

Ex-Duck returns to Eugene after season with Broncos

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

Though he won't be mentioned in the same breath as Bo Jackson or Deion Sanders yet, former Oregon two-sport athlete Muhammad Oliver is back in Eugene to perfect his skills.

Eugene became Oliver's adopted hometown when he transferred to Oregon from Glendale Junior College in Arizona in the fall of 1990. Oliver played cornerback in football and competed in the decathlon in track for the Ducks from 1990-92. Unlike most college athletes, Oliver's career in both

sports continued to the next level.

The Denver Broncos selected Oliver in the ninth round of the 1992 NFL Draft, and Oliver overcame the odds to make the team's opening-day roster. Oliver returned kickoffs for the Broncos during the preseason and got the starting job at the beginning of the regular season, but a knee injury in the third game of the year put Oliver on injured reserve for the remainder of the season.

"It was a frustrating year," Oliver said. "As a rookie you have to wait for your opportunity to come. My chance came

'I don't really have a coach in Denver, so Eugene is the best place for me now.'

— Muhammad Oliver,
Denver Bronco

on special teams, and I was doing well until the injury stopped everything."

The off-season has made Oliver's future cloudy as the Broncos fired head coach Dan

Reeves and have yet to name a replacement. Oliver earned his spot on the roster by impressing Reeves and knows he will have to do the same thing under the new coach.

"I was disappointed because I liked Dan as a person," Oliver said. "Although I was a ninth-round pick he gave me the opportunity to play. I have no preference on the new coach because I am a rookie and have nothing to say about it. I have faith that if we hire an assistant coach they will know how I played, and if a new guy comes in, I am confident I can impress

him as well."

Oliver is back in Eugene taking classes this term to receive his degree in sociology in the spring. Oliver finished eighth in the United States in the decathlon last year and is currently training with the track team in hopes of improving his standing.

"I will train with the team and compete in some indoor meets this term," Oliver said. "John Gillespie is my personal coach here, and I don't really have a coach in Denver, so Eugene is the best place for me now."

Oregon Daily Emerald

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103 GREEK HAPPENINGS

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ΣN AΦ Congrats to Katie and Ryan on your pinning. We enjoyed sharing this special event with you.

ΣΦE AΦE

AAA
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ΣΦE

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