

The injury bug

'Lame' Ducks to meet WSU; Owens starting

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

To say the least, it will not be a healthy Oregon football team that faces Washington State Saturday afternoon in Pullman, Wash.

Injuries the Ducks sustained against Arizona two weeks ago were bad enough, but more injuries against Washington last week have depleted Oregon's offense and defense.

Offensively, the Ducks will make major changes against the Cougars. Quarterback Mike Jorgensen is expected to be on the sidelines after injuring a shoulder against the Huskies, so reserve signal-caller Mike Owens probably will get a starting nod.

Owens has seen limited action this season, but Oregon coach Rich Brooks doesn't feel that changes the Ducks' offensive game plan.

"Right now, it looks like Mike will get the start," says Brooks, whose team is 2-1 in the Pac-10 and 3-4 overall. "With Owens in there, it doesn't change our plan at all. We'll stay with all the same things we have been going with this year."

Owens has completed 17 of 39 passes for 170 yards this season, most of those coming in games against University of Pacific and Ohio State University. In addition, freshman quarterback Chris Miller worked out with the first team this week and may see some action.

Along the offensive front, Oregon's ranks have been depleted on a weekly basis. The Ducks already have lost tackle Greg Schwab for the season, and guards Ken Warner and Gary Zimmerman are doubtful for this weekend. That leaves the door open for freshman redshirt Brad Smith and sophomore Lino Vaccher to see some playing time.

"We are really weak at guard right now with Warner being out," admits Brooks. "We'll just have to see what happens."

Defensively, the Ducks lost their second safety for the season when senior Jeff Williams broke an arm against Washington. The injury probably ends Williams' career at Oregon.

Williams joins Doug Judge, who injured a knee against Arizona, on the sidelines, leaving the Ducks with only five healthy defensive backs.

Linebacker Jerry Mikels pinched a nerve against the Huskies and appears to be doubtful for WSU. Middle linebackers Bob Hudetz and Lerry Wilson, outside linebacker Dan Devaney and free safety Dan Wilken also were injured against the Huskies but are probable for Saturday's game.



Emerald Photo

The Ducks are dishing out the hits this year, but they're taking them too — injury counts continue to climb.

While injuries cripple Oregon, Washington State is injury-free, according to coach Jim Walden.

"There is not a soul injured," says Walden, whose team is 3-4 overall and 1-3 in league after a 31-21 upset victory at Arizona State. "This is the first time since 1981 that we have had a choice of who we want to start. We can start the same 11 kids on offense and defense if we want."

Washington State is led by fleet-footed quarterback Ricky Turner. Not only is Turner an effective runner, but he is second in the nation in passing efficiency. The senior has rushed for 352 yards and has completed 65 of 98 passes for 943 yards, a .663 percentage.

"Ricky Turner is exceeding all of our expectations this season," says Walden. "We knew he would have a good year, but what he is doing now is just tremendous."

Fast pace, movement cause volleyball pain

By Brent Paz
Of the Emerald

Football is noted for its contact and physical play. Volleyball is noted for its grace and power. However, both sports have one parallel — the potential for injury.

At Oregon, injuries have wreaked havoc with coach Chris Voelz' 1983 volleyball squad. Following is a look at the Duck injury list:

- Connie Riel — fractured bone in the ankle — out for the season.
- Shaunna Koenig — severely sprained hamstring — out for the season.
- Cathy Hill — double knee surgery last May. Playing status is "touch and go."
- Lisa Gemoya — slight hamstring pull. Playing status is day-to-day.
- Barb Lutz — sprained ligaments in the ankle — missed half of last season.

Is volleyball that tough of a sport? Most people associate volleyball with fun in the sun and the beach, not pain and injuries on hard gym floors.

But Voelz says injuries are commonplace because the sport is "very dynamic."

"It is not a stagnant sport. You are either very, very low or very, very high," Voelz says. "You are jumping, moving and reacting. All of those things make for some kind of an increase in the probability of injuries."

That jumping, moving and reacting has made Oregon look like a candidate for the Red Cross award this season. A sprained hamstring suffered by Koenig early in the season cost Voelz one of her quickest players.

"Shaunna's pulled hamstring is such a quizzical sort of thing," says Voelz. "We know how to treat it, but we just have to take it very, very slowly."

Slow doesn't describe volleyball — the game is fast-paced and hard-hitting. Players and coaches say that fast pace causes injuries.

"I don't think volleyball is that rough of a sport, because there is no physical contact," Koenig says. "But the ball is moving so quick, the game is so quick, you can easily hurt yourself just by quick reactions."

"The game is so reactionary and the pace is increasing so much," Voelz says. "If the kids are not in good shape..."

Voelz maintains her players were in good shape, and calls this year's injuries "fluky." Hill is past the fluke stage. She has had operations on both knees, and injuries forced her to redshirt last season.

"I get tired of icing my knees," Hill says. To prevent injuries, Voelz stresses conditioning and stretching. Still, precautionary measures can't stop some injuries from happening.



Photo by Brian Erb

Because of an ankle injury, whirlpool treatments and crutches (back) are constant companions for Connie Riel (above).

"For certain things like ankles, it (volleyball) is definitely not the greatest, because of how close your feet are and the pounding they take from all the jumping," says assistant coach and ex-Oregon player Christie McFarlane.

Despite injuries, the Ducks will be gearing for NorPac matches against the University of San Francisco and Santa Clara tonight and Saturday at McArthur Court.

Oregon is 3-2 in conference following last weekend's sweep of the Washington schools. The Ducks, 18-12 overall, are riding a three-game win streak and face two California schools with losing records.

The San Francisco Lady Dons, 8-16 and 2-3 in league, are led by sophomore Kathy Schindler. The Broncos have managed a 9-12 mark (2-3 in NorPac) despite losing several players to injury following a traffic mishap.

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