

Notre Dame alums to throw big parties

By Paul Danzer
Of the Emerald

They could well be called "America's team." Every time they take the field, Notre Dame fans across the country can tune into the game on 350 Mutual Network radio stations. And if they have cable TV or live in a major market they can see delayed telecasts of every game.

But, as anyone near Eugene on Oct. 23 will find out, real Notre Dame fans see the game in person — at any cost.

About 12,000 Irish supporters will converge on Eugene when Notre Dame makes its first appearance in the state of Oregon, according to Peter Murphy Jr., Notre Dame alum and president of the Murphy Co. of Springfield. Murphy said about one-third of those supporters will come from out of state, including some from Texas and the east coast.

"We will probably have 40 to 50 states represented," said Murphy. "I'm talking about maybe 100 to 200 fans that haven't missed an away game in five years."

Those are dedicated fans.

Murphy is one of those in charge of coordination of the hoopla surrounding the game in Eugene. The Notre Dame alums will set up shop at the Hilton, in which they had reserved every room before the building was even completed.

Kicking off the weekend's festivities will be a joint banquet for the Oregon Club and the Notre Dame club of Oregon. It will be a husband and wife get-together in Portland and will feature the rally squads from both schools, according to Murphy.

On tap Friday will be a pep rally at the Hilton beginning at 6:30 p.m. Among the dignitaries

scheduled to attend are Gov. Vic Atiyeh, Notre Dame athletic director Gene Corrigan, former athletic directors Moose Krause of ND and Len Casanova of Oregon, Notre Dame head coach Gerry Faust, and ND assistants Brian Boulac and Ron Hudson. Boulac is the only hold-over from the Ara Parseghian era at Notre Dame, and Hudson coached at Oregon during the 1977 and 1978 seasons.

Murphy said that several Notre Dame standouts from years past will also make an appearance. Among those may be 1956 Heisman Trophy winner Paul Hornung, according to Murphy.

Also on Friday, Murphy hopes to have the Notre Dame rally squad join up with the UO rally squad at the EMU around noon to drum up enthusiasm for the game.


The fun will continue Saturday morning with a pre-game function at the Hilton which will feature a light breakfast and entertainment. The party will continue after the game, with no-host refreshments and more entertainment, according to Murphy.

Murphy said that Duck supporters are encouraged to join in the festivities. Each of the three events will cost \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

"We want this to be a joint weekend," Murphy said. "Except for three and a half hours on Saturday afternoon, we will all be friends. We want the Oregon people to participate."

"You don't find traditional football any better than we found it back there," said Dr. John Peterson, a Duck supporter who made the '76 trip to Notre Dame.

"Hopefully," he added, "Notre Dame can rub some of that excitement and spirit off on Oregon."



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