

THOMPSON

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more comfortable in a game." The key to being a good punter, Brooks said, is to eliminate bad punts, and Thompson has been successful at accomplishing that.

Thompson's worst game this year was at home against Brigham Young, but he said the wind was more to blame than anything else.

"There was a lot of wind during the BYU game," he said, "and I ended up kicking seven of my eight punts into the wind."

Thompson has set some pretty lofty goals for himself this year, but he is on track to accomplishing them.

"My goal is to not have a single punt blocked this season," Thompson said, "and to main-

tain an average above 40 yards."

Blocked punts are something that all punters, including Thompson, dread.

"Every time I go back there," Thompson said, "my first concern is to catch the ball and get the punt off."

He tells horror stories of his junior year in high school when a blocked punt was a common experience.

"My junior year, we had an offensive line that averaged about 155 pounds," Thompson said. "The snaps were bouncing back to me and the other team was all over me."

"I can remember one game in which I had four punts blocked," he added.

Thompson feels that the key to avoiding a block this year has centered around the long

snaps of Matt LaBounty.

"LaBounty has done a superb job on long snaps this year," Thompson said. "I haven't had to move around very much to get the ball."

However, last weekend against Washington, Thompson did have to field a low snap from LaBounty, but he recovered in time to get off a 46-yard punt.

Despite his success as a punter, Thompson hopes to return to placekicking someday. It is something that both he and Coach Brooks feel is a strong possibility.

"It's very possible that he could replace (Gregg) McCallum," Brooks said, "because he was a better placekicker than he was a punter in high school."

ALLEN

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high," he said.

But the Independence Bowl gave the sportscaster another not so fond memory. "Cold," he said referring to the sub-freezing Louisiana weather last December that he and partner Todd McKim were forced to endure.

"The most severe conditions I have ever been in, in any situation. I got so cold, it hurt."

Allen believes, like most knowledgeable Duck fans, that Oregon is destined for another bowl this year.

"They are a great team, great coaches," he said.

"The Voice of the Ducks" looks on with eagerness at the approaching men's basketball season. Allen will broadcast live from every Oregon hoops contest, both at home and on the road.

"By the end of the basketball season it's been a long season," he said. "You get a real appreciation for what athletes have to go through. That's a tough, tough thing, and a lot of fans don't realize it."

He cited studying, missing class, and sleeping in a different bed as being particularly hard on the players during road trips.

Allen himself doesn't necessarily care for the road either.

"I miss my family. I just don't travel well without them," he said.

Once Allen got into the radio business and the business of being a Duck fan, he found that the combination has, in effect, permitted him to live out his dream as the "Voice of the Ducks".

"I would love to be at Oregon doing play-by-play until I retire," he said. "That would be an ideal situation."

PAC-10 PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATIONS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Predictions are based on anticipated point-spread as determined by individual voters. A correct response is credited each time the favored team wins by at least the predicted margin. The numbers following each person's name represent that individual's overall record. These predictions are intended for entertainment purposes only.

	ASU at UO	WSU at OSU	UW at Stan	UCLA at Cal	UA at USC	Miami at N. Dame
A. Conklin (13-11)	UO + 10	WSU + 2	UW + 7	Cal + 1	USC + 9	Mia + 4
P. Morgan (12-12)	UO + 7	WSU + 1	UW + 14	UCLA + 4	USC + 7	Mia + 10
R. Weber (13-11)	UO + 8	OSU + 2	Stan + 2	Cal + 1	USC + 4	ND + 1
M. Ross (13-11)	UO + 3	OSU + 3	UW + 3	Cal + 3	USC + 3	Mia + 1
C. Blair (13-11)	UO + 6	WSU + 2	UW + 7	Cal + 2	USC + 3	ND + 3
C. Bouneff (12-12)	UO + 7	OSU + 1	UW + 3	UCLA + 1	USC + 7	Mia + 1

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GO DUCKS

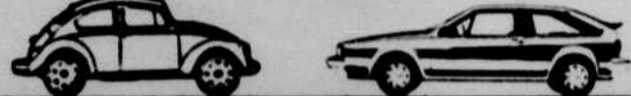


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