

# Beck wants this one

Oregon safety will battle in last Civil War

By DONALD COULTER  
Of the Emerald

The situation in 1977 wasn't much different than today: the last game of the season was a matchup between two rivals trying to save face.

To the winner — bragging rights for the top college football team in the state of Oregon; to the loser — a spot alone in the conference cellar.

Despite the records (Oregon was 1-9, Oregon State, 2-8 in 1977; this year both teams are 1-9) the annual Civil War contest is not the game coaches want to add to the loss column. Just ask former OSU head coach Craig Fertig, whose firing two years ago doubtless had something to do with his inability to beat the Ducks in four tries.

"It's a big one," adds Oregon head coach Rich Brooks, who has yet to lose to the Beavers. "I've always felt pressure to win it."

In other words, it's a game that can make or break even a dismal season. A final hurrah for both teams' seniors. So why was Brooks starting a seldom-used freshman named Gary Beck back in '77?

"Our regular running backs were injured," Brooks says of that game, "so we started Gary at tailback. He did a super job for a guy who had never played much in a college game before."

Going into the OSU game, Beck, who will line up at safety against the Beavers this Saturday, had carried the ball only five times during the 1977 season. But he rushed for a total of 19 times in the season finale, ripping the Beavers' defense for 151 yards, to the surprise of just about everyone at Autzen Stadium that day.

"The first year, I really didn't understand about the Civil War rivalry," Beck says. "I was just excited to be starting at tailback, and excited that my dad was attending the game."

"All I can remember about



Photo by Bob Baker

The offensive star in the '77 Civil War, senior Gary Beck will be on the other side — at safety — when OSU and Oregon renew the rivalry in Autzen Stadium.

that day was that it was really cold. And I remember the second play from scrimmage."

That play was a halfback option pass which Beck completed for 65 yards, positioning the Ducks for their first touchdown moments later and setting the tempo for Oregon's 28-16 victory.

"That victory was pretty important in trying to turn things around," Brooks says about the win, which came in his first season as head coach. "We had no immediate dividends as far as in-state recruiting (after that game), but we gained some after we won again the next year."

The heroics against Oregon State didn't end there for Beck. Last year, the running back-turned-safety had a season-

high 16 tackles in the OSU game.

"Last year I was splitting time with Mike Nolan at weak safety, but I started at strong safety because Joe Figures was hurt. It was easy to get psyched. I knew they would be running at me since I hadn't been playing (that position) last year."

Now a senior, Beck says he appreciates the importance of the Civil War matchup.

"It's usually the last game of the year, and it gives us a chance to go off on a good note. It's easier to go through the next winter, and to lift weights for the next season, knowing we won that game."

Despite the lack of motivation that Brooks says the Ducks have shown in recent outings, Beck says he thinks Oregon won't have problems getting up for Oregon State.

"We've had a disappointing season so far — there's no doubt. A win won't make up for it, but it will leave a good taste in the mouths of the seniors. It will make a good foundation for the freshmen and sophomores."

"No seniors on this team have ever lost to Oregon State. We want to win. We have to win."

## Vobora, Hagerty named

Senior linebackers Andy Vobora and Ed Hagerty were Oregon's representatives on the Pacific-10 Conference all-academic football squad announced Wednesday.

To be eligible, the student-athlete must be a starter or important reserve who maintains at least a 3.0, or B, grade average.

Vobora, a 3.0 student majoring in business, and Hagerty, 3.6 in political science, were part of a 23-man squad. Stanford placed six on the squad, while Washington State had five selected.

## Oregon prepares for tough matches

If history can serve as a precedent, then it should be a "barnburner" weekend for the Oregon volleyball squad when it faces Oregon State in Corvallis, and then return to host the University of Washington, according to Oregon coach, Chris Voelz.

"Both matches should be very, very close," said Voelz. "In the past they always proved that way, and this shouldn't be any exception."

The Ducks have already lost to both teams this year, but Oregon's play has improved of late, as evidenced by the team's three-game sweep over Montana State, and things may turn out differently this time around.

"The Montana State match was the best an Oregon team has played in the last two years. We really played well, with many players putting out their best match of the season," said Voelz.

"Improvement and beating the teams that beat us the first time around have been our goals for the end of the season. If we sweep this weekend, then we know we've come very far in accomplishing that," said Voelz.

"We feel we have a real edge going into these matches though. Everyone is playing well as a team. They are all a bunch of fighters who never quit."

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