

Oregon scores big on letters day

By Tracy Sumner
Emerald Sports Editor

Coming off its first bowl appearance in 26 years, Oregon signed 29 football players to letters of intent Wednesday.

Oregon football coach Rich Brooks said the Ducks' win in the 1989 Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La. and 8-4 finish weren't the deciding factors for most of the recruits, but noted that success never hurts.

"The success we had on the field that led to our success in the Independence Bowl played a big role in our recruiting this year," Brooks said. "We feel really, really pleased about this class."

Oregon signed 23 high school players, including Roseburg's standout 6-foot-5, 310-pound offensive lineman Heath Howington.

Howington, who will also compete in track and field at Oregon, helped lead Roseburg to three consecutive appearances in the State AAA football championship game while earning first-team Parade All-American honors.

Howington chose Oregon over schools such as Washington, Tennessee and Southern California to "stay close to home and my family." Howington's brother, Eric, attends Oregon and is a member of the University marching band.

"I also like the way it will work with track and football," Howington said. "It feels great to decide, I'm really glad I picked Oregon."

Brooks said Howington could make an immediate impact for the Ducks next season — providing he doesn't redshirt. Howington said he may sit out his first season at Oregon.

"Heath Howington has the size, strength and athletic ability to be a factor right away," Brooks said. "It [Howington's signing with Oregon] is a great thing for the people in the state of Oregon who have watched Howington in his football career in high school."

Howington is one of six interior linemen signed by Oregon, an important accomplishment for a program losing three of its five starting offensive linemen to graduation.

Oregon also signed Ashland safety Chad Cota. The 6-1, 188-pound Cota helped lead Ashland to the AAA state championship in 1989 and was named Oregon's high school defensive player of the year by the *Oregonian*.

"He's tough, he'll come up and make the hit, he's obviously a winner," Brooks said of Cota. "He's the type of player who can make your calls and checks for you and he's also a good student."

Oregon's third in-state recruit was 6-4, 200-pound linebacker Tony Koker of Lebanon High School in Lebanon.

The Ducks looked south for a successor for quarterback Bill Musgrave, signing 6-2, 180-pound Dan O'Neil of Mater Dei High School in Newport Beach, Calif.

O'Neil, an honorable men-

tion all-state pick last season, threw for 2,198 yards on the year and had 19 touchdown passes and only two interceptions.

"We feel he is a tremendous football player," Brooks said. "He threw for over 2,000 yards and 19 touchdowns and only two interceptions so he's really an accurate passer."

Oregon also inked Kyle Crowston, a 6-2, 180-pound quarterback from Evergreen High School in Vancouver, Wash. Crowston threw for 1,187 yards and had 11 scoring strikes in his senior season.

The Ducks got help at running back by signing 5-11, 185-pound tailback Kealii Clifford. Clifford, a high school teammate of O'Neil's rushed for 959 yards in his senior season and is Mater Dei's all-time rushing leader with more than 2,800 yards and 44 touchdowns.

Oregon won a recruiting battle with Brigham Young, Utah, Hawaii and San Diego State to tab Silila Malepeau, a 6-foot, 230-pound defensive lineman

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Intramural Results February 11

Men's basketball

Frombe 72, Black Panthers 24
Spear-Poss 72, Harry's Hoopsters 68
Phi Kappa Psi 146, Sig Ep A 32
Phi Delt II-C 47, SAE II 37
Labe/Ten 66, Lambda Chi Alpha 125
Sickness 73, Vanilla Lightning 52
Sigma Chi III 26, The Bathers 18
Carpe Diem 61, Grizzlies from Hell 36
C.W.A 53, Delta Tau Delta 45
Willcox 41, Fiji III 38
Collier 56, The Foaming Ducks 54

Women's Basketball

The Coaches 53, Kappa Alpha Theta 24

Racquetball Play-offs

Phi Kappa Psi I def. Theta Chi I 2-0
SAE I def. Sig Eps 3-0

◀Non-Violence▶

◀Workshops▶

Feb. 17th EMU Board Rm
10am-2pm

Feb. 18th Ben Linder Rm
12pm-4pm

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