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— Collin Hall  
Oregon assistant coach  
on the Civil War

## Former Duck turned coach respects War

Chris Metz  
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Collin Hall wrapped up his playing career at Oregon in 1990 after two highly successful 8-4 seasons with the Ducks, the Civil War memories seemed like they would be just that — memories.

But after having returned to his alma mater as a graduate assistant coach this season, Hall picked up right where he left off in terms of pride when it comes to doing battle with Oregon State.

"You can throw out anything that happened before the week of the Civil War," Hall said. "Usually the teams are playing for respect. Any time you want respect you're going to play your ass off."

Hall, a graduate of South Eugene High School, played center in both the 1989 and 1990 contests. After losing for the first time in over 13 years to the Beavers just one year earlier, the 1989 Ducks took the Autzen Stadium turf with a thirsty revenge factor on their side.

The Ducks jumped out to a 16-0 lead and held it late into the third quarter. But in true Civil War fashion, the Beavers rallied to close the gap to 16-8 with just over a minute left in the quarter.

In 1989, the Ducks entered the game against the Beavers with a 6-4 record and were poised to attend their first bowl game since 1963, while the struggling Beavers once again crawled into the annual battle with only four wins to show for the second year in a row.

But according to Hall, no statistic can account for the intensity on the field when game time rolls around.

"More than anything it is the emotion," Hall said about what makes this game so special. "Funny things happen when you're emotional."

"In the past we've had a little more on the line. But no matter what the records are, they come to play."

The Ducks held on to win the 1989 contest 30-21, the last time either team has scored over 20 points.

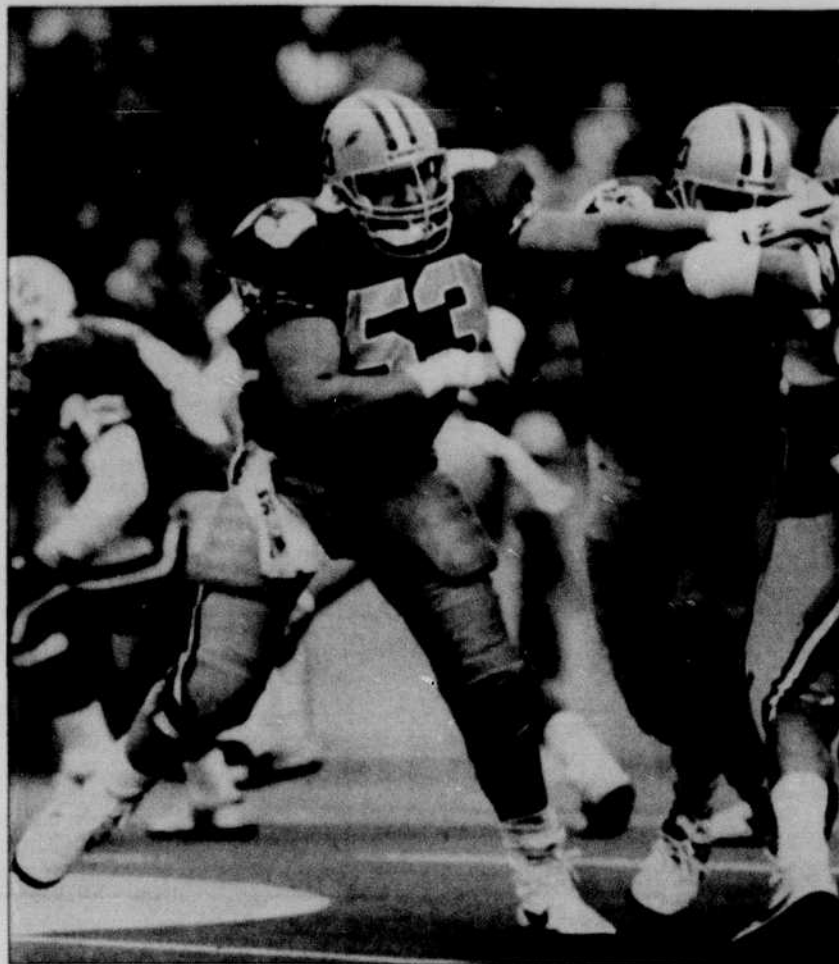
Hall's senior year saw the Ducks enter the regular-season ending clash with the Beavers with eight wins. While the Ducks were securing postseason plans once again, the Beavers were sporting a miserable 1-9 record. But the game, played at Corvallis, turned out to be a tight battle that came down to two tough defenses, and a pair of feet in a classic 6-3 Oregon Civil War victory.

"It's one of the most physical games I've ever played in," Hall said. "Everybody's level rises. There's nothing left out there."

This year, Hall's focus turns to the coaching side of the War. He is currently in his first year as a graduate assistant coach and works with the Ducks' defensive line.

Hall is extremely excited about being a part of the 1994 Civil War and the Ducks' tremendous season in general and believes that even though the stakes are higher than ever, the game will be just as tough for the Ducks as any other Civil War contest.

"I think it's going to be a rerun of the other games,"



COURTESY PHOTO

Collin Hall brought back his Civil War experience to the 1994 Ducks as an assistant coach.

he said. "We're practicing hard just like when I played."

More than anything, Hall attributes the intensity of the rivalry to the close proximity of the two schools and the competition among many of the in-state players and seasoned transplants from other states.

"It becomes a pride thing. The fact that both teams have a lot of people from Oregon makes it even more of a rivalry," Hall said.

"The more in-state guys you have playing for bragging rights, the better the game is."

As for the out-of-state players, Hall said that while it may take some time for them to understand the magnitude of the rivalry, it eventually sinks in.

"It takes a little while for them to adapt," he said, "but once they come they begin to understand."

While any loss is tough to stomach no matter who the competition is, a Civil War defeat is especially hard to take, according to Hall.

"It's much better being on the winning side."

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