

Oregon's quarterbacks have been as durable as a house of cards. From right, the Ducks have gone through Kevin Lusk and Mike Jorgensen, and have newcomers Dennis Clay and Danny McCalister to back up starter Mike Owens.

# Shuffling quarterbacks

## Defensive back may take snap before game is over

By STEVE TURCOTTE  
Of the Emerald

Like an actor who has barely had a chance to memorize his lines, Danny McCalister may be thrown into the spotlight without a rehearsal Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

McCalister, a sophomore on the University of Oregon football team, who has yet to play one down in a year and a half at Oregon, may get that chance when the Ducks face Air Force, because of a lack of quarterbacks on Oregon's part.

McCalister was recruited by the Ducks as a quarterback out of Gunn High School in Palo Alto, Calif. But when he arrived

for practice his first collegiate season last year, he was moved into the defensive secondary.

Now, with injuries to starting signal-caller Kevin Lusk and freshman Mike Jorgensen, it leaves the Ducks with just one full-fledged quarterback in freshman Mike Owens.

But McCalister, who is now the backup, says he is ready to contribute.

"I came here as an athlete, not really at any one position. After a day or two of practice, I found myself back-peddling instead of throwing the ball. I came up here to play quarterback because they told me I'd get a shot. But when they thought I wouldn't play, they

moved me."

Before the season started, the Ducks' quarterback position appeared to be solidified. Lusk, Reggie Ogburn's understudy last year, seemed to have the job in hand until he underwent knee surgery during the summer and caused some to think he might not be at full strength. It wasn't Lusk's knee which has sidelined him, however — it was his chest.

The junior quarterback suffered a separated collarbone at the sternum against Arizona State and has only seen limited action since.

Freshman quarterbacks

Owens and Jorgensen were also slated to see action, and they both have. But Jorgensen went down with injured ribs last weekend, and Owens went to the sidelines with an injured left knee. Owens will be the starting quarterback this Saturday.

But waiting in the wings will be his backup — McCalister.

McCalister says being thrown into the quarterback position has not been all fun and games.

"You have to learn a lot of stuff," he said. "That's really the hard part. But once I get into it more, maybe a few weeks, it could be better."

"Basically I've learned about

15 plays — up the middle runs and a couple of passes. If I get in, someone else will be calling the plays. The other guys on offense will help out — I just don't want to go out and go the wrong way."

"In high school, our offense was much like it is here," said McCalister. "I would run 10-15 times a game. But given the opportunity I can throw the ball."

"I do get nervous sometimes," he said. "But I get to a point where I get relaxed. We had pressure games in high school and you have to be calm out there. Since I was the quarterback, it was especially important for me to be calm. I was able to stay pretty much relaxed."

However, Oregon coach Rich Brooks feels kind of jittery about the quarterback situation this weekend.

"I wouldn't feel too good about putting McCalister in because he hasn't worked a lot on quarterbacking," said Brooks. "Right now, though, we're working him pretty hard."

"He has a feeling for quarterback. He has an adequate passing arm. We're just teaching him the basics. Just a few selected plays like a couple running plays and a couple passing plays."

In addition to McCalister being a newcomer at quarterback, the Ducks are also working with defensive back Dennis Clay on the fine art of quarterbacking.

"Clay hasn't played as much quarterback as McCalister has," said Brooks. "But he's a good athlete."

Oregon may be stocked with good athletes, but it should be interesting to see if that's all it will take at quarterback for the Ducks to beat the Falcons this weekend.


Thursday, October 22, 1981

**emu** Cultural Forum Presents

The return of Northumbrian Folk Musician

## ALISTAIR ANDERSON

*Traditional music from  
Northumberland, Scotland and Ireland*



Sunday, Oct. 25  
8 p.m.  
Beall Hall

Tickets:  
\$3.50 UO Students  
\$4.50 General Public

Available at  
• EMU Main Desk  
• Lights for Music in Springfield  
• Mr. Mike's Really Reusable Records

## Earth River RECORDS & TAPES

**GRAND OPENING SALE!**

All NEW records & tapes  
on sale until Oct. 23

Incredible selection of  
Rock, Jazz, Imports,  
Nu Music & Audiophile Discs  
Oldies but Goodies  
Thousands of used records in  
stock!  
We buy, sell & trade.  
Highest prices paid for quality  
records

62 W. Broadway  
343-8418

## CHINA BLUE RESTAURANT

### BEEF WITH BROCCOLI

Tender marinated sliced Beef with Broccoli and  
delicious special Chinese Oyster Sauce

**\$5.25**



**China Blue**  
879 E. 13th Ave.  
343-2832

**Hours**  
Mon thru Fri  
11 am-10 pm  
Sat 5-11 pm  
Sun 5-10 pm