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sports

Oregon starting over

Gridders take on Cal in league opener

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

It is a new season for Oregon football. Not brand new, because the Ducks are 1-3 on the season, but new because they have yet to play a Pac-10 game.

Oregon coach Rich Brooks, although not pleased with the pre-season record, indicates it's good to get a fresh start and put the non-league record on the shelf for future reference.

"It's really appropriate for us to look at it as a new season," Brooks says. "This will be our first shot at it (a Pac-10 win) and we need to go after it."

On tap for the Ducks' Pac-10 opener Saturday at Autzen Stadium is Joe Kapp and his California Bears.

Cal leads the 50-year-old series 30-17-2 and won last year 7-6, thanks to a last-minute touchdown pass from quarterback Gale Gilbert to David Lewis of Portland's Grant High School. The Bears return a handful of starters from last year's team, including Gilbert and tight end Lewis.

Gilbert is the Pac-10's leading passer and the nation's 14th-ranked quarterback, having thrown for 1,062 yards this season.

In last week's 33-33 tie with 10th-ranked Arizona, Gilbert brought the Bears back from a 23-3 deficit, completing 24 of 38 passes for 244 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

That gave Sports Illustrated reason enough to tab him its player of the week.

"Gale has given us the ability to throw the long ball," says Kapp, once a quarterback at Cal himself. "He has done it with David Lewis and Andy Bark this season."

Lewis, Cal's potential All-American, has caught 22 of Gilbert's aerials for 385 yards and two touchdowns.

"David is really playing like an All-American,"

Kapp says. "It's his final time to be playing in the state of Oregon, so I think he'll be ready to go."

Brooks, who witnessed Cal's tie with Arizona, knows his Duck defense will have its hands full.

"They have a great quarterback and a couple of great receivers in Lewis and Bark," Brooks says. "Obviously, that concerns me."

Defensively, the Bears are led by All-America linebacker Ron Rivera. The Cal defense, which limited Arizona to just 86 yards on the ground and 10 second-half points, may be one of the better ones in the Pac-10.

They have a great defense, clearly the best we've faced this year," says Brooks, "and Rivera is totally a dominating player."

Oregon continues to improve offensively — scoring 34 points against San Jose State. But one thing which has plagued Oregon is its inability to run the football with any kind of consistency. The best Duck ground performer thus far has been fullback Ladaria Johnson, who had 46 yards against Houston.

Although they aren't running like Nebraska, the Ducks have thrown the ball very well. Quarterback Mike Jorgensen threw for 224 yards and three touchdowns against San Jose State.

"We think that Oregon is a dangerous team, especially up in Eugene," Kapp says. "We know that they have improved a lot on offense and we also remember they gave us a very good game last year."

Through four games, the Ducks, namely Lew Barnes, have proven their ability to come up with the big play. The junior was on the end of a 53-yard touchdown pass from Jorgensen against Houston and a 67-yard scoring strike against the Spartans. And against a defense like Cal's, the big play will be important.

Harriers to race at Invitational

Oregon men's cross country coach Bill Deilinger has a problem — but it's a pleasant one.

Dellinger, using the early season to pick his top seven runners from a talented group, hopes Saturday's Oregon Invitational at Tokatee Golf Club will clear up what has become a very muddled picture.

The Ducks' second meet of the season should provide Dellinger with a good look at his runners — all 18 of them.

Brad Simpson, Chris Hamilton, John Zishka and Vance Blow will run their first race of the year. All four are expected to support All-American Jim Hill if they remain healthy.

After those five, Dellinger has a lot of question marks. He will run Matt McGuirk, Will Kimball, John Carlotti, Dub Myers and Blow unattached to keep them eligible to redshirt. Dellinger says depth will force him to redshirt at least one "very good runner" this year.

his new faces, University of Portland transfer Hamilton.

"Hamilton takes up the slack of losing Greg Erwin (the only Duck to graduate off last year's team)," says Dellinger.

Simpson, Blow, Zishka, Hill and Hamilton seem assured of spots in the top seven. However, the final spots on the team could go to any of the younger runners, making Saturday's race an important one for several Ducks.

Dellinger doesn't seem concerned about his team defending its 1982 Pac-10 championship. In fact, he hinted that his seventh-ranked Ducks could move up in the rankings by the end of the year.

"I think our team is better than last year's," says the coach. "We're ranked seventh nationally, and I think we can be better than that, especially if everyone remains healthy."

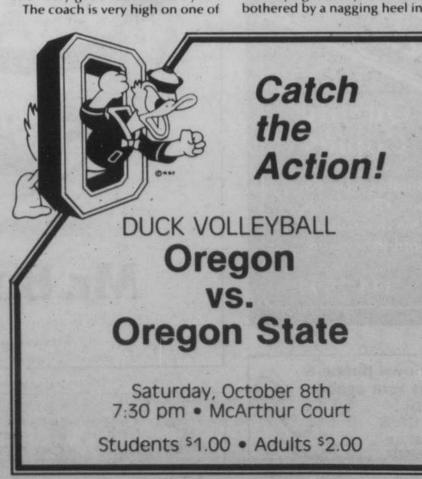
One harrier who has had trouble staying healthy is Zishka, still bothered by a nagging heel injury.

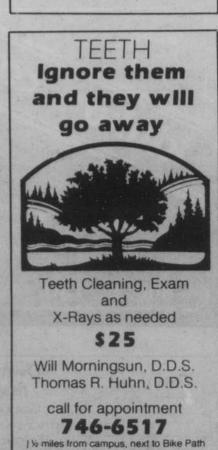
Saturday's meet features seven teams and some good individual runners — including ex-Oregon great Rudy Chapa.

The winner

David Harding, a personal finance/management senior, is the winner of Thursday's Emerald sports trivia quiz.

The correct answers are:
1) In 1982, Oregon's football team scored 103 points, allowed 223. 2) Bobby Moore is Oregon football's all-time leading rusher. 3) Oregon's volleyball team finished fourth nationally in 1971. 4) Leann Warren finished second for Oregon in 1981 NCAA women's cross country. 5) Oregon men's cross country won its last national title in 1977.





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