

Regrets? Metz had a few; but then again, blah blah blah



CHRIS METZ

When I was first hired as the sports editor of the *Emerald* last spring, one of the first things I decided that I wasn't going to do was write a sappy, tear-jerking final column that thanked everybody from my first babysitter to Mike Bellotti's hair stylist.

But as they say in the newspaper biz — tough.

My predecessors

After learning that I would be the new sports editor of the *Emerald* for the 1994-95 school year, I paid close attention to last year's final columns of then-sports editor Steve Mims and the always-insightful Dave "Murray" Charbonneau. But it's only now that I fully appreciate the things they had to say.

A war-tested veteran, Charbonneau told a tale of a burned-out sports reporter who took time out to reflect on his many years at

the *Emerald*, his childhood dreams come true and his distaste for Steve Friedman's famous catch phrase (See Ya).

Since my childhood dreams included playing drums in KISS, and having no particular beef with Friedman, I can only relate to the burned-out sports reporter/editor aspect of Charbonneau's swan song.

It's with bittersweet sentiments that I exit this fine institution and more specifically the *Emerald*. As an overgrown kid with no experience whatsoever, I was thrust into the greatest athletic year in school history. With this in mind, I first would have to thank all the past sports editor's (especially Mims, Charbonneau and Jake Berg).

I, and many Oregon fans just like me, was treated to trips to Southern California, the Bay area, beautiful (and exciting) Salt Lake City and many other destinations throughout the Northwest.

The Rose Bowl and the NCAA Tournaments seemed to be distant dreams as I took over the helm of the sports department, but little did I know these dreams would be realized and I would be flying off to destinations near and far to cover the Ducks.

Besides the fact that Berg covered a 3-8 football team, Mims was treated to a 10-17 men's basketball team and Charbonneau froze his ass off at the Independence Bowl (whereas I soaked in the rays of a warm, sunny Pasadena winter), these three guys were a big help this year. Whether it was giving my thirsty self a cold one or offering a much-needed synonym for "game" (i.e. tilt, matchup), I owe a lot to their tutelage.

As I read Mims' goodbye column, I quickly realized that this Mims guy would be a hard act to follow. Mims filled a good 20 inches of space talking about how much this job meant to him and thanking those who helped him along the way.

Although Mims' intensity is hard to rival, I can relate to his convictions. If anybody took a job seriously it was my sports staff and me. Many a sleepless night was spent slapping together Rose Bowl issues and piecing together some quality last-minute basketball tournament coverage.

In other words, with the added success of the Ducks, so too went the workload of those that covered the Ducks.

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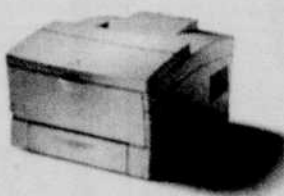
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