

Sideline

TODAY IN SPORTS

Baylor honored as NL's best manager

NEW YORK (AP) — Don Baylor, who led the Colorado Rockies to the playoffs in only their third season, was voted National League Manager of the Year on Tuesday.

Baylor received 19 of 28 first-place votes and nine seconds for 122 points in voting by the Baseball Writers Association of America, easily defeating Davey Johnson. Baylor was the only manager named on every ballot.

Johnson, pushed out by the Reds after leading Cincinnati to the NL Central title, got eight firsts, 15 seconds and four thirds for 89 points.

Atlanta Braves manager Bobby Cox was third with one first, one second and 12 thirds for 20 points, followed by Terry Collins of Houston (11 points), Jim Riggleman of the Chicago Cubs (6), Dallas Green of the New York Mets (3) and Bruce Bochy of San Diego (1).

Under Baylor, the Rockies were 77-67 last season and won the wild-card spot by one game over the Astros.

Seahawks may move if Dome isn't fixed

SEATTLE (AP) — As a last resort, Seattle Seahawks majority owner Ken Behring says he would move the team if the Kingdome isn't renovated.

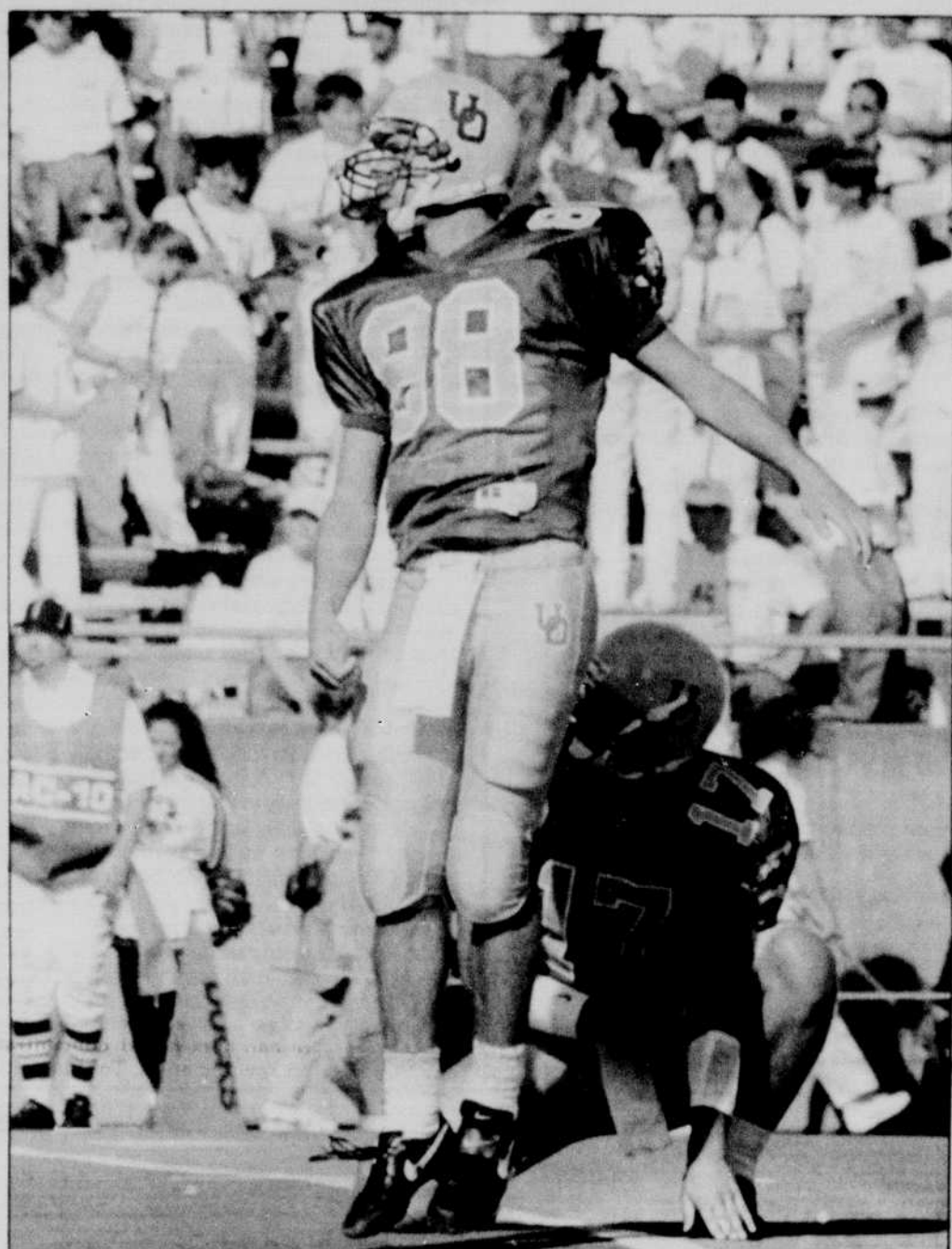
But, he emphasized, the team is not for sale.

"If people think they are going to drive us out of town, the only way they will drive us out is with the team," Behring told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. "We're the team's owner and we intend to stay that way."

"We don't want to leave," he said Monday. "We are going to do everything possible to work with the county and with business leaders to try to work this out."

He has asked for \$150 million in improvements to the Kingdome, including luxury suites. The team, which Behring said lost \$5 million to \$6 million last season, is willing to contribute \$25 million.

Meanwhile, Behring supports the Browns' move from Cleveland to Baltimore. He said Browns owner Art Modell "had a stadium that wasn't satisfactory."



True freshman kicker Joshua Smith has improved steadily this season, rightfully earning Pacif-10 Conference Special Teams Player of the Week.

Smith has come a long way

■ **FOOTBALL:** The freshman kicker earned the Pac-10 Special Teams Player of the Week honor

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

He wasn't supposed to be a factor in Oregon's 24-22 victory over Washington on Saturday. He wasn't even supposed to be a starter and wasn't even guaranteed a spot on the team.

But true freshman kicker Joshua Smith has proved that he is all of the things he wasn't supposed to be and more.

On Monday, Smith was named the Pacific-10 Conference Special Teams Player of the Week after his three field goals against Washington proved to be the deciding factor in Oregon's upset victory.

"I am so far ahead of where I wanted to be right now it is unbelievable," Smith said, adding that he was just hoping to make the team this year and become a starter by the time he was a senior.

"Right now I can't believe personally what I have accomplished at this time," he said. "It is something I haven't even dreamed of. I have dreamed of being a good player, but not being Pac-10 Player of the Week."

"I was stunned [by the award]," he said. "I didn't know how to take it. I still can't believe it. The game was such a big game, and we played so well that it could have been any of us [getting the honor]."

But it was Smith who earned the honor, and it has been Smith who has upped the

level of his game steadily from the beginning of the season, when he was called to practice early from his home in Colorado Springs, Colo., to take over the kicking job left vacant when sophomore Matt Belden went down to injury.

"At the beginning of the year, when I went in, my legs were like water. It was scary," he said. "It was tough — I wouldn't trade it for anything, but it was real tough."

The kicking game, once a definite strong point in Oregon's offense, had become unpredictable this season after Belden's injury. But as it looks now, the Ducks have someone to count on when they need to convert on a critical fourth down or extra point attempt.

"When I first came in, [my teammates] didn't know me and they didn't know my abilities," Smith said. "Now [my teammates] know I am going to pull through for them — now the kicking game is not a weakness."

Against Washington, the kicking game was anything but a weakness, as Smith hit field goals of 30-yards, 22-yards and 34-yards in the first half. He added three extra points in the first half, accounting for 11 of the Ducks' 24 points.

"It was crazy," Smith said of playing in Husky Stadium, adding the intimidation Washington's bowl talks was a factor going into the game. "They have got crazy, crazy fans and really loud fans. Going into Husky Stadium and taking one from them in their house was incredible."

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Washington fans show no class

Appalled and shocked are the two words that best describe the thoughts running through my head as I sat through my first game at Husky Stadium on Saturday.

After hearing horror stories about how awful it is to be in Husky Stadium as an opposing fan — especially an Oregon fan — I had prepared myself for all kinds of verbal abuse depending on whether the Ducks were winning or losing.

OPINION



Chris Stewart

Aside from my dad, there wasn't another Duck fan in the section I was seated in. Noticing this before the game, I decided I was probably best off not celebrating too much when Oregon did well.

As the opening kickoff sailed through the air, I prepared for battle. When Pat Johnson took it back 89 yards for a touchdown, all of the thoughts of restraining my happiness quickly left my head, and I found myself standing with my arms straight up in the air as if to help the official make the call. As I looked around I realized that my dad and I were the only people standing up.

Surprisingly, nobody said anything to me or even gave me any dirty looks. I figured they were too shell-shocked to be mad so I sat back down and tried to contain my excitement.

As the first half went on and the Ducks kept rolling, I became more and more careful in how I reacted to Oregon's good plays.

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Cougars bench Davis for season

■ **COUGARS:** The Washington State quarterback is punished for breaking team rules

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Washington State starting quarterback Chad Davis has exhibited a "disturbing pattern of behavior" and will be benched for the Cougars' final two games, coach Mike Price said Tuesday.

Price declined to discuss specifics, but said the demotion comes as the result of breaking team rules in a series of incidents that showed a lack of support for teammates and coaches.

"As a result of a disturbing pattern of behavior to the Washington State football team and its team rules, I've decided to bench Chad Davis the next two games," Price told reporters during his weekly telephone news conference. "His nonsupportive attitude to teammates and coaches ... will not be tolerated."

Fifth-year senior Shawn Deeds and redshirt freshman Ryan Leaf will split quarterback duties against

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