

Sports

Ducks set to begin spring practice

Team seeks a bowl bid

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon begins spring football practice today with a host of expectations for the 1990 season, but at the same time, the Ducks have several questions to answer as well.

Last season, Oregon went to its first bowl game since 1963 and capped an 8-4 season with a 27-24 victory over Tulsa in the Independence Bowl.

Head coach Rich Brooks, who is in his 14th season at the helm, knows that last season's record and bowl appearance has people wanting more.

"Anytime you have such a season, people's expectations are raised and equally the expectations of the players and coaching staff increase, making it a tougher challenge," Brooks said.

Brooks said the best thing about the bowl appearance was that the fans and university were rewarded after the 26-year drought.

"I was pleased for the university and I think the people who went to Shreveport had a good time, despite the weather," he said. "It was a long time in coming and the fans had been very patient."

"Now the expectation is to be in another bowl game and this team has the opportunity to be the first team in school history to go to back-to-back bowl games," Brooks said.

Although Brooks believes the Ducks have what it takes to go to back-to-back bowls, the players and coaches can't rest on their laurels.

"We can't rely on eight or nine wins every year like teams like USC and Washington and we can't automatically get bowl bids," he said. "We have to go out and earn it and we have a lot of hard work to do."

Leading the way will be junior quarterback Bill Musgrave, the fulcrum of the program,



Photo by Andre Kanieri

Junior Joe Reitzug will team with Junior Tony Hargain (not pictured) to head a strong wide-receiving corps for the Ducks next season.

who will likely be a pre-season Heisman Trophy candidate.

Last season the senior-to-be broke nearly every school single-season passing record and is ready to pass such greats as Dan Fouts and Chris Miller for career passing yardage, career total offense, career completions and attempts. Musgrave already has the school record for touchdown passes in a career with 43.

Junior wide receivers Tony Hargain and Joe Reitzug also return and the defense is led by

junior outside linebacker Peter Brantley, a second team all-Pacific-10 pick last season.

But there are plenty of question marks as well.

"We have some questions and we'll spend most of our time in spring drills answering those concerns," Brooks said. "We lost a lot of players, but one thing we have been able to do is replace players on defense and get better."

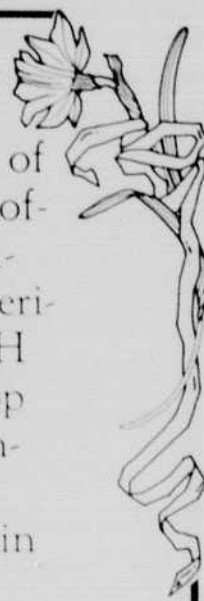
"We lost three people in the

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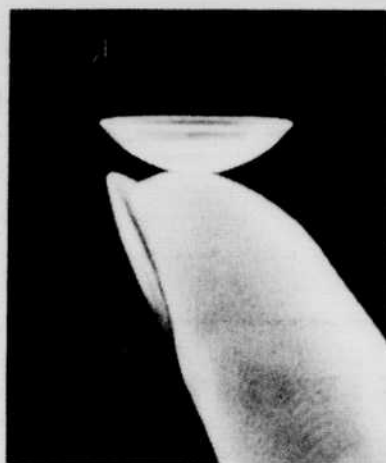
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