



FILE PHOTO
Deborah Reynolds left the Oregon women's basketball team.

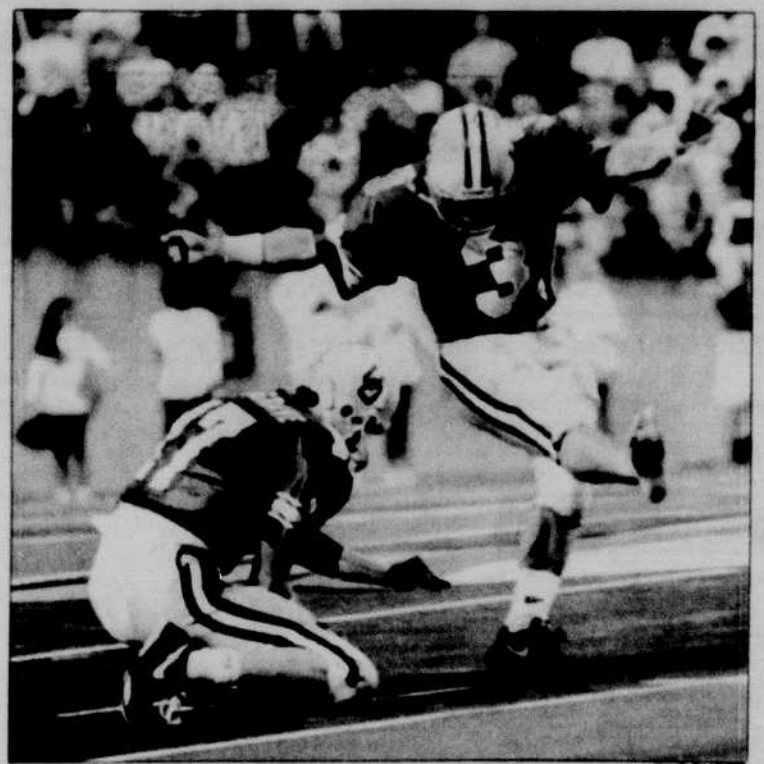
Reynolds leaves Oregon women's basketball team

Oregon women's basketball player Deborah Reynolds has chosen not to return to the University, said the Ducks' first-year head coach Jody Runge.

The former Springfield High School standout saw limited action in 11 of 27 games in her only collegiate campaign a year ago. Reynolds brother, Keith, played for the Ducks in 1989-90.

Her departure leaves the Oregon women with eight returning letter winners, including all five starters, and seven newcomers. The Ducks will begin practice for the upcoming season Monday, Nov. 1.

The women open the season November 22nd when they host the Melbourne Raiders in an exhibition game at McArthur Court.



FILE PHOTO
Oregon's improved offense has made field goals a rarity this year for Tommy Thompson.

Duck offense quiets special teams talk

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

Last year Oregon's special teams, particularly the kicking game, were the talk of the town. This year it's quieted down.

Oregon's offense has stolen the headlines this year and is one of the main reasons why the kicking game has been somewhat forgotten. It seemed like Oregon kicker/punter Tommy Thompson was setting Oregon single-game records and moving up the career lists each week last year, but this year that has been quarterback Danny O'Neil's department.

Thompson had a remarkable season last year, kicking 21 field goals and having four games with three or more field goals. This season has been different, as Thompson booted three field goals in the season-opening 23-9 win at Colorado State, but has not done it since then and has gone two games without a field goal.

Thompson actually has been more accurate this year, connecting on eight of 11 field goals, with two misses coming from more than 55 yards. It's just that this year the offense has needed him more for extra points and kickoffs after touchdowns rather than field goals.

Oregon's offense has scored 21 touchdowns in six games, one less than it accumulated during the entire 1992 regular season. Last year the offense would move the ball into scoring position and stall, but this year O'Neil and company have found ways to get the ball in the end zone. Scoring touchdowns when they are inside the opponent's 20-yard line was one improvement the Ducks hoped to make this year, and they have.

"We hope Tommy Thompson doesn't kick field goals," Oregon head coach Rich Brooks said. "Hopefully we score touchdowns."

Thompson's lack of field goals this year combined with his lower punting average had some people wondering if this was an off year for the senior, but Brooks steadfastly denied it.

"Tommy Thompson is not struggling to find his rhythm this year," Brooks said. "His punting average is not up to the standards of a year ago because he has had to punt from his own 42- or 43-yard line a few times."

Oregon's special teams problem this year has been kickoff coverage, particularly in the Ducks' 45-36 win at Arizona State last Saturday. The Sun Devils averaged more than 29 yards per return against Oregon, continually giving themselves excellent field position to start a drive. Arizona State began four drives past its own 40 yard line after kickoffs Saturday night.

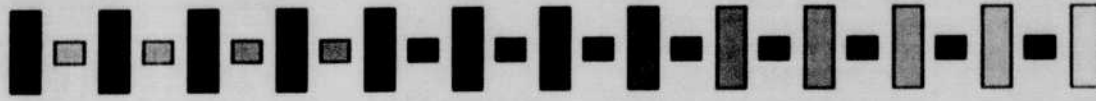
Brooks acknowledged the problem this week and said he is planning to make changes on the coverage team.

"We don't want to let the opposition get to midfield," Brooks said. "That is something that hasn't been a problem in the last few years, but we are working hard on it. Personnel-wise and schematically we are taking care of it this week."

Oregon's special teams will face a stiff test this Saturday when the Ducks travel north to face Washington. Last year the Huskies beat Oregon 24-3 in Eugene, partly thanks to a blocked punt that changed the momentum of an otherwise close game.

The Huskies are only averaging about 20 yards per kickoff return this year, but their best kickoff returner, Napoleon Kaufman, is as dangerous as any return man in the country. This season he is averaging 24.4 yards on 10 kickoffs, but has the ability to go all the way at any time. That's the reason some Husky opponents have elected to kick the ball short and avoid Kaufman, which is why 270-pound offensive tackle Prince Arthur Emerson has four returns on the year.

No matter what strategy the Ducks take to stop Washington's special teams, there is little doubt they must play better than last week if they are going to get their first win in Seattle since 1980.



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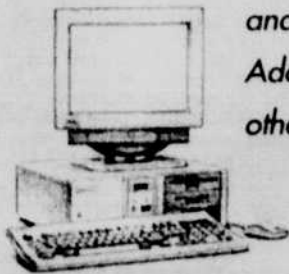
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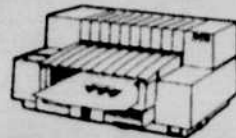
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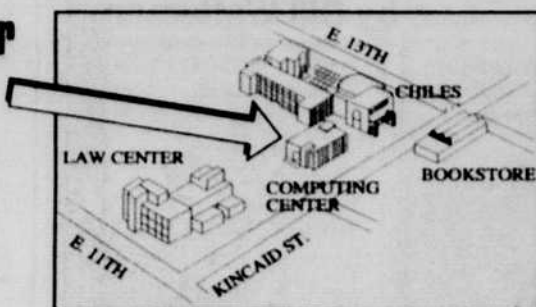
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