

# Controversies mark wild football season



**From the Sidelines**

Steve Mims

As the college football season winds down to its final few weeks, let's take a look at some of the local and national controversies that have already come up and those that are certain to come up in the weeks ahead.

**The Beaver Bandwagon:** Anyone remember about a month and a half ago when everyone was talking about the shift of power taking place in college football in Oregon? After three weeks of the season Oregon State was 1-1-1 while the Ducks were 1-2, and con-

ventional thinking had the Beavers on the rise and the Ducks on the way down.

Well, needless to say, reports of the Ducks' death were greatly exaggerated. As the standings look today, the Ducks have won four of their past six games, and the Beavers have not won any of their past six contests. It was simply another example of Oregon State boosters getting overly excited about another horrible Beaver squad. Beaver fans have watched so many losses in the past two decades that their vision becomes cloudy everytime they win a game.

Contrary to what the Oregon State athletic department wants people to think, the Beavers football program is not going "onward," but instead is at a stalemate. The Beavers' last winning season was in 1970,

and there is no reason to think another one will be coming around any time soon.

Optimism comes to Corvallis everytime the Beavers win the Civil War, and this year was no different. After losing 11 straight games against Oregon, the Beavers beat the Ducks 21-10 in 1988 to finish the year 4-6-1. The word out of Corvallis was that OSU head coach Dave Kragthorpe and his passing offense were ready to turn things around, but two years later he was fired.

Last season the Beavers only win of the year came against Oregon, but that was enough for new head coach Jerry Pettibone and his "powerful" running offense to label the season a success. This season was the first time in many years the Beavers had a better record than Oregon at any time during

the year, and Beaver fans were excited and bragging about it. Duck fans knew it was only a matter of time before the Beavers were back in their old home, the Pacific-10 Conference basement, and a few weeks later they returned there without a fuss.

After last season's Civil War victory, the Beavers put out a video titled "We Own the State," but that won't happen again, will it?

**Overrated:** One thing Oregon accomplished with its victory in Pullman this weekend was proving Washington State is the most overrated team in the country. Oh, I know it sounds like I have jumped on the bandwagon, but if you check your *Emerald* "Back To The Books" issue you will see I picked the

Turn to **SEASON**, Page 9

## AD denies move to Pac-10

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — University of Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds said Monday the school has no plans to leave the Southwest Conference, responding to a published report that Texas is an expansion target of the Pacific-10 Conference.

In a copyright story, *The Dallas Morning News* quoted two Pac-10 officials as saying the chief executive officers of the league discussed plans to bring in the University of Colorado and Texas at an Oct. 20 meeting in Seattle.

"First of all, we did not know they had a meeting," Dodds said. "Second, we haven't been contacted. Third, our position has not changed. We are a member of the Southwest Conference and are working for its improvement."

*The Morning News* reported in Monday editions that the Pac-10 plans to expand to

Turn to **PAC-10**, Page 9

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