

Dreams of post-season fade as injuries mount



FROM THE SIDELINES
BY JAYSON JACOBY

Sean Burwell. Matt LaBounty. Mindee Adams. Jeff Cummins. Danny O'Neil. Marcie Price. Eric Castle. Molly McGrath.

These are just a few of the Oregon athletes who have missed substantial playing time so far this season due to various injuries.

The complete list couldn't be printed due to space limitations.

The final effect of this injury parade can't be tallied up until the end of the season, but there is no doubt that Oregon sports have suffered greatly as a result of this curious affliction that has plagued Duck athletes since last summer.

The Oregon football team entered this season with high hopes after two successive sea-

sons that culminated in bowl berths. The Ducks are above .500 at 3-2, but a disappointing loss to Utah and a poor showing against USC have prevented the team from being where it expected to be at this point.

Injuries to several offensive and defensive starters have certainly been important factors in Oregon's two losses.

Burwell, the Ducks' leading rusher who led the Pacific-10 Conference after opening wins against Washington State and Texas Tech, missed both Oregon losses with an ankle injury. After Burwell's return in the Ducks' win over New Mexico State Saturday, Oregon is 3-0 with the sophomore tailback in the lineup.

At various times during its losses to Utah and USC, Oregon also was missing several defensive starters, including linebacker Joe Farwell, safety Eric Castle and Jeff Cummins, who is likely out for the rest of the season with a leg injury.

And now, starting quarterback Danny O'Neil will miss this weekend's important showdown with the 13th-ranked California Golden Bears. Starting defensive end Matt LaBounty, Oregon's all-time leader in quarterback sacks, may also miss this Saturday's game.

O'Neil dislocated his thumb in the first quarter against New Mexico St., and LaBounty sprained a knee. The only good news from Saturday's injury report, which is becoming customary after each Oregon game, is that LaBounty did not suffer ligament or cartilage damage, which could have required surgery.

"I wouldn't count Matt out this week," Oregon Coach Rich Brooks said, "but there is a lot of swelling and soreness in the knee."

The Ducks will need their defense in top form against the powerful Cal offense, which is

averaging 45 points a game.

The volleyball team, with everyone returning from last year's team and a strong class of incoming freshmen, was also looking forward to post-season play this fall. But injuries have taken their toll on Coach Gerry Gregory's squad as well.

Junior Marcie Price was the first to go down, suffering a broken finger in a pre-season practice. Price returned to action last weekend, but not before the Ducks lost three of four Pac-10 games.

Then Oregon's captain, senior middle blocker Mindee Adams, sustained a stress fracture in her ankle in the midst of the Ducks' rise to a spot in the national volleyball polls. Adams made only a token appearance last weekend against Washington and is doubtful for this weekend's games at Cal and Stanford.

Then the director of Oregon's offense, senior setter Molly McGrath, injured her back in prac-

tice before last weekend's losses to Washington and Washington State.

Consequently, the Ducks have dropped five of their first six Pac-10 contests, after jumping out to a 10-2 non-conference start.

With the injuries to O'Neil, LaBounty and McGrath in last weekend's action, the situation doesn't appear to be improving. Duck coaches and fans can only hope it does before the end of the season.

If the injury trend continues much longer, the athletic department may have to consider hiring the voodoo priest who claims to have removed an evil curse from Tampa Stadium before last Sunday's Buccaneers game. Tampa Bay responded by winning its first game of the season.

What was that guy's number?

UO rower brings home gold; rugby team still undefeated



University junior Allison Heber returned to Eugene with two gold medals from the U.S. Rowing Masters National Championships held Sept. 27-28 in Austin, Tex.

Heber, a coxswain for the Seattle Yacht Club, said a group effort gave her team the winning edge.

"It was totally the team," said Heber, a pre-journalism major at the University. "The whole team went home feeling good."

And why not? The Seattle club garnered two bronze, a silver and three gold medals during the two-day competition. Heber, also a member of the University Club Sports crew team, was on two of the gold-medal-winning boats.

The Seattle Yacht Club, which recruited Heber from the University at the beginning of

the summer, won numerous events at the national championships last year, too, Heber said.

The University Club Sports rugby team remained undefeated Saturday, beating Southern Oregon 24-7 at Ashland.

Richard Dunn, Brad Nielson, Greg Hunton and Rich Miller all scored for the Ducks, who blew the game open after a slim 8-3 halftime lead. The win improved Oregon's record to 2-0.

The Oregon 'B' squad also won Saturday at Ashland, topping OIT 22-4. The 'B' Ducks are 2-0.

The women's Club Sports soccer team won 1-0 at Linfield on Saturday.

The Ducks will next see action today at 4 p.m. as they host Western Oregon State at the South Bank Field. Spokane Community College visits Eugene on Saturday for a 10 a.m. matchup with Oregon at the South Bank Field.

Leo Durocher dead at 86

Leo Durocher isn't in baseball's Hall of Fame. Tom Lasorda and Don Drysdale, among others, say that's wrong.

"Leo was my idol," Lasorda said of Durocher, who died Monday in Palm Springs, Calif., at the age of 86. "He had an electrifying personality and he was the most aggressive manager I have ever seen."

"He had an outstanding personality and he was great for the game of baseball and deserves to be in the Hall of Fame," the Los Angeles Dodgers manager added. "I took his number (2) because of the love, admiration and respect I had for him. We lost a wonderful man."

Drysdale, a Hall of Famer who pitched for the Dodgers while Durocher was a coach with LA in the early 1960s, then opposed him when Durocher managed the Chicago Cubs, said he belongs in Co-

perstown.

"Leo was the type of guy you could listen to and learn from. Just talking with Leo taught me a great deal about the game," Drysdale said. "Whether you were playing bridge or gin rummy or bowling, he would always talk baseball with you."

"He was just a wonderful man and baseball will miss the man. He belongs in the Hall of Fame, but if he ever gets into the Hall it will be like so many other deserving people ... it always seems they get in after they die."

Durocher played for 17 seasons, almost all as a shortstop, with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Cincinnati Reds, St. Louis Cardinals and New York Yankees, the team he broke into baseball with in 1925. He managed the Dodgers, New York Giants, Cubs and Houston Astros before retiring in 1973 with 2,008 wins, sixth on the all-time list.

Ducks place 16th out of 18 after strong third-round finish

The Oregon women's golf team finished 16th at the Ping Lady Sun Devil Collegiate Golf Tournament, held last weekend at Arizona State.

The Ducks scored 957 for 16th place out of 18 schools at Arizona State's Karsten Course. Arizona won the tournament handily with an 880 finish, and San Jose State was second with a 908.

Arizona led through the first two rounds and shot its best round Sunday, extending the margin between it and San Jose State. The Wildcats shot rounds of 306, 291 and 283.

Other Pacific-10 Conference teams finishing in the field included USC (4th), Stanford (7th), Arizona State (8th) and UCLA (9th).

Leigh Hornung was Oregon's top finisher in the individual race, totaling a 237 for a six-way 43rd-place tie. San Jose State's Lisa Walton won the individual race with a 215, and

Arizona teammates Debbie Parks and Annika Sorenstam were just a stroke off, tying for second at 216.

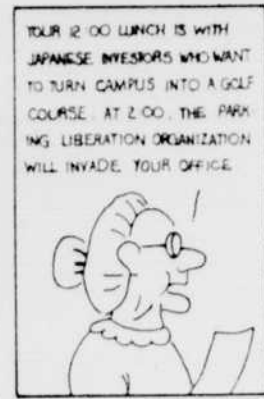
Walton led through the first two days and hit under or at par all three days on the par-72 course.

Other Oregon finishers in the tourney were Starla Yamada, shooting a 238 for 49th; Shannon Maier, shooting a 240 for 58th; Karly Mills, shooting a 242 for 63rd; and Nancy Crawford, shooting a 262 for 93rd. Beth Manczak, playing as an Oregon individual, shot a 247 for 78th.

Maier's third-round score of 75 was the Ducks' best round of golf over the weekend.

The Ducks shot their team-best round of golf on the last day to pull them out of last place. Oregon, which was last after the first two rounds, shot rounds of 320, 324 and 313.

Weasel's World



Kraig Norris



Oscar the Freshman



Neal Skorpen

