

# Oregon's most visible fan

By Capi Lynn  
Of the Emerald

As the Duck football team concludes its schedule at home Saturday against Arizona State University, fans will not only see the final Autzen Stadium performance of Coach Rich Brooks' squad, but a particular cheerleader as well.

His name is Tracy Simpson, Oregon's most visible supporter — win or lose.

Simpson is famed for leading the O-R-E-G-O-N cheer at all of the Ducks' home games the past four years.

Simpson is obviously an avid fan. He does his cheer, rain or shine and always performs his ritual — shirtless. The low temperatures and the drizzle didn't seem to phase Simpson two weeks ago against Washington State University, as he gave 24,874 fans another reason to cheer.

The WSU game was an anniversary of sorts for Simpson. Four years ago, Simpson initiated his cheerleading tradition on another rainy Cougar-Duck game at Autzen.

Simpson started his yell because the Ducks were losing and the crowd was getting restless as several fights broke out in the student section.

"I just took off my shirt, went out on the field and started spelling out Oregon," says Simpson of his start in the cheerleading business. "When I

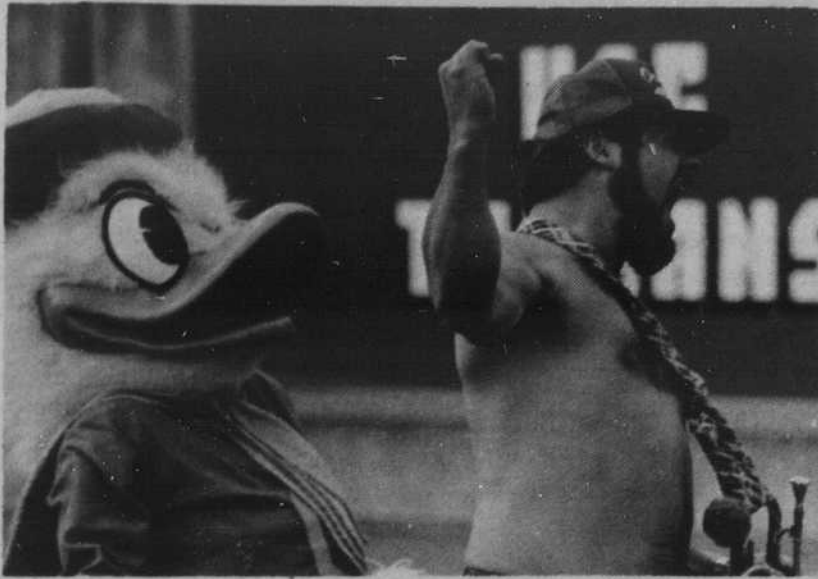


Photo by Travis Johnson

Tracy Simpson fires up the Autzen Stadium crowd as mascot Donald Duck gives a helping hand.

yelled 'O' about 20 people responded. More and more fans started joining in and about the time I got to 'N,' everyone was yelling."

Simpson's antics caused the fights to stop, but not his cheers. Since then, Oregon fans have requested that Simpson continue to perform his cheer at all Duck home games.

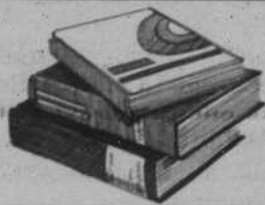
"There seemed to be a need for it to be done," says Simpson of the continuation. "I guess when the need isn't there, I'll quit."

Even the Oregon cheerleaders don't mind the competition.

"The fans seem to love him," said Duck cheerleader Kym Easton. "He seems to get the crowd going and he definitely has quite a lot of followers," added yell leader Rick Schaufler. Schaufler.

Simpson has been living in Eugene since 1979. He works in advertising firm when he isn't out on the field leading cheers on Saturday afternoons.

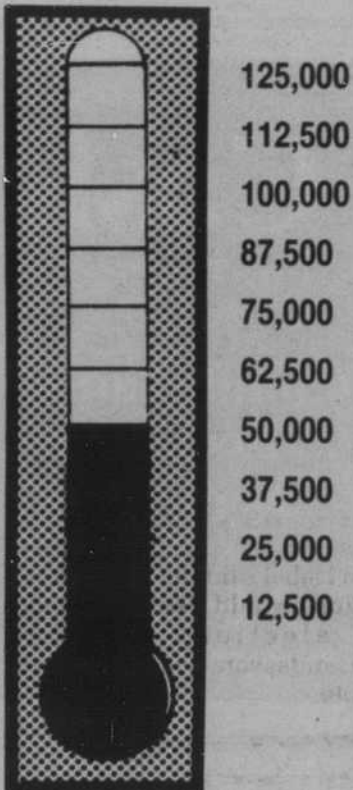
"Oregon's got good fans," says Simpson. "They just have to be charged up."



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