

Fans in 1981 would've killed for a 3-3 record



FROM THE SIDELINES

BY DAVE CHARBONNEAU

"The Ducks suck." It seems those three words are becoming somewhat popular here on campus.

I'm not going to tread through the muck and mire the Ducks have gone through this year because it has already been well-documented and maybe even over-documented.

The quarterback situation, the injuries, the turnovers, Bill Musgrave, the lost dreams of a third straight bowl game appearance. All of these subjects have been milked dry by the press, the coaches and the fans.

Everyone with an interest in the Ducks is simply spoiled.

Two straight bowl game appearances and seven straight years of money quarterbacks — Chris Miller and Musgrave — have raised the expectations of Duck fans.

Oregon is currently 3-3 overall and 1-2 in Pacific-10 Conference play. Duck fans need to realize something:

It could be, and has been, a lot worse for the Oregon football program. Take these examples.

1981: The Ducks defeat per-

ennial power Pacific and, of course, Oregon State to finish 2-9 on the year.

1982: The Ducks win their final two games of the season over Arizona and, of course, Oregon State. The goalposts come down at Autzen when the Ducks tie Notre Dame midway through the season. (Sounds like something that would happen in Corvallis.) They finish 2-8-1.

1988: The Ducks start the season by winning six of their first seven games, but end up losing their final five games, including a loss to (gulp) Oregon State.

There are some who are pondering the possibility of a loss to Oregon State this year, but it's better to just deal with that situation when it arises.

My point here is had this been 1981 or 1982 and we were playing the type of football we are playing this year, Duck fans would be out of control with excitement.

It's kind of ironic that the one thing the Ducks were "demanding" last year is the thing that has made this season so hard to stomach for Duck fans. That thing is respect.

Oregon earned respect last year and was a respected team at the beginning of this season. However, three losses — very embarrassing losses to boot —

have shocked Duck followers and may have cost the Ducks a little of the respect they once had.

As for the future of the football program, imagine this:

Just think if Oregon got booted from the Pac-10. Wouldn't it be great to be an independent and have yearly schedules which included Miami, Michigan and Notre Dame. If you think the Ducks' record is hellish now...

Even better, think of how great it would be to get dumped from the Pac-10 and drop down to Division II. Oregon could be a powerhouse and win numerous championships, not to mention feeling the rush of defeating teams like Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo and starting up an intense rivalry with Portland State.

In case you haven't noticed I can only think of one word to describe these two hypothetical futures for the Ducks — lame (no pun intended).

Right now, the Ducks are an average Pac-10 football team. They are far from being the best and far from being the worst, which is a lot more than I can say for our friends about 40 miles to the north. I say this because it wasn't too long ago that Oregon and Oregon State were often mentioned in the same

breath when it came to football.

If nothing else, Oregon has separated itself from the Beavers. Granted, this isn't a big step and is a gross understatement of the progress Oregon has made over the last 10 years.

It does, however, prove my point. The Ducks could be in a lot worse shape than they are in right now.

But they'd better beat the Beavers.

Dave Charbonneau is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

Hand Caning Rush & American Wicker Repair

746-2046
Kathleen Lynch, Proprietor
Cascade Caning Co.
Springfield, Oregon

SILVERSTAR VIDEO

- Video and Nintendo rentals
- VCR's and accessories
- Everyday discount specials

Also: **Wolff System Tanning**
Open 11-11 daily
1888 Franklin Blvd.
(Off Villard next to 7-11)
344-2691

School of MUSIC
THIS WEEK at BEALL HALL:
961 E. 18th Ave.

JAZZ ARRANGERS CONCERT
Featuring the Oregon Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Lab Bands
Tues., Oct. 22 8 p.m.
FREE Admission

STAMIC QUARTET of PRAGUE
Chamber Music Series
Thur., Oct. 24 8 p.m.
Reserved Seats: \$15.50, \$12.50, \$6.50
Students \$7, \$4 at the door

MUZSIKAS
Hungarian Folk Ensemble
Fri., Oct. 25 8 p.m.
\$8 General Admission
\$5 Students / Seniors

FESTIVAL OF BANDS
Marching band competition at Autzen Stadium; Prelims at 8:30 am, Finals at 6:30.
Sat., Oct. 26
Prelims \$3, Finals \$5

For more information, call: 346-3761 (Music School)

Blazers look good at exhibition game

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

CORVALLIS — After a 102-73 pre-season whipping of the Seattle SuperSonics Sunday night, normally brash Portland Trail Blazer guard Danny Ainge was far from bragging about his or the team's performance.

"This is an exhibition game, you know," said Ainge, who led all scorers with 16 points on four three-pointers. "Who cares? You try to do the best you can do while you're on the floor, but the end result doesn't matter."

It may not have mattered to Ainge, but a sold-out Gill Coliseum crowd of 10,500 would have disagreed. Many came to see the return of Sonics' guard Gary Payton, a former Oregon State basketball star, but more Blazer fans were in attendance Sunday night than Beaver backers.

The Blazers' popularity is so high following two very successful seasons that Payton was even booed while shooting free throws and was cheered when he missed the first one.

Gary Payton booed at Gill Coliseum, better known as

"Payton's Place" in his Oregon State days?

Welcome to Blazermania, Gary.

Expectations are again very high of the Blazers this year. The team earned the best regular-season mark in the NBA last year but failed to reach the NBA finals as they had done the previous season.

"We grew from last year's experience," Portland center Wayne Cooper said. "We understand what we are capable of doing."

Turn to **BLAZERS**, Page 8

RECYCLE THIS PAPER.

THE ULTIMATE LUNCH SPECIAL:

A.Y.C.E. PIZZA & SALAD BAR

(ALL YOU CAN EAT)

That's Right! All YOU Can Possibly EAT Of The Best Pizza This Side Of Anywhere.

Plus SALAD BAR:

- Lettuce
- Broccoli
- Fresh Fruit
- Sprouts
- Mushrooms
- Carrots
- Tomatoes
- Cheeses
- Radishes
- Cauliflower
- Meats
- Cottage Cheese
- & much more

ONLY \$4.95
Mon.-Fri. 11am-1pm

TRACK TOWN PIZZA
1809 Franklin Blvd. • Eugene, Oregon • 484-2799

AN EYE-OPENING SPECIAL — 15% OFF CONTACT LENSES

Complete fitting and follow-up care
Call 687-6257
Offer expires Nov. 15, 1991

Eugene Clinic Eye Center
12th and Willamette
Monday-Saturday hours
Easy access, Free parking