

These Ducks won't dodge draft

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

The NFL Draft comes calling this Sunday and a few Oregon players should be answering the phone.

Two Ducks are expected to get drafted in the seven-round, two-day event which takes place Sunday and Monday, and one or two other Oregon players could be picked as well.

The first Duck to be selected will be Romeo Bandison, the 6-foot-5, 285-pound defensive end from Mill Valley, Calif., who could go in the latter part of the first round, but is more likely a second-round pick.

Bandison's stock has dropped recently, down from the middle of the first round that he was

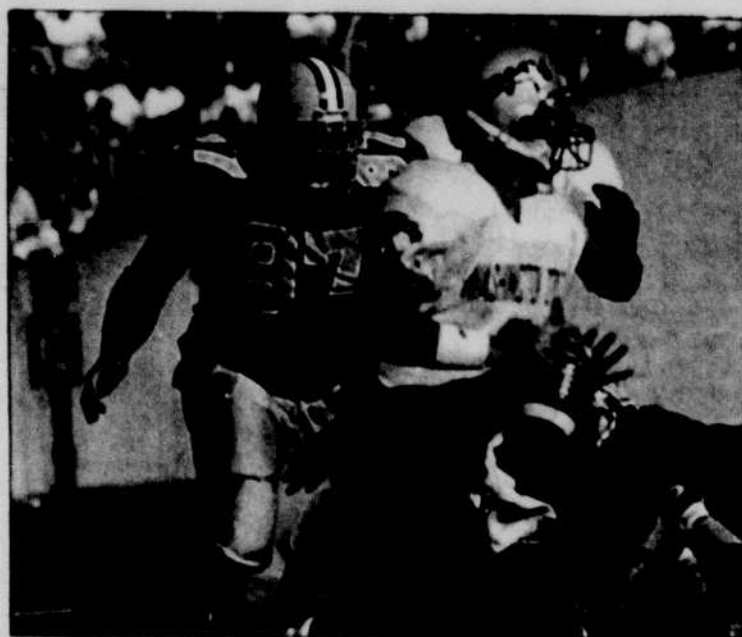
projected at just a few months ago. It is still possible Bandison could go in the first round, possibly to the San Francisco 49ers, but early in the second round is a more likely scenario.

Linebacker Ernest Jones is the other Oregon player expected to go in the draft, but he will wait longer than Bandison to find out his destination. Jones, Oregon's all-time sack leader with 29, could go as early as the fourth round, but the fifth round is a more likely slot for Jones to fall.

Jones, 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, from Utica, N.Y., had a sensational career for the Ducks culminating with his senior season when he was second on the team with 67 tackles and paced the squad with 13 sacks.

Two other Oregon players could get selected in the draft, but it is less likely. Punter/kicker Tommy Thompson is one of the top special teams prospects, but not many kickers are selected in the draft. However, Thompson will surely sign on as a free agent if he isn't drafted, and could crack an NFL roster next season.

Running back Sean Burwell could get picked late in the draft. Burwell, Oregon's No. 2 all-time rusher, would have had a better chance of being drafted if not for the number of underclassmen at running back who declared for the draft early, like San Diego State's Marshall Faulk, Calvin Jones of Nebraska, Greg Hill of Texas A&M and Mario Bates of Arizona State.



FILE PHOTO
Defensive end Romeo Bandison will be the first Duck selected in the NFL Draft on Sunday.

MEN

Continued from Page 11

who have reached the NCAA provisional qualifying standard. Foremost among them is John Godina, who finished second in the shot at last year's NCAA meet. He is an automatic qualifier in the discus and the shot for this year's NCAA meet.

The Bruins have NCAA provisional qualifiers in the discus, javelin and hammer. Oregon's best chance to score points in the throws may come in the hammer, where Dellinger said his throwers are ready for a breakthrough. "They've been stuck around the 190-foot mark for a while," he said.

On the track, UCLA's strongest event may be the 110-meter hurdles. Ross Flowers and Avery Anderson have both met the NCAA provisional qualifying standard. Their fastest times in the event are a full second faster than the best mark by an Oregon high hurdler this season.

In the sprints, both Oregon opponents feature one athlete, Marcus Reed of UCLA and Tim Martin of Washington, who has run faster than any Duck sprinter in the 100 or 200 meters. However, Oregon has a deep corps of sprinters, including

DeWayne Ingram, LaVon Pierce, Dino Philyaw and LaMont Woods, and should provide some interesting races.

Oregon appears to own a decisive advantage as the races get longer. The Ducks have five of the top seven times in the conference at 1,500 meters, headed by NCAA provisional qualifiers Gordon Johnson and Scott Nicholas.

The 3,000-meter steeplechase could be a three-way race if each team sends its best athlete. Oregon has three of the top 5,000 meter times in the Pac-10 this year, led by NCAA provisional qualifier Karl Keska.

Oregon athletes Sol Sallos, intermediate hurdles; and Todd Bleakney, triple jump; own better marks in their events than their UCLA or Washington counterparts.

Dellinger said he has been pleased with the continued progress of his team. "I think the group as a whole has been making tremendous strides," he said. "They're better right now than I thought they'd be by now, but the big meets are still to come."

This may not be one of the big meets, but it's close.

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