

Obee prepares to play final game in an Oregon uniform

Holds numerous records

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

Long after Terry Obee plays his final game in an Oregon uniform, he'll be remembered for his many accomplishments on the football field.

Obee has probably come up with more big plays as a Duck than any producer could possibly fit on a highlight film.

Consider for a moment some of the accomplishments Obee has:

- Earlier this season Obee broke the all-time Pacific-10 Conference records for punt returns and punt return yardage. He has returned 121 punts for 1,154 yards.

- Obee has led the Ducks in receiving each of the past two seasons. He had 33 receptions in both 1987 and 1988 to lead Oregon. This season he has 37 receptions and 583 yards to lead the Ducks in both categories.

- Last week against UCLA Obee became Oregon's all-time receiving yardage leader with 2,075 yards, breaking Lew Barnes' record of 2,048 yards. Ironically he wears No. 82, the same number Barnes wore as a Duck.

- Then there is the one moment

no Oregon fan will ever forget. Oct. 22, 1988, Obee takes a handoff from quarterback Bill Musgrave on "49 Special," a flanker reverse to beat Washington 17-14 in the game's final minute.

"He's a top player and a big play guy," wide receivers coach John Ramsdell said. "From the catches at the Brigham Young game to '49 Special' he's done a tremendous job."

"He's a guy you can count on when the ball's there to be caught — he's going to catch it," head coach Rich Brooks said. "He's going to come up with the play."

"He's going to make the run after the catch," Brooks continued. "He'll field the punt and make the tough yards. He's just a remarkable football player. He's shown great durability as well as great productivity."

Obee feels he's been blessed throughout his career to avoid serious injury to perform at such a high level. He played 10 games as a true freshman in 1986 and has played every game for the Ducks since then.

"I think it just comes from having a great summer working out and working hard all of the time," he said. "It's been a



Photo by Bill Haines

Terry Obee will finish his University of Oregon football career Saturday as owner of several school records and the Pacific 10 conference record for punt returns.

blessing from God because any fluke play could cause you to get hurt any time."

Obee has been more than just a great football player for the Ducks. He is also one of the top student-athletes on the team and is on track to graduate this spring with a business degree, a remarkable accomplishment to achieve in four years considering the time constraints of college athletics.

"It's hard to find time for both," he admitted. "I've always wanted to combine the two. When we travel I try and study in the hotel room or on the plane ride."

"I definitely tried to keep a balance between the two and maintain that balance. Keeping that balance and getting my de-

gree has always been a goal of mine and I'm glad I can achieve it."

Head coach Rich Brooks and Ramsdell both see Obee as a tremendous role model for the team.

"Obee is a class football player in all senses of the word," Brooks said. Off the field, and on the field, he has always conducted himself well."

"He's a great role model who has a purpose in life which is not just football," Ramsdell added. "There are other guys who can't see past tomorrow, but Terry can see the big picture."

If there is one thing missing from Obee's accolades, it's that he hasn't received the all-Pac-

10 recognition he deserves based on his play and statistics.

"He's just an outstanding football player and I don't think he's received the recognition he deserves," Brooks said. "because we don't throw the ball simply to one receiver."

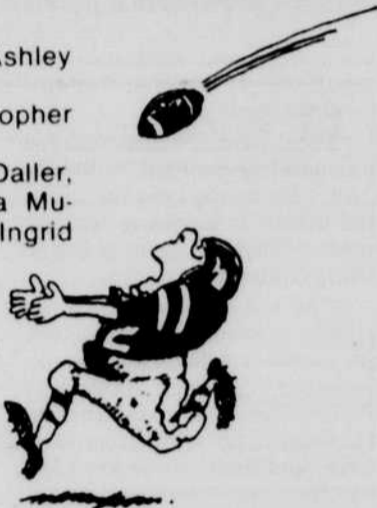
"Some of the other receivers in the league catch 50 passes or 60 passes or whatever," he added. "Our receiving statistics are always fairly spread out and Terry still is always making more yards per reception than most players. He's making more big plays and as many touchdowns as anybody."

One of the honors Obee can accomplish is being part of Oregon's first seven-win team

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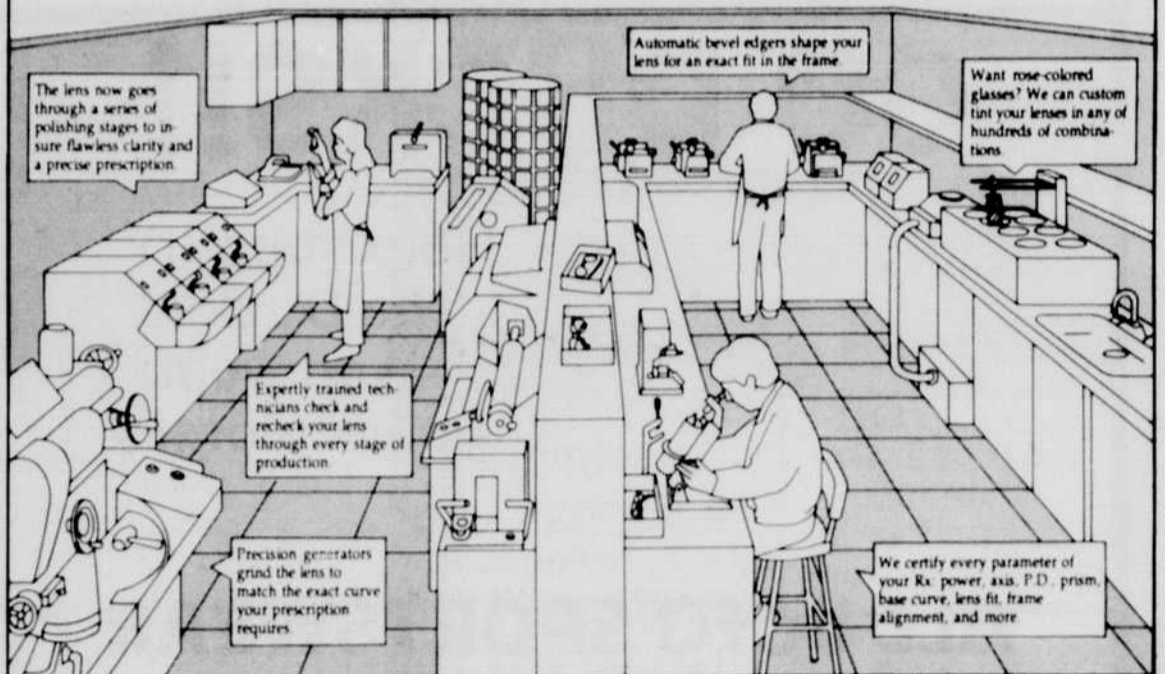


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