

Duck special teams extra special

Punt return squad scoring the points

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

The term "special teams" already has an interesting ring to it, but this year's edition of Duck football has really taken the meaning of the term seriously.

The Ducks, who have scored just 48 points through five games this season, have taken advantage of their special teams to score 26 of those 48 counters.

Ordinarily, the special teams on a football squad aren't supposed to do the bulk of a team's scoring — the offense usually handles that chore. But for this year's Duck offense, the touchdowns have been scarce.

The three offensive touchdowns have been scored by wide receivers Greg Moser and Osborn Thomas and running back Terrance Jones, each tallying the scoreboard with a touchdown — totalling just 18 points.

Meanwhile, the Duck scoring leader column is filled with a list of unusual names like Steve Brown, E.J. Duffy and Todd Welch. All three are defensive players and all three have played leading roles in getting the Ducks on the scoreboard this year.

The special team which has been producing the most is the punt return unit. All three touchdowns by Brown, Welch and Duffy have come via the punt return squad, although just one touchdown — Brown's — has been an actual punt return.

The punt return team had a field day against San Jose State four weeks ago in an 18-13 Oregon loss. The squad tallied both of Oregon's scores.

Mike Walter, Oregon's stalwart defensive end, got things started when he broke through the line to block Spartan punt. When the ball finally came down to earth, freshman Duffy was there to gobble it up and rumble in for a 50-yard touchdown.

"I guess I was in the right place at the right time," smiled Duffy, who went to Beaverton's Jesuit High School. "I saw Mike going in to block the kick and I wanted to be in position to get the ball if it was blocked. I knew he was going to get it."

"I came up right through the middle to block it," said Walter. "I jumped up

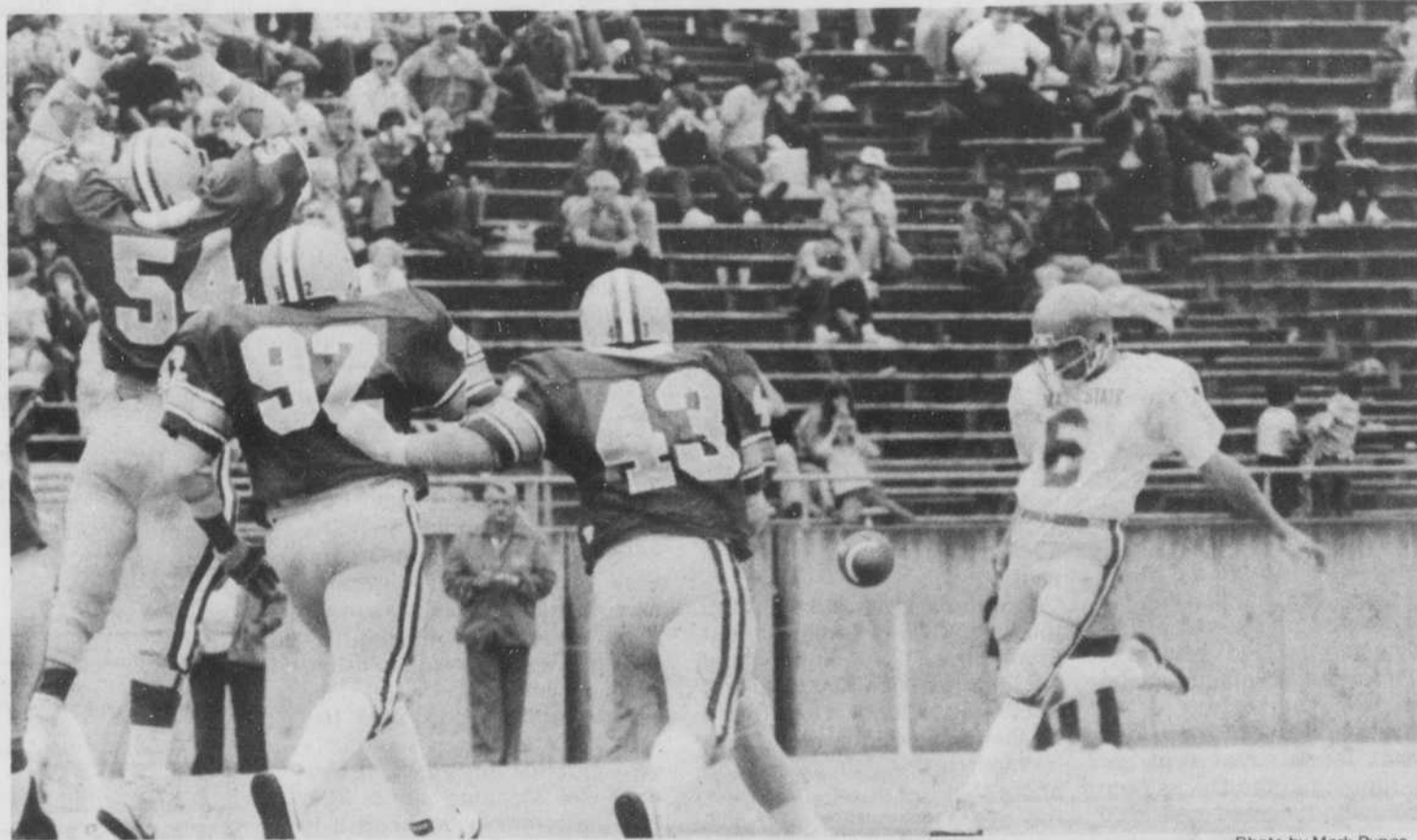


Photo by Mark Pynes

The Ducks' Mike Walter (54) skies to block a San Jose State punt as Terry Youngblood (92) and E. J. Duffy (43) look on. Duffy caught the deflection and rambled 53 yards for a touchdown.

when I got to the kicker and got my hand on it."

The second Duck touchdown of the game came when Brown fielded a punt at the Duck 47-yard line and scooted 53 yards for another punt return team touchdown.

"Having our punt return team scoring three touchdowns is quite an accomplishment," said Duck head coach Rich Brooks. "Our real advantage is that we have been working on it a lot. We have been working on all aspects of the kicking game, but the punt return has just fell into place."

"We have good people on the punt return team," Walter said. "The key is being able to draw the blocker away who blocks for the kicker. Then you have a good shot at the punter."

Duck reserve linebacker Todd Welch got punt return fever a week ago against the USC Trojans.

After watching Doug Judge break through the line and block a punt, Welch snared the ball and three yards later found himself in the end zone for the only Duck score in a 38-7 loss.

"I came in from the outside and I could tell that Doug Judge was going to block the kick," explained Welch. "The ball went straight up, I grabbed it and ran in for the touchdown."

"The center didn't block me, then the fullback didn't touch me either," said Judge, a freshman. "I was thinking block all the way. I knew I would catch hell if I didn't block it because no one touched me."

"Our punt coverage has been good all year long," said Brooks. "We have been getting down under the ball and making the tackles."

Brooks was also impressed with the kickoff team.

"We have been covering our kickoffs very well this year," Brooks said. "We have been covering them with a lot of intensity. I don't think anyone has returned one any longer than 28 yards against us."

Paul Schwabe, who handles kickoffs, has booted numerous unreturnable kicks into the back of the opponent's end zone.

On the return side of kickoffs, even

though Steve Brown doesn't have the eye-popping average of years past, he has had a few big gains and has almost broken a few returns for touchdowns.

"We are starting to get things done on the kickoff return," said Duffy, who is part of the back wedge on the special team. "There are three rookies in the back wedge and we are starting to come together."

Brown has averaged 22.7 yards per kickoff return and has shown signs that at anytime he can break the big one. He had a touchdown return last year of 93 yards against Washington State.

The field goal team, like the offense, has been a disappointment this year. The Ducks have experimented with all three of their kickers, Schwabe, Tim Wise and Todd Lee. Schwabe was slated to handle the kicking duties this year but he hit only 1-of-5 field goals early this season and has been replaced by Wise and Lee.

As it stands now, Schwabe will handle the kickoffs, Wise will take care of the long field goals and Lee will handle the extra points and short field goals.

et al.

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



Waddle Life

by shawn bird



MEETINGS

Campus Crusade for Christ's weekly meeting, "Prime Time," will be held tonight from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Newman Center, corner of 18th and Emerald. Good singing, fellowship, and teaching. Everyone is welcome.

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

The Eugene Family YMCA is currently offering a progressive fitness program for all fitness levels. Participants are evaluated and referred to the level appropriate for their needs. For more information call the Eugene Family YMCA at 686-YMCA.

The Second Annual OPEU Women's Conference will be held Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chemeketa Community College. A keynote speech will be given by Karen Nussbaum, Executive Director, Working Women. Workshops include: comparable worth, daycare, unemployment, political action, worklife quality, wellness programs, safety, assertiveness training, and career ladders. Free daycare and lunch provided. Preregistration fees are \$5 for OPEU rep. employees and \$9 for others. For more information call Oregon Public Employees Union at 581-1505 or 1-800-452-2146.

SPEAKERS

"A Candidate Forum for Lane County Commissioner (West)" is the topic of today's Mars Hill Forum, with Harold Rutherford, incumbent Commissioner, and Chuck Ivey, Challenger and Mayor of Junction City. The forum will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid. Open to all.

MISCELLANEOUS

The University School of Architecture and Allied Arts

will be holding an AAA Exhibition Oct. 4 through Oct. 14 in Gallery 141, the school of architecture and allied arts. The Gallery is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Lane County Direction Service has moved. The Direction Service provides free information, referral, and case management service to handicapped and disabled children, young adults, and their families. The new address is 650 W. 12th, Room 4 (the old Lincoln School). Their new phone number is 343-3598. Direction Service is a private, non-profit corporation, and deals with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities.

Chinese Cultural Week is Oct. 11 through Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the EMU lobby. Monday's activities features a film entitled, "Traditional Chinese Musical Instrument" and guest speaker Mr. George Lin. Events begin at 7 p.m. in 108, 109 EMU.

The Sull Order of Eugene will sponsor an evening of music and joyous activities. All are welcome and there is no charge. Call 345-4554 for location and more information.

The Wesley Foundation regular program of worship, singing, fellowship and recreation will be held tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid. Call 344-4219 for more information.

Recreational Folk Dancing is good exercise, good people, non-competitive, and fun. Dancing will be held tonight in 350 Gerlinger annex, with beginning teaching at 7:30 p.m., intermediate teaching at 8:30 p.m., and requests at 9:15 p.m. Newcomers are especially welcome, and couples aren't necessary. Contact Ken Aldrich at 686-3387 for more information.