

SPORTS

NFL, track keep Oliver busy

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

An athlete of many talents sometimes finds oneself hip deep in responsibilities.

Just ask Muhammad Oliver.

In the span of three days, Oliver was asked to show his stuff at an NFL mini-camp and then return to Eugene in time to compete in three events for the Oregon men's track team.

The Denver Broncos selected the Ducks' decathlete/football star at the cornerback position in the ninth round of the NFL college draft last week. Along with the pick came the invitation to the Broncos' three-day camp.

Unfortunately, the camp dates overlapped with Oregon's track meet against rival Washington State at Hayward Field last Saturday.

Oliver had no choice but to attend the camp, but with a little cooperation from the Broncos' staff, Oliver was able to return to Eugene in time for the meet.

Although Oliver's performance was obviously sub-par on Saturday — he failed to score points for Oregon in the high jump, long jump and the hurdles — his showing in Denver was impressive.

"I hadn't really thought about the track meet much during the week," Oliver said. "I wasn't really prepared for the meet. But the camp went really well. I think they (the Broncos) were impressed with my abilities."

Wade Phillips, Denver's defensive coordinator, confirmed Oliver's feelings about the camp.

"He participated a little more than I thought he would because of the track meet," he said. "He

has enough ability to play in this league. Of course I only saw him in shorts, but I was impressed with what I saw."

As a ninth-round pick, Oliver is not as much of a sure-shot as a first- or second-round pick, but Phillips said there's not much difference in talent after the first two rounds.

"There are just as good of players in the ninth round as there are in the third," he said. "We expect him to make the team."

Phillips also pointed out that Denver's star linebacker Karl Mecklenburg was selected in the 12th round.

The Broncos are solid at the cornerback position, but they have no real stars there. Denver selected one other cornerback in the fifth round and signed another through free agency.

Phillips said the thing that impressed the Broncos most about Oliver was his improvement during last season.

"He's basically a track athlete that is learning football," he said. "The second half of the season he performed well and showed some real improvement."

Oliver will return to Denver for good when spring term is over. Until then, he will concentrate on his track exploits, which include a trip to the NCAA Championships to compete in the decathlon the first week of June.

Another Duck, defensive end Matt LaBounty, was selected in the 12th round by the San Francisco 49ers and will attend the team's mini-camp this weekend.

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RIM RESULTS

Softball
Score/League
May 4
NCC 2 d. Box Lunch — forfeit/C3
NCC 1 d. Dymet 8-5/C3
Phi Psi B d. Batwings 18-6/M2
Team 5 d. Fiji 1 — forfeit/M2
May 5
Sigma Kappa/Theta Chi d. Kut & Phil 12-1/C2
SAE/Phi Phi d. Sigma Nu/Alpha Phi 6-3/C2
Last Chance d. Purple Helmet Club — forfeit/M2
ATO Team 2A d. Sigma Chi 2A 8-7/M2
Balls d. Team Turd 22-2/M3

Fredies d. Tony Danza 10-4/M3
Kappa Gamma/Fiji d. Lil & Co. 2-1/L1
Colleen Wellman d. Crushers 2-0/L1
Large Vibrating Eggs d. Theta Chi/Sigma Phi 2-0/L1
Chi Psi/Sig Kappa d. Peloponnesian Clams/L2
AAK's d. Alpha Kappa Psi 2-0/L2
Shaking the Tree d. Tri Delta 3-0/L2
Vietnamese Student d. APASU 2-0/L3
Thornton d. Powers Strike Back 2-0/3D
Watson Wild Willies d. Sweetser — forfeit/3D
Volleyball
Score/League
Colleen Wellman d. APASU — forfeit/L1

Kappa Gamma/Fiji d. Theta Chi/Gamma Phi 15-5, 15-13/L1
Large Vibrating Eggs d. Big Digs & Huge Hits 15-4, 15-11/L1
Powers Strike Back d. Watson Wild Willies — forfeit/L3D
Thornton d. Sweetser — forfeit/L3D
Lil & Co. d. Vietnamese Student 15-4, 15-13/L3
Shaking the Tree d. Alpha Kappa Psi 15-7, 15-8/L2
The AAK's d. Chi Psi/Sigma Kappa 15-8, 15-6/L2

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