

◀ GAME PREVIEW ▶

Ducks, ASU trying to overcome key injuries

By Ashley Conklin
Emerald Sports Editor

The injury list may be longer than the depth chart for both Arizona State and Oregon this week as the two teams prepare for Saturday's Pacific-10 Conference game at Autzen Stadium.

The Sun Devils' roster looks more like an outpatient list at a Tempe hospital. Arizona State went into last week's game with California without three starters on offense and six on defense. Included on the list of injuries is quarterback Paul Justin, a second team all-Pacific-10 Conference pick a year ago, and defensive tackle Shane Collins, last spring's NCAA shot put champion.

How bad are things for the Sun Devils? Consider that they were ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 poll after starting 2-0 but have since lost to Missouri, Washington and California and only the Cal loss, a 31-24 defeat, was close, and only after Arizona State came back from a 31-3 deficit in that game.

Things are a little better for the Ducks. They're 4-2 overall, but 0-2 in the Pac-10 and tied for last place in the conference with Arizona State.

Oregon looked relatively healthy last week but got banged

up and knocked all over the place last Saturday in a 38-17 loss to Washington in Seattle.

But the oddsmakers have installed the Ducks as 19½-point favorites for Saturday's 7:07 p.m. kickoff to accommodate Prime Ticket television and the point-spread has Coach Rich Brooks very surprised.

"One of the biggest laughing jokes I've ever heard in my life, that we're favored by that much," Brooks said, "because we are a beat up football team right now, coming off of a pretty lopsided loss up at the University of Washington."

The injury list is particularly bothersome for the Oregon offense where starting wide receivers Joe Reitzug and Michael McClellan both are hampered by knee injuries and quarterback Bill Musgrave didn't do any throwing in practice this week until Thursday because of a stomach muscle injury suffered in the Washington game.

Neither Brooks nor Musgrave knew when the injury occurred. Musgrave was hit hard throughout the day, but didn't really feel the effects of the injury until Sunday.

"It's very, very painful," Brooks said of Musgrave's injury. "I think if he's functional, even with pain, he would play. Wheth-

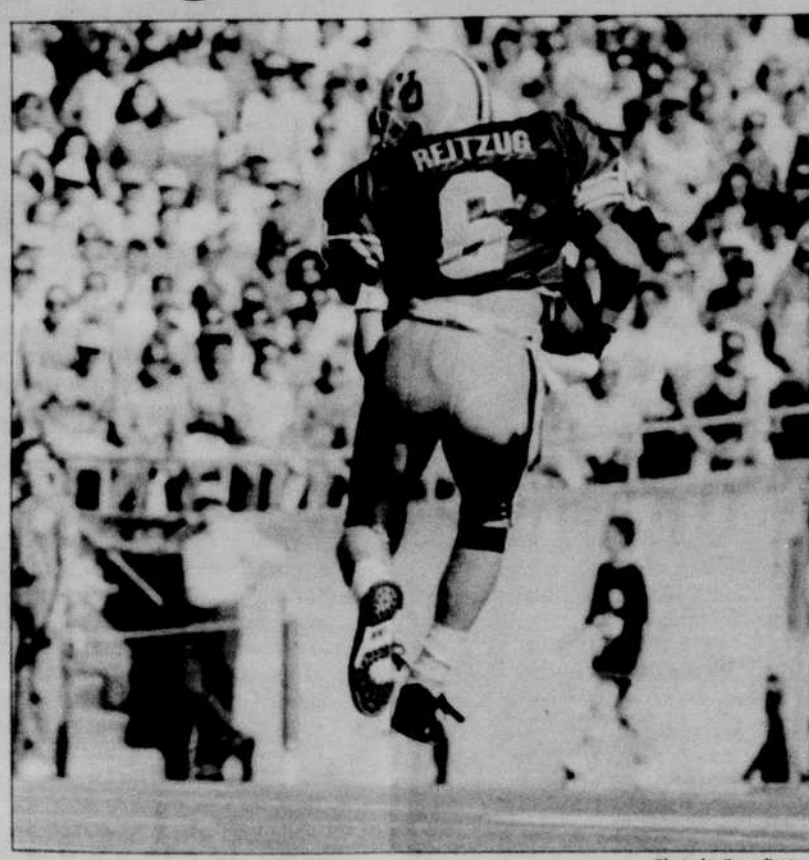


Photo by Sean Poston.

Oregon wide receiver Joe Reitzug, bothered by a knee injury, is one of many Ducks that might miss Saturday's game against Arizona State.

er he can function or not and play with the pain remains to be seen." Brooks is hoping Musgrave is functional because when he hasn't

been in the past, neither have the Ducks.

Oregon is 22-9 in the last four years when Musgrave has started and finished a game but only 2-9 without the school's all-time passing and total offense leader and everyone remembers what happened two years ago when the Ducks were 6-1 before Musgrave suffered a broken collarbone and the team collapsed, finishing 6-6.

Even if Musgrave can't go Saturday, Brooks believes back-up quarterback Jon Okken, a junior, can step forward and do the job.

"I think we have a little bit better overall football team than we had at the time when Bill Musgrave went out when we were 6-1 and earlier than that as well," Brooks said. "I do believe Jon Okken will perform better than our other quarterbacks have when he went out. I think the players have confidence in him."

The Ducks are also hurting on defense where nose tackle Marcus Woods suffered a severe ankle sprain against the Huskies and cornerback Muhammad Oliver was lost for the season with a knee injury.

True freshman Gary Williams, who has played in every game this season, will take over for Woods at the nose.

"Gary Williams, as a true fresh-

man, has played every game and played well," Brooks said. "He got extensive playing time in Seattle after Marcus went out in the middle of the second quarter and really played very well."

Williams and the rest of the defense will have their hands full with the Sun Devil offense, despite the loss of Justin.

Tailback Leonard Russell, who wasn't even on the roster last year, has emerged as a solid force at that position, possessing both good size (6-foot-2, 238 pounds) and speed.

In fact, Brooks compared him to Washington's Greg Lewis, the Pac-10's leading rusher, saying that Russell might be even better than Lewis.

"They have one of the best running attacks we've seen," Brooks said. "They rank right up there with the University of Washington. Russell is all as good, if not better than Lewis."

"He's bigger, he's faster, he breaks tackles, (a) good receiver coming out of the backfield," he said. "Russell is just a threat to get the distance from anywhere on the field."

Saturday's game is the first night game at Autzen since 1978.

◀ UO PROBABLE STARTERS ▶

- OFFENSE**
- SE—6 Joe Reitzug (5-10, 170, Sr.)
 - LT—79 Todd Kaanapu (6-3, 271, Sr.)
 - LG—78 Greg Phillips (6-5, 262, Jr.)
 - C—52 Scot Boatright (6-2, 254, Sr.)
 - RG—59 Andy Sunia (5-11, 284, Sr.)
 - RT—75 David Collinsworth (6-5, 280, So.)
 - TE—83 Jeff Thomas (6-5, 229, Jr.)
 - QB—14 Bill Musgrave (6-3, 200, Sr.)
 - FB—28 Ngulu Kelemeni (6-2, 208, So.)
 - TB—21 Sean Burwell (5-11, 181, RFr.)
 - FL—4 Michael McClellan (5-9, 165, Sr.)
 - PK—9 Gregg McCallum (5-9, 178, Jr.)



- DEFENSE**
- LE—90 Matt LaBounty (6-4, 246, Jr.)
 - NT—54 Gary Williams (6-2, 260, Fr.)
 - RE—99 Jeff Cummins (6-6, 255, Jr.)
 - LO—47 Andy Conner (6-3, 236, Jr.)
 - ML—45 James Bautista (6-1, 232, Jr.)
 - WL—51 Joe Farwell (6-2, 210, So.)
 - RO—85 Peter Brantley (6-4, 230, Sr.)
 - SS—3 Rory Dairy (5-10, 190, Sr.)
 - LB—27 Daryl Singleton (5-9, 176, Sr.)
 - RC—20 Daryle Smith (6-1, 181, Jr.)
 - FS—12 Eric Castle (6-3, 206, So.)
 - P—29 Tommy Thompson (5-10, 180, Fr.)

◀ ARIZONA ST. PROBABLE STARTERS ▶

- OFFENSE**
- SE—12 Eric Guilford (6-0, 190, Sr.)
 - QT—73 Mark Hayes (6-7, 289, Sr.)
 - QG—66 Tim Kirby (6-6, 283, Jr.)
 - C—67 Bob Robertson (6-4, 270, Jr.)
 - SG—61 Jeff White (6-3, 276, Jr.)
 - ST—75 Mike Ritter (6-7, 293, Jr.)
 - TE—88 Ryan McReynolds (6-7, 254, Jr.)
 - QB—7 Bret Powers (6-6, 216, RFr.)
 - FB—22 Kelvin Fisher (5-11, 209, Jr.)
 - TB—42 Leonard Russell (6-2, 238, Jr.)
 - FL—84 Kevin Snyder (5-8, 158, So.)
 - PK—91 Mike Richey (5-10, 174, So.)



- DEFENSE**
- DT—72 David Dixon (6-6, 318, Jr.)
 - NG—99 Tim Landers (6-3, 276, Jr.)
 - DT—95 Bryan Hooks (6-4, 280, So.)
 - OL—98 Shante Carver (6-6, 220, RFr.)
 - IL—49 Scott Woodford (6-1, 222, Jr.)
 - IL—44 Brett Wallerstedt (6-1, 232, So.)
 - OL—40 David Tiedell (6-1, 216, RFr.)
 - SS—5 Michael Williams (6-1, 198, Jr.)
 - LC—1 Phillip Sparks (5-11, 189, Jr.)
 - RC—39 Eric Crawford (5-11, 173, Jr.)
 - FS—29 Nathan LaDuke (5-11, 197, Sr.)
 - P—16 Brad Williams (6-0, 180, Sr.)

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