

'Bullet' Bob gets shot down



The Ducks are 2-0 without Bob Fife. Coincidence? Obviously.

Oregon is *not* a better basketball team without the 6-foot-11 junior.

It could be true, however, that the Ducks are no worse off without him.

Three years ago, there was talk Oregon had a potential future NBA player on its team. And it wasn't Terrell Brandon.

The man former coach Don Monson affectionately called "Bullet" Bob joined the Ducks as a freshman in 1989. That season, Bob Fife worked his way into Oregon's starting lineup. He blocked 38 shots that season, helping the Ducks make the National Invitational Tournament.

"My freshman year was probably the best season for me," Fife said. "I had almost no pressure on me. I had a lot of good games my first year."

The following season, Fife started all but one game for Oregon and averaged seven points and seven rebounds. As a

sophomore, Fife at times showed potential to be an impact player for the Ducks. But other times he looked lackadaisical and uninspired.

"My sophomore season wasn't bad," he said, "but I had more pressure on me. A few players got hurt, I got more expectations put on me, and my game slipped a little."

Fife had become a model of inconsistency for the Ducks. He scored in double-figures 11 times during the 1990-91 campaign, but had four games where he didn't score a point.

Despite his inconsistency, the media built him up as potential NBA player.

All he needed was to put on about 30 pounds, perfect a few moves, and *voila* — the next Blair Rasmussen.

The words that were most commonly associated with Bob Fife were: "Just wait 'til next year."

Unfortunately for Fife, "next year" never came.

His inconsistency, skinny frame and last name — you try growing up with the same last name of a character played by Don Knotts — made him the butt of many a joke around campus.

Those jokes were perpetuated when, after a summer of bulking

up his 190-pound frame, Fife dropped a toolbox, that's right, a toolbox, on his head and was forced to redshirt the 1991-92 season.

After watching helplessly from the bench as his team crawled through a miserable 6-21 season, Fife returned for the 1992-93 season.

Enter Jerry Green. Green took over for the fired Monson last spring and let all scholarships under Monson stand. Fife still had a place on the team.

Or did he? "At first, things went well," Fife said.

Indeed, Fife seemed to be in love with Green's system. He scored a career-high 26 points in Oregon's sixth game this season and was averaging about 15 points after eight games.

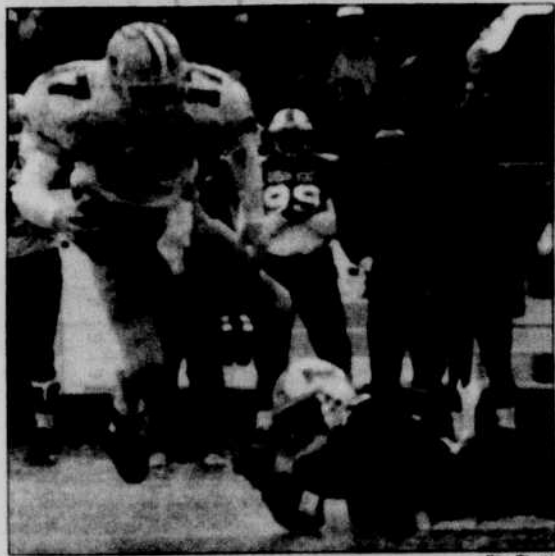
But once the Pacific-10 Conference season started, Fife's playing time dropped from 23 to 15 minutes a game. His playing time bottomed out against UCLA two weekends ago, when he played only three minutes.

"I finally just decided I wasn't (Green's) type of player," Fife said.

Fife went home to California to talk with his parents the following Monday. When he returned to Eugene Thursday, he was off the team.

Turn to FIFE, Page 12

Backup QB Musgrave calls it quits



Doug Musgrave will forgo his senior year of football at Oregon to attend medical school.

Oregon quarterback Doug Musgrave will not return to the Ducks' team for the 1993-94 season and will instead enter medical school next fall, head coach Rich Brooks announced Monday.

Musgrave will graduate with a degree in general science this spring and will then start his medical studies. Musgrave has played sparingly for the Ducks as a backup to Danny O'Neil since transferring from Michigan in 1990.

"We're extremely sorry to see Doug leave," Brooks said. "But it's probably the best thing for his future. With eight years of school and residency ahead of him, he made the right decision to start as soon as possible."

Musgrave saw action in eight games during his career at Oregon, completing 29 of 51 passes for 318 yards. He started his career in 1991 at Washington before being sidelined with a broken finger.

The departure of Musgrave leaves four quarterbacks in Oregon's camp. Football practice resumes March 31. O'Neil will likely be Oregon's starter, but behind him are three inexperienced players: redshirt freshmen Tony Graziani and Ryan Perry-Smith, and sophomore Clayton Mills.

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There is no prior foreign language proficiency required for these programs. For more information, visit the Office of International Education and Exchange, 330 Oregon Hall.

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