

Castle gets call in sixth round

By Jeff Huberman
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon's Eric Castle, a three-year starter for the Ducks at free safety, was selected by the San Diego Chargers Monday in the 58th annual NFL draft.

Castle, a sixth-round selection and the 161st pick overall, lost a great deal of consideration because of a poor senior year tarnished by an early-season bout with mononucleosis.

"If I could have had a year like 1991, I might have gone in the first couple of rounds," Castle said.

Coming into the 1992 season, Castle was projected by many to be an all-American candidate for the Ducks, but his illness did away with any of those aspirations. Castle missed most of Oregon's first four games and didn't return to 100 percent until the sixth or seventh game in the Ducks' schedule.

Fortunately, he returned to all-star form with a solid showing in the Independence Bowl and stellar play in the Shrine game.

Although satisfied with the draft outcome, the waiting game became a bit frustrating.

"I expected to go near the fifth round," Castle said, "but after



Former Oregon free safety Eric Castle was drafted 161st overall by the San Diego Chargers in Monday's NFL draft.

that, I started getting nervous."

The Chargers were a surprising success in 1992, advancing into the AFC playoffs. As a rookie, Castle does not expect to make an immediate impact.

"I hope I will have the chance to make some plays, maybe on special teams," he said. "I'm lucky to have the chance to play for a contender in my first season."

Castle should fit in comfortably with the smash-mouth style football played in San Diego. The coaching staff is hopeful that he can handle both the free and strong safety positions. Cas-

'I'm lucky to have the chance to play for a contender in my first season.'

— Eric Castle,
former Duck free safety

tle, who played strong safety in his freshmen season with the Ducks, said he had no problems playing either position.

Castle, the lone Oregon player selected in the draft, reports to mini-camp May 6th.

Who's this Shakille guy breaking hoops?

The NBA playoffs begin Thursday, and before all of the craziness kicks off, it's time for the rambling sports column with no purpose except to give you something to keep from falling asleep in class.

The Portland Trail Blazers have overcome injuries, "alleged" male sluts and stupid Dairy Queen commercials starring Mark "12 minutes, five fouls" Bryant (Guys!) to finish fourth in the tough Western Conference. They will open their drive for a third championship series appearance in four years against San Antonio.



From the Sidelines

Dave Charbonneau

Those rabid Blazer fans will tell you Portland still has a chance at winning the championship, but with or without Clyde Drexler, the Blazers will not make it past the second round — and maybe not even past the first round.

Two words: Joe Wolf.

The Orlando Magic nearly made the playoffs for the first time in the team's short history, but I was rather disappointed the Magic didn't. Personally, I think it would have been great to see more of that rookie center they have.

I can't quite remember his name because he hasn't received much coverage from the press. I think his name is something like Shakille Oneel. I heard that he pulled down two basketball hoops this season, but I've never seen it.

My prediction is that "The Shake" (at least that's what I think they call him) will one day be a star, and may even be in commercials.

Two words: Shoe contract.

Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls . . .

Three words: Th-Th-Th-Th-That's all folks!

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In The Eugene Tradition



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