

Boatright fights to stay focused

Oregon's senior center juggles school, football, fatherhood

By Paul Morgan
Emerald Contributor

To say Oregon senior center Scot Boatright has been very busy the last couple of weeks would be an understatement.

The 6-foot-2, 254-pound Boatright has spent a large part of the week preparing to face Oregon State and Esera Tuaolo, the Beavers' outstanding nose tackle in Saturday's Civil War clash.

With only the Oregon State and Freedom Bowl games left, Boatright is nearing the end of a four-year career at Oregon that has been marked by success but marred by injuries.

Knee and ankle injuries kept Boatright out of six games last year and a pinched nerve in his neck forced him to miss this year's UCLA game, his final home game as a Duck.

After playing last Saturday in Oregon's 28-3 loss to California, Boatright is healthy, but busy, heading into his final regular season game as a Duck.

On Wednesday alone, he completed four interviews, three of which dealt with football while the fourth was his first job interview for a career in sales and marketing.

It may seem like a busy time but to Boatright it's just another average week. However, there is something new in Boatright's life that is far from average.

The new, big change in Boatright's life is that he's now a fa-



Scot Boatright

ther. On Nov. 4, one night after the Ducks' come-from-behind victory over UCLA, Boatright's wife Mani gave birth to the couple's first child, daughter Megan Anne.

"It has to be the single, best experience I have ever been through," Boatright said of seeing his daughter born. "It is the best thing one person can witness. It's been the highlight of my life."

Boatright can now add the responsibilities of being a father to his already long list of activities.

"From the moment she came out everything in our life has changed," Boatright said. "I am going to work to create the best life I can for her."

For now that means Boatright will be checking out the job market. He is hoping to land

more job interviews as his spring graduation approaches.

With so many new things happening in his life now, Boatright faces a difficult task to stay focused on the field, but don't expect the anchor in the Ducks' offensive front to have a lack of focus Saturday afternoon in Corvallis. His mind is set on keeping Tuaolo out of the Oregon backfield.

"This is definitely my toughest week," Boatright said. "I have a very tough match-up because Tuaolo is the best defensive lineman in the Pac-10, if not the nation. The coaches expect me to handle him, but no other center in the conference has."

"He can make me look bad, but I am going to try to contain him," he said.

Focus is something Boatright has been trying to hang on to since Megan was born, and it hasn't been easy for the 21-year-old business major.

"It is hard to keep focused," Boatright said. "When I'm on the field I try to think about football, when I'm in class I try to think about class, and when I'm at home I think about Mani and Megan. But sometimes things do get intertwined, and it's hard not to think about the other things."

At the end of last summer, assistant head coach Neal Zoumboukos talked with Boat-

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