



Photo by Mark Ylen

Latin Berry, Oregon's football and track star, ranks ninth on the all-time school rushing list, is the school record holder in the long jump and has opened holes for school record holder Derek Loville in his four seasons as a Duck.

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said.

"People started to say 'he screwed that one up.' I'm a tailback, you know what I'm saying, and I was only 190, 195 pounds, and coaches are saying get down in a three-point and block that guy," Berry said.

As a runner, Berry possesses a crowd-pleasing style of straight-ahead locomotion.

"I'm definitely not a slash-er. I'm not going to dazzle them. If I'm in the open field I might throw a little dab, but if that doesn't work, I'm not going to try," Berry said.

Berry has nothing but respect for classmate/teammate and fellow running back Derek Loville. The fact that Loville has set the all-time rushing mark (a feat accomplished last year) and is the all-time scoring leader leaves no bad feelings on the part of Berry.

"Derek has got a lot of publicity. He's earned all that. He's got a lot of that on his own," Berry said.

"Getting hit at the line of scrimmage and breaking tackles and being shifty — he's done a lot of that on his own and I'm glad for him," Berry said.

The two most memorable moments for Berry, other than the bowl bid, both happened this year. The first was the game against California where Berry compiled 151 yards, and the second involved the game at Arizona State where teammate Loville ran up 203 yards.

"The best part about the game that I remember was when Derek got his longest

yards and ran 65 yards for a touchdown. That came off of my block. They showed it on films and it was, like, awesome," Berry said.

Berry's success at football would be enough to make him worthy of this feature, but he is also an outstanding track athlete.

A three-time All-American and winner of the Pac-10 long jump championship last year, Berry is one of the most versatile athlete's to wear the green and gold colors for Oregon.

"I came here on a football scholarship, but it was talked about before and I made sure that if I did come I was able to do both," Berry said. "The scholarship money was coming from football, but it was agreed upon that I would do both."

Choosing between football and track is something Berry has never had to do, but he adds that whichever sport he is currently involved in he misses the other.

Berry's strongest events are the long jump and the triple jump. Being a three-time All-American and Pac-10 champ is not enough for Berry, though. Berry said he wants to be the NCAA champion in both events, and if not both, then at least second in the other.

The Olympics are also in the back of Berry's mind. Berry has been invited to a couple of Olympic trials, but he declined because of football commitments.

"I want to do it just to see how I fare with the best," Berry said.

Football is the main motiva-

tion for Berry's future.

"I would like to play some pro ball," Berry said. "If that doesn't go well, I'd like to of course get my degree and start working with students in counseling."

In between football and track, Berry found time to keep a 3.31 GPA in school. Berry said it is not easy balancing school and athletics.

Berry feels lucky that he even remained in school without having someone there to supervise him or instruct him at home.

"Seriously, I think I've been lucky enough to stay in school. I'm lucky to still be here because I haven't had that really caring person there to look out for me," Berry said.

All of Berry's accomplishments have led to a very satisfying career at Oregon, and those that had the pleasure of meeting Latin Berry know that he did it on his own.



Photos by Bill Haines

