

Sideline

TODAY IN SPORTS

WSU player arrested for drunken driving

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Washington State linebacker James Darling was arrested for investigation of drunken driving after a one-car accident Monday and has been suspended from the team, Cougars coach Mike Price said.

Darling lost control of his Jeep on a Pullman city street early Monday while returning from Spokane, Price said. Darling was treated at the scene for minor injuries.

He was arrested for investigation of driving while intoxicated and released. Police will file a report to prosecutors, who will decide whether to file any charges, Price said Monday in a statement.

Darling, the Cougars' starting middle linebacker, has been suspended from all team activities for the week and will miss Saturday's game against visiting Arizona, Price said. In addition, Darling will be on probation for the rest of the season.

"James is a good person who made a serious mistake in judgment," Price said. "He will have to deal with the consequences of his action and I know he will."

Darling was unavailable for comment Monday, the Cougars said.

He leads the Cougars in tackles with 63 and in tackles-for-losses with 11, for minus-26 yards. Darling, 20, is a junior zoology major from Kettle Falls.

AP TOP 25

	Record	Pvs
1. Florida State (34)	7-0	1
2. Nebraska (20)	7-0	2
3. Florida (3)	6-0	3
4. Ohio St. (5)	7-0	4
5. Tennessee	6-1	6
6. Kansas	6-1	7
7. Colorado	6-1	9
8. Northwestern	6-1	11
9. Michigan	6-1	10
10. Oregon	6-1	12
11. Auburn	5-2	13
12. Notre Dame	6-2	17
13. Southern Cal	6-1	5
14. Kansas St.	6-1	8
15. Texas	5-1-1	16
16. Penn St.	5-2	19
17. Washington	5-2	20
18. Alabama	5-2	21
19. Texas A&M	4-2	22
20. Virginia	6-3	14
21. Syracuse	6-1	—
22. Texas Tech	4-2	25
23. Oklahoma	4-2-1	15
24. UCLA	5-2	—
25. Iowa	5-1	18

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: Arkansas 149, San Diego State 17, Virginia Tech 14, Baylor 12, Toledo 8, Stanford 7, Michigan State 4, Maryland 2, South Carolina 1, Texas Christian 1.



The Oregon football team's recent success has left some students scrambling to find seats in the student seating section.

NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

Saving seats makes student dilemma worse

The success of the Oregon football team last year — and the 6-1 start this season — has brought in a whole new generation of "quaker backers." Much like last year, each game this season becomes more and more important, and naturally the bigger each game is, the more people come out to watch.

Some of these fans have been here for years. They have seen the games when the Ducks looked like they shouldn't even have a football program, and they were there last year when the Ducks hung tough with Penn State in the Rose Bowl.

Then there are the new fans — people who are new to the University and new to Oregon football. Many of these fans have had the good fortune of only seeing the positive things Oregon football has done in recent years.

The combination of the long-time, die-hard fans, the new generation of Duck fans and the people who are somewhere in the middle has created a new problem that Oregon fans aren't used to.

Suddenly, tickets are hard to come by and

seating is extremely limited. The seating problem is evident in the general admission section, but it's the student section where the real problems begin to occur.

Imagine yourself getting all excited for the big game against another Pacific-10 Conference rival. Take last Saturday's game against Washington State for example. You party it up with your friends and stuff yourself full of food all afternoon. Then 5 o'clock rolls around and you make the journey across the foot-bridge over to Autzen Stadium.

By 5:40 you are walking around the outer rim of Autzen, eyeing the student section to see what seats are available. About one-third of your favorite section is full, but then you see them — the best seats in the student section according to your personal preference.

As you approach the seats you notice everyone there has left this area of roughly

five or six rows completely empty — that is everyone except about five guys who are standing one or two at each corner.

One of the guys speaks up as you begin to enter this empty section.

"These seats are all taken," he says.

It hits you all at once as you notice the Greek letters on his sweatshirt — this must be the designated fraternity area. Wait a minute, there is no such place.

The guy who said the seats are taken is friendly and explains that it isn't his idea, but he has to do what he's told. And, he says, he was told along with the other four or five guys there to save enough seats for the whole house.

So you stand there discussing with this complete stranger what a bunch of crap you think this is. Meanwhile the seats you are going to have to choose from are getting worse and worse.

Ah — the joys of a winning program. The seats that people used to be able to walk in

Turn to STEWART, Page 10



Chris Stewart

New England's offense surprises Buffalo 24-17

■ **NFL FOOTBALL:** Drew Bledsoe's 262 passing yards and Curtis Martin's 127 rushing yards fuel the victory

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — The Patriots found their offense on a rare Monday night appearance and the Buffalo Bills had neither coach Marv Levy nor Thurman Thomas to stop them.

Rookie stopping back Curtis Martin and Drew Bledsoe had their best games of the season as New England won 27-14, ending its five-game slide and Buffalo's five-game winning streak.

"That, by far, was our best effort of the year," Patriots coach Bill Parcells said.

The Bills (5-2) remained in first place in the AFC East. The Patriots (2-5) were the NFL's lowest scoring team but

renewed their playoff hopes against a team that began the weekend with the NFL's top-rated defense.

"I by no means think that we've turned any corners or anything," Parcells said. "Coincidentally, we beat a team that's leading the division. This division is a long way from over."

With Levy recovering from surgery for prostate cancer, assistant head coach Elijah Pitts handled the Bills. But six minutes into the game, Buffalo lost Thomas, who pulled a left hamstring after a strong start and did not return.

Bledsoe, who didn't throw a touchdown pass until his fifth game of the season, completed 23 of 40 passes for 262 yards and a 5-yard touchdown to Vincent Brisby.

Martin rushed 36 times for a career-high 127 yards and a 20-yard touchdown, the first of the

game. He had rushed for 102 yards in his pro debut but only 186 in his next five games.

The Patriots, in their first Monday night game in eight seasons and the first at home in 14, recovered three fumbles and had four sacks against a team that had lost just three fumbles and been sacked seven times all season.

Thomas' fumble on his first carry led to Martin's touchdown. His replacement, rookie Derrick Holmes, lost a fumble on the first play of the second half and Matt Bahr followed with a 39-yard field goal for a 24-14 lead.

Thomas was injured on a 20-yard run to a first down at the New England 11-yard line. He was taken to the locker room on a cart and finished with 42 yards on four carries. He also caught two passes, setting a team record

with receptions in 43 consecutive games.

The Patriots scored first for the first time in four games on Martin's 20-yard run 4:26 into the game, the earliest they've scored this season.

Steve Christie's two 23-yard field goals cut the lead to 7-6 after the first quarter. The Patriots responded with a 12-play, 70-yard march capped by Bledsoe's 5-yard pass to Brisby that made the score 14-6.

Dave Meggett's 3-yard run made it 21-6 with 1:57 left in the half, but the Patriots couldn't stop the Bills after that as Kelly and Billy Brooks hooked up on a 45-yard touchdown pass play 33 seconds before halftime. Kelly's pass to Carwell Gardner on Buffalo's first two-point conversion attempt since the rule was implemented last season drew Buffalo to 21-14 at halftime.