregon's athletic facilities. They refurbished the lettermen's lounge last year, not to mention the weight room at Autzen Stadium.

So what happens if there's money left over at year's end?

"We poll the coaches to find out their teams' specific needs, and then see what we can do," said O'Herron. Last year, the men's wrestling team was the lucky one, receiving a full set of new uniforms.

According to O'Herron, coach Enright's plan of a decade ago, educating women about football, seems to be working.

"These women know their football, and ask a lot of intelligent questions."

When asked if Coach Brooks was going to have to face an irate luncheon group the Tuesday following the loss to Washington, forced to field challenging questions about crucial offensive mistakes, O'Herron quietly replied:

"Oh, no. This Tuesday we're having a fashion show."



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