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WALK-ON

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lot of hard work.

"It wasn't easy," he adds. "Both of them got off to a shaky start, but they both had determination. And they also had to be given a chance."

Neither Reitzug nor Hall were given much attention from Pac-10 schools. Both are small by Pac-10 standards - Reitzug is 5-10 and 170 pounds, and Hall is 6-2 and 253 pounds - and lack blazing speed, but both have intangible qualities that recruiters often can't see.

"Everybody looks for the bigger or faster players," Brooks said. "Sometimes I don't know what (coaches) are looking for, including myself. I mean, we make mistakes. Hopefully we don't make a lot of them, but we make them."

Reitzug, a senior, was courted by Oregon - he even visited Eugene - but when the time came to sign there was no scholarship offered. There were a few smaller schools in Washington and Oregon that recruited him, but he liked the coaching staff and atmosphere at Oregon enough that he decided to give it a chance.

"It was kind of tough being a walk-on," he said, "because scholarship players already have money invested in them, so coaches have to give them preferences."

Hall agrees. "When you're a walk on they do give you a chance, but the coaches don't really expect you to do it."

"At first I was intimidated," Reitzug, a 22-year-old Tacoma, Washington, native recalls. "I wanted to show people I could do it, that I believed in myself and do the things I knew I could do to play for this team. I always knew that in the back of my mind."

After redshirting during the 1986 season, Reitzug questioned his desire to play for the Ducks and left the team. But he returned for the 1988 season and probably would have made

more of an impact had he not suffered a broken thumb. It was last season when his talents blossomed.

Reitzug played in all 12 games and started three of them. He made 34 receptions for 511 yards and three touchdowns, including seven catches for 136 yards against Brigham Young and six for 121 yards against Tulsa in the Independence Bowl.

Although last year was undoubtedly Reitzug's best for Oregon, Brooks saw flashes of what was to come during the Washington State game in 1988.

"Two years ago - when I didn't have a scholarship available for him at the time - he made an incredible catch at the Washington State game," he said. "And there have been a bunch since then."

"I kind of got lucky," Reitzug said. "Coach Brooks has helped me out a lot, and I have a lot of respect for the coaching staff and Coach Brooks."

"He is an amazing man. I don't know if I would be in the same position if I were in a different program."

Like Reitzug, Hall was given offers from smaller schools when he graduated from South Eugene High School in 1986, but decided he wanted to take on a tougher challenge. Since Eugene is his hometown, the decision to try out for the Ducks was an easy one.

"It was play here or I didn't want to play at all," he said. "I had always wanted to play for the Ducks, and it was so much more financially convenient living here."

Hall's decision paid off for the Ducks last year.

During the second quarter against Iowa, Hall was called out to replace Boatright. A few weeks later, Hall received his first starting assignment against Arizona State when the coaches decided to try a different formula. It worked, and he ended up starting more games at center than anyone else, including

a start in the Independence Bowl.

"It felt like three years of hard work paid off," he said. "It felt exciting. After not playing for so long (I didn't play for three years), I didn't know what real playing time meant in a big time situation. The feeling of playing in a game like that against Iowa in front of 80,000 people was really a great thing to be part of."

"Just the feeling, the playing part of it is enough motivation and excitement to make three years of hard work worth it."

During his two years on the sidelines, Hall said consistency and believing in himself helped keep his motivation high.

"I just kept telling myself that I can play regardless of my size," he said. "I just had to believe in myself and the opportunity would come."

Hall was realistic about his situation though, and he didn't expect to be a factor right away. But he did have a goal to be a solid player.

"I think that is what kept me around," he said. "Telling myself that I was going to go through a lot of hard work. I had more things going against me than I did for me. I had to realize that."

Hall said that assistant head coach Neal Zoumboukos helped him in many ways.

"He helped me keep my goals in line. He was always forward and up-front with me," Hall recalls. "He told me once 'I see a light at the end of the tunnel, keep moving toward it.' I kept trying and it finally paid off."

Hall said he would like the opportunity to start again but not under the same circumstances as last year. With the offensive line a soft point in Oregon's offensive attack, that opportunity might come around.

McCallum said that his success after walking on at Oregon was driven by two main factors - the desire to join his brother, who plays for Washington, in the Pac-10, and his faith in God. McCallum redshirted in 1988 when Oregon had Kirk Dennis handle the kicking responsibilities, came back in 1989 and became the first Oregon player ever to score over 100 points in the season. He holds the records for the most field goals (24) and attempts (32), and was perfect on all attempts inside 39 yards last season.

The 21-year-old from Seattle was an important factor for the Ducks when the offense sputtered near the goal line. In fact, he scored nine points in Oregon's come from behind victory in the Independence Bowl - including the winning field goal.

"My brother really got me stuck here, because he kicks for Washington and I wanted to follow in his footsteps," he said. "And then the Lord really kept me in here. I relied on his strength in some of the times that weren't so good."

McCallum said perseverance was the main factor while he tried to make his mark. He just tried to keep learning.

"There were times when I just wasn't sure where I was going," he said. "When I walked-on there were five kickers, but I was real optimistic the whole time. I just kept watching the doors open."

"I'm really proud of the job they've done," Brooks said. "They are an example for everyone who wants to work hard for something that is beyond their reach."

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