

Football players honored for athletics, academics

Junior free safety Eric Castle was presented the Hoffman Award for being the team's most outstanding player Sunday night at the Oregon football banquet.

Castle, who was selected through a team vote, is the first non-senior to win the award since receiver Lew Barnes won in 1983. Castle is the third defensive back to win the Hoff-

man in the last five seasons.

Castle was one of the Ducks' team leaders in tackles this year. He also set a school record for interceptions returned for touchdowns with two.

Outside linebacker Andy Conner won the Elmer Sahlstrom Award for being the senior with the highest academic grade point average and having an exemplary attitude. Con-

ner has a 3.48 GPA; he started all 11 games this year.

Other recipients included strong safety Chad Cota, who won the Leonard J. Casanova Award for the top first-year player; tight end Jeff Thomason, who garnered the Bob Officer Award for playing in spite of injury; defensive end Romeo Bandison, who earned the Clarke Award for most im-

proved player; and offensive tackle Todd Gydesen, who won the Will Gonyea Award for most inspirational player.

In other Oregon football news, 11 Duck football players were named to the Pacific-10 Conference All-Academic team. Oregon had the maximum number of players on the team and was equaled only by Stanford.

On offense, wide receiver Ronnie Harris and lineman Bud Bowie made the first team, and named to the first-team defense were Oregon linebacker Joe Farwell and cornerback Jeff Sherman, the only freshman named to the first-team defense.

Oregon had seven honorable mentions, including tight end O.B. Babbs, linebacker Andy Conner, linebacker Doug Guss, quarterback Doug Musgrave, linebacker Byron Rockwell, defensive end Mark Slymen and punter Tommy Thompson.

To make the all-academic team, a player must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and be either a starter or significant substitute.

Wrestlers place sixth at tourney

The Oregon wrestling team finished sixth Sunday night in the Mat Town Classic at the Thomas Field House in Lock Haven, Pa.

The Ducks scored 69.5 points, and Wisconsin took first with 115.5 points. Host Lock Haven was third with 93, Syracuse took fourth with 84.5 and Old Dominion was fifth with 78.

The tourney's outstanding wrestler was 158-pounder Troy Sunderland of Penn State, who placed second with 96.25 points.

Eight Oregon wrestlers placed in the 14-team classic, including two third-place finishes.

"We showed we have good balance in our lineup with eight placers in seven weights, but we also don't have many superstars," Oregon coach Ron Finley said.

Dan Vidlak, the top seed in the 118-pound class, lost his semifinal match 12-10 to Old Dominion's Erick Shaw. The Oregon senior later lost in the fifth-place consolation match because of a knee injury he suffered in the semifinal, and he placed sixth. The extent of the injury is not known.

Freshman Cory Sonnen lost his semifinal match, too, but the 134-pounder bounced back to claim third place in a win over Lock Haven's Steve Muhlbach. Jarrett Clark also won the consolation championship for third place in the 126-pound category.

Senior Darren Gustafson and freshman Chris Anderson were fourth at 158 and heavyweight classifications, respectively. Freshman Jason Muggy and senior Scott Myers were sixth at 142 and 190, respectively.

"I was pleased with our freshmen, especially Muggy, Sonnen and Scott Buzzard, and the way they competed," Finley said. "Gustafson got back to his form, and Anderson showed a lot of promise at heavyweight."

In the 134-pound class, Oregon's Pat Hirai lost in the winner's bracket quarterfinals and in the consolation quarterfinals, but the sophomore's performance was good enough for eighth place.



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By Leslie Marmon Silko

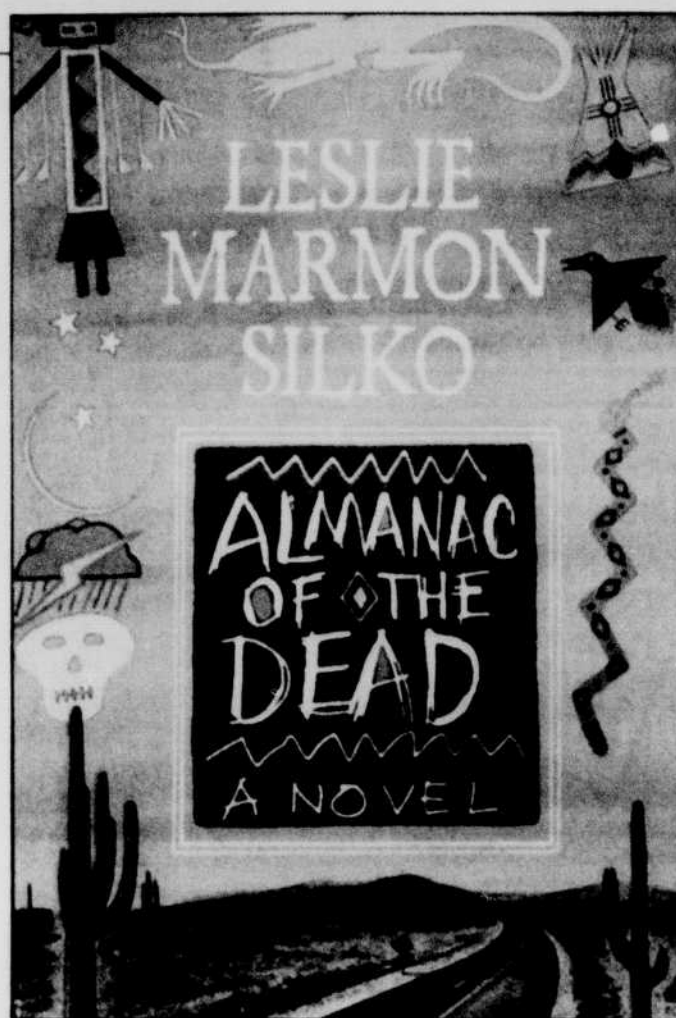


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Leslie Marmon Silko, the acclaimed author of *Ceremony and Storyteller*, lives in Tucson, Arizona.



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