



Photo by Mark Pynes

Fans at Autzen Stadium who watched the Oregon-Pacific game saw why four of five football publications picked Oregon to finish ninth in the Pac-10 conference.

Polls relegate Ducks to cellar, disagree on Pac-10 champion

If preseason predictions are an accurate prognosis of the health of a college football team, then Oregon's grid team should climb in bed, take two aspirin, and call a doctor immediately.

The Duck's condition looks, well, bad.

While Pacific-10 prognosticators can't seem to agree on the conference champ, they all seem in unanimity on where Oregon will finish this football campaign — in, or at least near, the cellar.

Four of five polls or publications pick the Ducks to finish ninth, in each case just ahead of the Oregon State Beavers, while Athlon consigns the Ducks to tenth in the conference.

The predictions:

•**Sport Magazine:** This monthly rival to Sports Illustrated picks Oregon to finish ninth in the Pac-10, a conference the magazine calls the No. 1 in the country. Sport bases its Pac-10 choice on five categories: talent, coaching, excitement, interconference play and bowl appearances.

"The football may be good where you live, but the numbers say it's the most on the Coast," Sport says after awarding five of the conference members 'A' grades.

The Southeastern Conference is the only other with five A-rated schools. The Ducks find a D-plus on their report card, with the following comment: "With scores like 10-4, 10-7, 13-13, 10-3, 13-7 and

7-6, you'd think we were talking about the Oregon baseball team. The Ducks' fine defense is gone, and the offense has yet to arrive."

Picks: 1. Arizona, A-plus. 1a. Arizona State, A-plus. 3. UCLA, A. 4. Washington, A. 5. Southern California, A-minus. 6. Stanford, B. 7. California, B. 8. Washington State, C-plus. 9. OREGON, D-plus. 10. Oregon State, D.

•**Pacific-10 Skywriters:** This band of 18 sports writers who toured the Pac-10's schools during the last two weeks of August stuck the Ducks in ninth place in the conference, barely ahead of the cellar-dwelling Beavers. Oregon guard Gary Zimmerman finished second

Continued on Page 4

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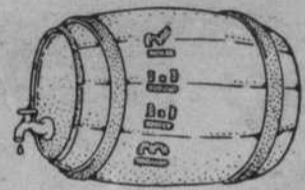
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