

## Sidelines Staff

Sidelines is the weekly sports supplement published every Wednesday in the Oregon Daily Emerald.

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### COUPON

# Don't give up on football now

As the leaves fall from the trees, down to the ground for the sole purpose of clogging the sewer system around our lovely campus, thoughts of sports fans turn from football to basketball.

After all, the basketball season is looking very intriguing, especially after the cagers opening night victory over the Australian National Team.

The football team?

Well, the football team is standing pat at 4-4 with only three games to play.

So why not forget about football and set our sights on basketball?

There are a number of reasons not to write off our battered football team.

First and foremost is the fact that the Ducks have recovered from the desperation of a three-game midseason losing streak that saw them lose to Nebraska 63-0, and then drop two close, crucial Pacific 10 Conference decisions to Washington and California.

The Cal game was an especially tough one to take for Brooks and his players as a Lew Barnes touchdown reception went for naught on a bad call from an official when the game was in its crucial moments.

"Obviously that very likely cost us the football game," Brooks said at the time. "It is always hard to lose a football game, but it is even harder when you know that something has been taken away."

To the Ducks' credit, they

have in the last two games been able to save a ship that appeared to be sinking with victories over San Diego State University and San Jose State University to even their record at the .500 mark.

### by Robert Collias

That gives the Ducks a shot at their second winning campaign in a row with three games remaining against the University of Arizona this weekend in Tucson, Oregon State University the following week at Autzen Stadium, and the season finale in Tokyo, Japan against the University of Southern California in the Mirage Bowl.

It is not unreasonable that the Ducks could win two of those three to finish 6-5 for the second year in a row.

6-5, big deal, huh?

When one considers the fact that the Ducks have been able to put back-to-back winning seasons together only once since 1964, it is. (In 1980, the Ducks finished 6-3-2 to go with the 6-5 mark of 1979.)

Even more eye opening is the fact that the Ducks have had only four winning seasons since 1964.

It is time for critics of Oregon football to forget the close losses to Colorado, Cal, and Washington and the bad calls from the officials.

Last weekend, as the Ducks

were enjoying their third bye weekend of the season, they almost jumped back into the Rose Bowl race without leaving the comfort of their own living rooms.

As Arizona State University was dismantling the Huskies of Washington, 36-7, the USC Trojans were losing to the California Golden Bears. That left Oregon in the position to be in control of their own destiny if Arizona could defeat UCLA Saturday night. Oregon with three wins in their last three games would land in Pasadena on New Years Day.

But alas it was not to be as the Bruins defeated the Wildcats and now the Ducks can only hope that UCLA will lose their last two games to Oregon State and USC.

As Brooks and his players come to the reality that that is not likely to happen, they still have reason to finish the season strongly.

"It is always harder to motivate players when the rain-bow at the end of the road is gone," Brooks says. "To know that you are realistically out of the Rose Bowl race takes a little bit of the incentive away, but on the other hand most football players are motivated just by playing the game."

For the Ducks that is enough, and it means things are going to be tough for the Arizona Wildcats, OSU Beavers, and USC Trojans in the next three weeks.

## From Gold to Mighty Oregon

Like it or not, the Denver Gold is moving to Portland for the United States Football League's 1986 fall season.

One would think that after three bouts with professional football (the Breakers and before them the World Football League's Storm and Thunder, a decade ago), Portland would rudely ignore such a proposal. But in a city that has a mayor that exposes himself to art, anything is possible.

Even so, the Breakers left a bad taste in the Columbia River area. Joe Canizaro, the Breakers' owner, now has become a four-letter word.

Some friendly advice for the Gold (soon to be renamed): Just play football. Please

do not barrage us with dome possibilities, television market potential, and investment opportunities. Portland has had only a year to lick its wounds this time, not 10.

All the hostility aside, there are indications that Gold owner Joe Spedding has a better offer for the Rose City than Canizaro did.

The Gold represents what the USFL originally exemplified — modest payrolls, no NFL tampering, few superstars. This team is led by names such as Bob Gagliano and Bruce Thornton, not Marcus Dupree and Buford Jordan.

The team is coached by Darrel "Mouse" Davis, who coached Portland State University from 1975-80 at a time when the Vikings averaged 37.7 points per game with quarterbacks such as Neil Lomax and June Jones (now the Gold's offensive coordinator).

Davis and Jones are popular figures in the Portland area and most likely have close ties with some prominent people.

The team probably has more of a chance to succeed, however, than the league. The USFL is in a shambles — a financial condition that only Lee Iaccoca and the Treasury Department can relate to. The \$1.32 billion anti-trust lawsuit against the National Football League could make or break the USFL.

But do not expect a red carpet, Gold. If there is one, be sure it does not lead to the other Portland (Maine).

Last weekend I was among 1,500 or so others who watched our volleyball team hammer away at another Northern Pacific Athletic Conference win, this time over Oregon State University.

I sat in the bleachers talking with friends as the pep band began to play — again — the Oregon fight song. I wondered how many times had I heard this song? It must be in the thousands, I thought.

I like our fight song. I never tire of it. The band jams with it. The fans love it. My mom even likes it.

The fight song always comes at the right time, too. Either we have just

scored the go-ahead basket, or the game-winning kill, or we're dancing in the end zone after a touchdown. It signals success.

And it signals hope when we're behind... or when we're just plain getting beat. Remember those home basketball games against the likes of the Beavers the past few seasons? Or a few weeks ago against the Huskies at Autzen Stadium? Those ones where we play our hearts out and come away empty-handed, our fight song played heroically 'til the end.

That song's rhythm is one backed with optimism. I can't play the trombone, trumpet or drums, but I can understand, and identify with, the fight song.

Our fight song even has words. I found a small yellow card titled "Mighty Oregon." I sat attempting to sing the words with the song's tune but couldn't get it to come out quite right. Here are the words to "Mighty Oregon":

"Oregon, our Alma Mater, we will guard thee on and on

Fellows gather round and cheer her, chant her glory Oregon

Roar the praises of her warriors, sing the story Oregon

On to victory urge the heroes of our mighty Oregon.

March, march, on down the field, fighting for Oregon

Plough through the foeman's line their strength we'll defy.

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Wednesday, November 13, 1985