### \_Sports\_

# Roseburg senior commits to Duck football

## Oregon will officially sign players Feb. 14

#### By Ashley Conklin Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon football team reportedly will land a major high school recruit in two weeks during national letter-of-intent day when Roseburg's Heath Howington will sign with the Ducks.

Howington gave Oregon a verbal commitment on Tuesday, ending a long recruiting contest which also included Washington, USC and Tennessee. The 6foot-5, 310-pound offensive lineman was one of the most sought after in-state players in recent years and helped lead Roseburg to three straight appearances in the Class AAA state championship game.

One of the major reasons for Howington coming to Oregon was the opportunity also to participate in track. Last year Howington was the Class AAA state champion in both the shot put and the discus.

Besides choosing Oregon because of

the chance to compete in track for the Ducks. Howington did so to stay close to home. In addition. Howington's brother Eric is a music major at Oregon and a member of the marching band.

Howington will be an important addition to the football team as the Ducks try to replace three starters on the offensive line — Curt Dykes, Chris Husko and Todd Kunzman — who will graduate.

The addition of Howington gives Oregon verbal commitments from three offensive linemen.

Last week Steve Hardin, a 6-6, 285pounder from Snohomish. Wash. and Brooks Chapman, a 6-4, 260-pounder from Vista, Calif. gave the Ducks the word they would sign with Oregon.

Chapman played tight end and outside linebacker in high school as well as the offensive line. He is considered to be an "excellent athlete" and was named one of the top 100 players in the West by the *Tacoma News-Tribune*.

Although the official signing date isn't

until Feb. 14. Oregon also got a verbal commitment from quarterback Dan O'Neil of Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, Calif.

O'Neil was an honorable mention allstate quarterback this season and was listed as one of the top nine quarterbacks in the western region by The Blue Chip Report scouting service.

O'Neil threw for 2.198 yards this season, completing 147 of 238 passes. He posted 19 touchdown passes and threw only two interceptions.

An excellent all-around athlete, O'Neil is a starting guard on Mater Dei's basketball team that is 21-1 and ranked seventh in the country by USA Today.

In giving the Ducks a verbal commitment, O'Neil turned down offers from USC and Alabama.

Dan Koker, a senior at Lebanon High School, also has given a verbal commitment to Oregon. Koker was an outside linebacker in high school.

Another in-state player. Ashland defensive back Chad Cota, might also come to Oregon, but the Ducks have received no word yet.

# New stadium may lure NFL

PORTLAND (AP) — A fundraising drive has been launched to build a domed stadium and attract a National Football League franchise to Portland.

Led by U.S. Bancorp Chairman Roger L. Breczley and Portland attorney Ted Runstein. chairman of the Metro Exposition and Recreation Commission. the non-profit corporation TLP Inc. is starting to seek funds and land for a multimillion-dollar stadium to help win a National Football League franchise during the league's expected expansion in the 1990s.

"We're hoping to come up with a proposal to fund and build a league-type facility which would be conditional on receiving an NFL franchise," Runstein said Tuesday when asked about rumors that such an effort was under way.

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