

# Should radios be on?

*Duck football announcers improving, although entertainment, humor lacking*

By Blair Thompson  
Of the Emerald

The 1983 season has ushered in many changes for Oregon football.

There's been a new offense, an early season victory, even a pair of pseudo-mascots holding press conferences.

One change probably has eluded even the most ardent Duck fans — a change in announcers for Oregon football radio broadcasts.

While Bill Johnson and Al Winn are not household names, theirs are the new voices of Duck football, heard every Saturday on station KUGN 590 AM.

Johnson is not completely new to Eugene, as he teamed with Warren Swain last season as a color commentator.

But Swain left Oregon for Drake University after he and KUGN differed over his job responsibilities.

"He (Swain) could only do play-by-play. He was not a news-gathering type person," says Jim Torrey of KUGN.

So off to Iowa went Swain, and promoted to the play-by-play slot was Johnson.

Next came Winn, who worked with Johnson at KXL Radio in Portland. The KMTR-TV sports anchor was selected for the color spot.

Whether Duck listeners have been blessed or hexed by this pairing is debatable so far.

"Frankly, we were a bit concerned about the quality of the first two games. It was not as good as we would like it to be," says Torrey.

The duo has worked just four games, and after the rocky first two, has begun to show signs

of improvement.

It is Winn who has been the weakest link between the two. His improvement is the key.

Color commentary is a difficult art and it is helpful to possess either a keen sense of humor, insight into the sport, or both. Instead, Winn is lacking in both.

Winn gives the listener a few interesting facts and observations to chew on, but does little else to satisfy a fan's appetite.

His attempts to make interesting comments result in gems like, "it didn't really take them too long to score."

On the other side of the booth, Johnson's play-by-play is solid, but he has yet to develop any real style.

Once a style arrives, Johnson should be on his way to brilliance, because he has escaped the cheerleader trap that many college announcers fall into.

That does not mean the Ducks aren't first in his heart.

Witness his comment during the San Jose State game after Duck tailback Kevin Willhite was booed: "The fans don't care for Kevin, but we don't care for the fans."

On top of such choice remarks, two of the most important broadcast qualities, entertainment and background information, are missing from Johnson's and Winn's efforts.

The majority of the entertainment and the information should come from Winn.

Before the voice of the Ducks can return to full strength, an injection of both is needed.

Will that injection come about? Only time will tell.

# Sox nip Orioles, LA decks Philly

From Associated Press Reports

LaMarr Hoyt won a duel of finesse and precision with Scott McGregor, pitching a five-hitter that carried the visiting Chicago White Sox to a 2-1 victory Wednesday over the Baltimore Orioles in game one of the American League playoffs.

The meeting of these two pitchers was billed as a matchup of a master of control, Hoyt, and a crafty, tricky veteran, McGregor.

The right-hander Hoyt, 24-10 and the winningest pitcher in baseball the past two seasons, won this time. He struck out only four batters, but he walked not a soul. He had walked only 31 batters in 260 2/3 innings during the regular season, and he was on his form. He gave up three singles, to Todd Cruz, Rick Dempsey and Cal Ripken Jr., and two doubles — to Ken Singleton and Dan Ford.

Left-hander McGregor, the Orioles top winner this year with an 18-7 record, had a slightly more adventurous, 6 2/3-inning outing, while benefitting from some good defense. He escaped from peril in the second inning, then stingily gave up a run in the third.

Tom Paciorek, the White Sox's 36-year-old first baseman who hit .400 against the Orioles this season, got the game-winning RBI with a single, and he scored an unearned run in the sixth without benefit of a hit.

In Los Angeles, Pedro Guerrero drilled a two-out, two-run triple, in the fifth inning, breaking a tie and moving the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 4-1 victory in Wednesday night's second game of the National League Championship Series.

The Los Angeles triumph tied the best-of-five pennant playoff at 1-1. Game three is scheduled for Friday in Philadelphia with Charles Hudson starting for the Phillies against the Dodgers' Bob Welch.

Guerrero's shot rewarded the pitching of Fernando Valenzuela, who scattered seven hits before Tom Niedenfuer took over in the ninth. John Denny, a 19-game winner during the regular season who has not defeated the Dodgers since 1978, was the loser.

Actually, Valenzuela got the winning rally started, opening the fifth with a drive that sent Garry Maddox to the center field wall. Maddox, who made a crucial error in the fourth game of the 1978 playoff between these teams, caught the ball for an instant but then dropped it as he fell on the warning track. Valenzuela steamed into third base on the error.

The Phillies won game one 1-0 on the strength of a first-inning home run by Mike Schmidt and the combined shutout pitching of Steve Carlton and reliever Al Holland.

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