

# Brooks to test Duck gridgers against alums

—sportfolio—

Ogburn, Brown among returning former players

By Steve Spatz  
Of the Emerald

A Who's Who list of former Oregon football greats will put down the beer cans and pick up their helmets one more time Saturday, as the present-day Duck gridgers close out spring drills with the semi-annual Alumni game.

Duck coach Rich Brooks is hoping the 1 p.m. game at Autzen Stadium will be more than just a chance for the Alum's to strain groaning muscles and bones. "I'll be interested by see how we react to game situations," Brooks says. "It will be good just to go against different people for once."

Brooks and his staff will be looking for "more consistency" than Oregon has displayed this spring. "Of course, we'd like to win too," Brooks adds with a laugh.

Reggie Ogburn, Reggie Brown, Jack Henderson and Steve Greatwood will be among the Oregon Alumni suiting up. San Diego quarterback Dan Fouts, who made a cameo appearance two years ago, may be in attendance.

The Ducks have been knocking heads against each other in spring drills since April 5, trying to come back from last year's disastrous 2-9 season. To pick up the pieces, Brooks established six priorities for concern this spring.

Following Thursday afternoon's final practice, Brooks reflected on the progress made in each area.

**Quarterback: Still muddled**

The No. 1 concern of the spring will now be the top concern of the summer. Brooks has yet to find a reliable leader amongst the trio of Kevin Lusk, Mike Jorgensen and Edmund Rivera.

"I haven't been pleased with the progress there," Brooks says. "I could feel differently after Saturday's game, but our consistency and execution aren't good."

The spring injury to Mike Owens, probably the best option quarterback in the

## The pecking order

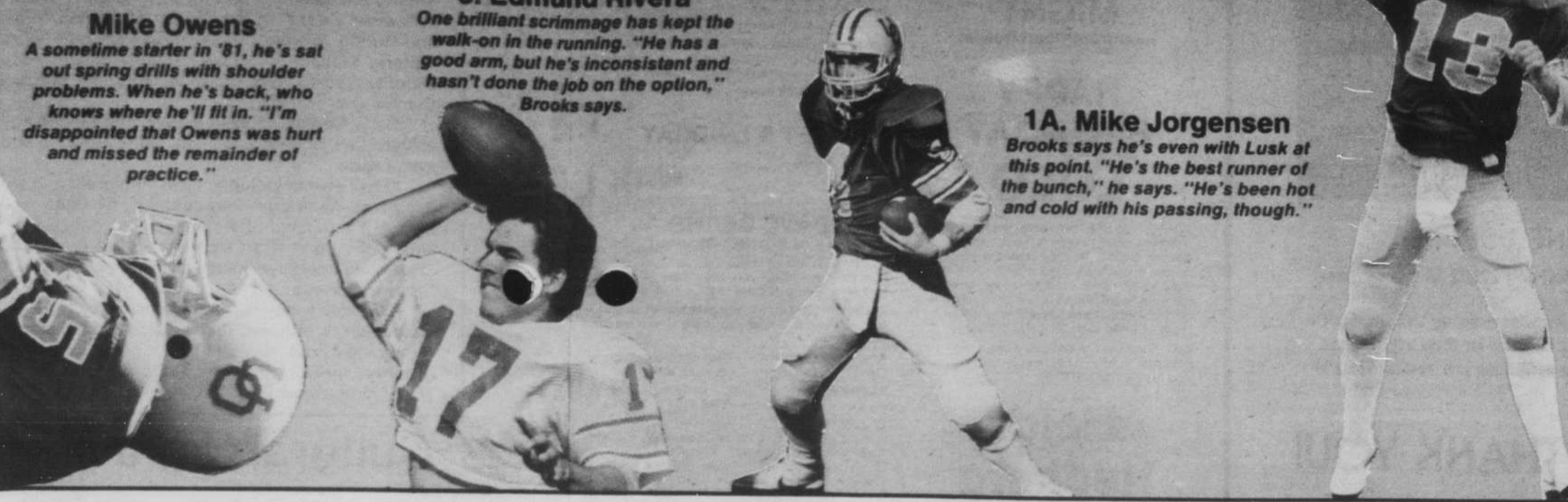
Who will be the quarterback when Oregon hosts Arizona State Sept. 6 in the opener next fall?

**Mike Owens**  
A sometime starter in '81, he's sat out spring drills with shoulder problems. When he's back, who knows where he'll fit in. "I'm disappointed that Owens was hurt and missed the remainder of practice."

**3. Edmund Rivera**  
One brilliant scrimmage has kept the walk-on in the running. "He has a good arm, but he's inconsistent and hasn't done the job on the option," Brooks says.

**1. Kevin Lusk**  
The junior entered spring drills as the man to beat. "He's better at running the option," says Brooks. "I'm disappointed in his passing based what on what I expected."

**1A. Mike Jorgensen**  
Brooks says he's even with Lusk at this point. "He's the best runner of the bunch," he says. "He's been hot and cold with his passing, though."



fold, was a disappointment to Brooks.

**Offensive Line: Same faces, new year**

Nearly the same cast ravaged by injuries in '81 will be up front for the Ducks again next fall. Center Ryan Zinke, and guards Gary Zimmerman and Scott Shepard, who spent most of last season in hospital wards, will be the bulk of the up-front muscle.

"We made some progress this spring, but not as much as I would have liked," Brooks says about his line. "We're still uncertain in the tackle spot."

Only one of the heralded junior college mammoths — tackle Ed Stringer — made an impact this spring.

**Backfield Speed: Surprise, surprise**  
Without the breakaway presence of Dwight Robertson (running track) and

super recruit Kevin Wilhite (still in high school), the Ducks went into spring ball expecting little from the rag-tag team of leftovers at tailback.

Yet the surprise of the spring session turned out to be Oregon's makeshift practice backfield. The Ducks got maximum mileage from unheralded tailbacks Todd Bland and Mack.

They, along with senior Harry Billups and fullback Terrence Jones, were cited by Brooks as most improved area. "I was very pleased," Brooks says. "The progress we made in terms of speed were good."

Nagging injuries plagued the runners this spring, especially Mack who will sit out the Alumni game.

**Secondary: Filling the gaps**

The major problem of replacing Joe Figures, Gary Beck and Ross Gibbs in the defensive backfield proved to be little more than minor.

South Eugene grad Dan Wilken, who made only one tackle all last season, is in line for the free safety spot, along with Jeff Williams. "Wilken was a big surprise for us," Brooks says. "I'm pretty pleased with the progress."

Don Pellum and Devall Webster have the strong safety spot well covered.

**Punting: Better booting**  
Duck punters combined for a 35 yard average last season, well below their opponent's 40.3 yard average.

To remedy the situation, Brooks brought in Santa Barbara JC transfer Kevin

Hicks to fight with holdover Ken Burns.

Hicks, who boomed long spirals in practice Thursday, needs better support from his linemen. Brooks was livid over a blocked kick in yesterday's practice, one of numerous breakdowns in the kicking game this spring.

"We need to get more hangtime," Brooks says. "But we're better now than we were last spring."

**Choo Choo at receiver: Speedy**  
Choo Choo Young, kick and punt return phenom, got a crack at the wide receiver spot. "He has done well," Brooks says. "He will definitely help up there. He'll give us a breakthrough threat we need."

Young is suffering from a bruised shoulder and may not see action Saturday.

The Northwest College Women's Sports Association is in for its last hurrah, and the Oregon women's track team will be the favorite to walk away with its fifth straight title, Friday and Saturday in Missoula, Mont.

The NCWSA meet will be defunct with the Division I teams — Oregon, Oregon State, Washington, and Washington State — joining the northern California schools in forming the NorPac Conference. The other Division I schools — Montana and Montana State — will compete in the new, Mountain West Conference.

Oregon shouldn't have too much trouble winning the meet. The Ducks have the top marks in all but three events in the region. Confident that his team will win, Oregon coach Tom Heinonen is saving expenses by sending only 16 of the 31 athletes who have qualified for the meet.

Instead he is saving money so that he can send all of his athletes who qualify to the Pacific Coast Invitational, a meet he thinks is a better buy for his money.

"The level of competition (in Missoula) isn't worth the expense, I would rather get them all to Berkeley," said Heinonen, who, as an example of the budget for the NCWSA, is staying home and sending sprint coach Mark Stream as the only coach.

The NCWSA does help the Ducks prepare for the NCAA meet by giving them their first taste of the championship format this season. Instead of only six people in a race, Oregon athletes will go through heat races to qualify for the finals, which lets a lot more "unknown" racers have a chance of beating the favorites.

"This meet will get us away from the dual meet setting and help us get in the right frame of mind for the NCAAs. It takes us out of Hayward Field and gives us more problems to contend with like travel, time difference, and heat races," said Heinonen.

Heinonen is looking for more of his athletes to qualify for the NCAAs, especially Lisa Nicholson and Robin Pate in the hurdles, Rhonda Massey in the 400, Quenna Beasley in the shot put, Melanie Morrison in the discus, and the 400 and mile relay teams.

"We certainly want to win this meet, especially since it's the last one. We'll do as much as we have to, to win, but we'll save our money and psych for next week," said Heinonen.

The California Golden Bears will attempt to gain another measure of respectability this weekend in Berkeley when they host the Oregon men's track team.

The Bears barged into the top levels of the Pac-10 track elite last year, posting a fourth-place conference finish and a tenth place at the NCAA championships.

"Cal is a good team and they have some real fine athletes," says Oregon head coach Bill Dellinger.

California is led by senior Larry Cowling, who will probably run the 100 and 200 meters, the high hurdles and anchor the short relay. Cowling is the defending conference and national high hurdles champion and leads the Bears in four events — the 100 (10.4), 200 (20.8), high hurdles (13.64) and intermediate hurdles (50.83).

David Timmons gives the Bears quality in the 400 (46.24), and Tom Downs will face Oregon's distance hordes in the 1,500 (3:45.2) and 5,000 (13:56.89). Mike Neilson has a best of 7-2 1/4 in the high jump; Ross McAlexander has gone 17-5 1/2 in the pole vault; Bruce Parker has a best of 61-11 1/2 in the shot put, and the Bears' mile relay team has posted a time of 3:08.06.

"We will have to take our best team and double up early, maybe Jim Hill and Bill McChesney in the 1,500 and back in the 5,000," Dellinger says.

Cal is 8-2 in dual meets this year and beat Stanford 90-64 last Saturday. The Ducks, 4-1 this year, haven't lost to the Bears since 1901. They won 87-66 last year.

Oregon has qualified 26 athletes for the Pac-10 meet, scheduled for May 19-22 at Hayward Field, and nine for the NCAA's, slated June 1-5 in Provo, Utah.

The Oregon women's tennis team lost to the University of Washington 6-3 but defeated Washington State 9-0 in the first rounds of the Northwest College Women's Sports Association championships on campus Thursday. The Ducks face Oregon State today and the winner of that match goes on to play for second place with the loser of the Montana State-Washington match.

Qualifying for AIAW nationals will begin Saturday.

The Oregon women's softball team faces Oregon State Sunday at 1 p.m. in Corvallis. The Ducks, 6-9-1 on the season, will pitch Stephanie Heisler in the first game and come back with either Janet Wright or Marci Sowa in the second game.

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