

Ducks to face bowl-bound Bruins in L.A. on Saturday

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

Terry Donahue has the last laugh now.

The UCLA football coach, a former boss and current good friend of Oregon coach Rich Brooks, had to do without the past two holiday seasons, when his Bruins failed to appear in postseason play.

Brooks, on the other hand, had plenty to smile about at Christmas time the past two years, taking his teams to bowl games.

"I've suffered with (Donahue) the last couple of years when his record was below .500," Brooks said. "I told him, 'Now you know what it felt like all these years.'"

The times they are a changin', coach.

"Now I'm going to feeling that way, and he's bowl bound again," Brooks said. "I'm happy for him but not so happy for myself."

The season has been an unhappy one for the beat-up Oregon team, 3-6 overall and 1-5 in the Pacific-10 Conference, but the year has only been surprising for the Bruins, 6-3 and 4-2. The two schools will clash at the Rose Bowl Saturday afternoon in a game to be televised regionally by ABC starting at 12:30.

Saturday's contest is a rematch of what was the Ducks' most exciting home game last season. Bill Musgrave appropriately ended his last Autzen Stadium performance by leading an Oregon comeback that was capped off by his winning touchdown pass with two minutes remaining.

The Autzen goal posts came down, and the Ducks got an invitation to play in the Freedom Bowl. The Bruins went home, tails between their legs, and watched the Ducks on TV.

Musgrave is gone, and so is

much of the offensive punch, but UCLA quarterback Tommy Maddox, who riddled the Oregon secondary for 332 yards last year, is back. The sophomore signal-caller was knocked out of last week's game at Stanford with a concussion, but he has been cleared to start Saturday.

"I'm going out to pre-game warmups with a hammer in my back pocket," Oregon defensive coordinator Denny Schuler said. "If (Maddox) shows up, I'm going to give him his second concussion."

Schuler can joke about it now, but Maddox is the general of the Pac-10's second most potent offense, which features split end Sean LaChapelle.

Brooks calls the combination of Maddox and LaChapelle "virtually unstoppable."

The Ducks' offense will be hindered by knee injuries to three starting defensive linemen, Romeo Marcus, Matt LaBounty and Marcus Woods. Schuler said it is "questionable" whether all three will play.

Oregon's offense will be far from a Goliath itself. The Ducks will have to do without the services of tailback Sean Burwell, who also sat out last week's 24-21 loss at Arizona State.

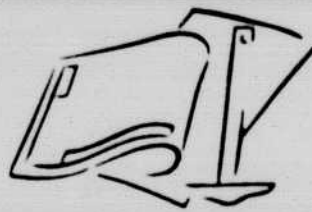
Offensive coordinator Mike Bellotti indicated that a number of other offensive starters such as Greg Phillips, David Collinsworth, Jeff Thomason and Bob Brothers had missed practice time this week as well.

Brothers, last week's starting quarterback, injured a calf muscle against the Sun Devils and wasn't able to practice through Wednesday. Brett Salisbury, who started a game earlier this year before a shoulder injury, will likely get the starting call.

"At this point, it looks like Brett Salisbury will play," Bellotti said Thursday.

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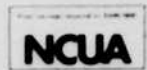


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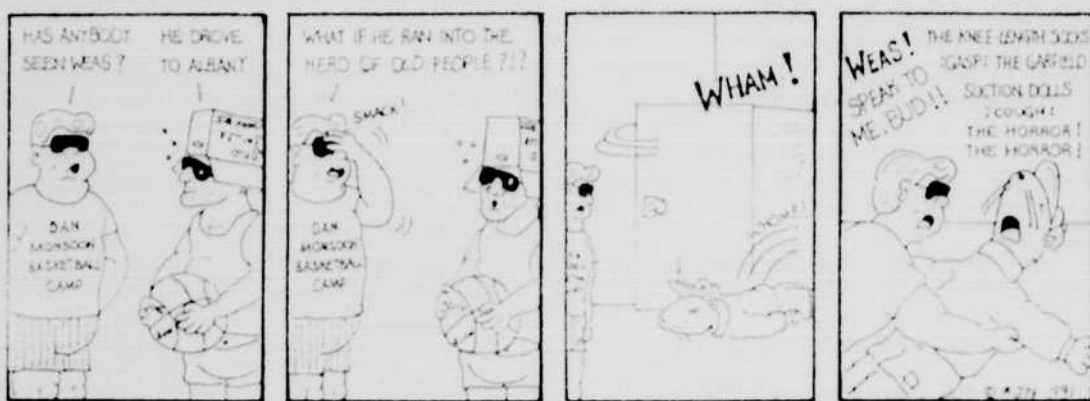
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