

Visiting Corvallis hard to take

Going to Corvallis is always an interesting experience. Saturday was no exception.

The Ducks were playing the Beavers in the annual Civil War game, and Gill Coliseum played host. A person can be easily nauseated just walking into the Coliseum. The color orange is the theme.

Whoever designed the place must have either really liked orange, or been really, really spirited. It is a shock to the senses.

The seats are orange, part of the floor is orange, and many of the Beaver fans are wearing orange. It is very distracting. The green of the Ducks' uniforms was a welcome sight, although it did clash with everything else in the place.

When the green-clad Ducks did run out onto the court, the crowd cheered. A smattering of people in the reserved seats and one whole corner of the general admission area were Oregon fans. The Beavers are unable to sell out the place with their own fans, but choose to stick the visiting fans way up in the seats that are crammed into the corner right where the ceiling ends and the walls begin.

At least the Oregon cheerleaders were allowed on the floor. But they looked a little lost because the Oregon State band didn't really play too much. Unfortunately, the Oregon band wasn't there, so the cheerleaders were forced to dance to the tunes of the Beaver ensemble. The band usually only played one song per timeout and it was often their fight song. Like our cheerleaders were really going to bounce to that one.

The Oregon State cheerleaders looked like they should be cheering for the gymnastics team. They danced at less than half the timeouts, and they used the other breaks in the game to tumble up and down the floor. They have to be given credit for having so much enthusiasm for a team that is usually pathetic.

Their fans, on the other hand, deserve no credit. Gill Coliseum gets semi-filled with alumni. The student section is not on the floor like it is at McArthur Court, so the students are stuck in the second level, and they sit the whole time — every

OPINION



Andrea DeYoung

Oregon hires new defensive coordinator

■ **FOOTBALL:** Former CFL coach fills the hole left by Charlie Waters' resignation

Rich Stubler, a defensive coordinator in the Canadian Football League for the last 13 seasons, is the new defensive coordinator Ducks', head coach Mike Bellotti announced Monday.

Stubler, the defensive coordinator for the 1993 Grey Cup champion Edmonton Eskimos for the last five seasons, succeeds Charlie Waters, who resigned after one season with the Ducks for personal reasons last month.

"Rich and I are very similar

philosophically about defensive football," Bellotti said, "and he has the ability to take our defense to the next level. He will allow us to continue to incorporate the attack mentality, yet at the same time maintain sound defensive principles."

"He was able to communicate very well with the players and coaches that met with him and he's enthusiastic and genuinely loves what he does. He gives us a chance to make us better as an entire football program and keep us on the cutting edge of defensive game planning."

A native of Glenwood Springs, Colo., Stubler made five appear-

ances in the CFL's version of the Super Bowl, four during a seven-year stay with Hamilton in 1983-89. The Tiger-Cats won the Grey Cup in 1986 with an upset of heavily favored Edmonton.

Stubler spent eight years coaching in the collegiate ranks before embarking on his CFL career. After serving as a graduate assistant under Bill Mallory at Colorado in 1974, he spent three seasons as secondary coach at New Mexico State (1975-77), one year at Southern Methodist (1978) on Ron Meyer's staff and three at Colorado State (1979-81).

"It has been a goal of mine for the last three to four years to go

back to college coaching in the West," Stubler said. "Oregon has a great system in place and they've played really good defense for several years. I believe my philosophy will mesh with that and we'll be a better football team ultimately."

"I will rely heavily on the three guys that are on the staff to get me back to speed and tune me in," he added. "We want our players to buy into the system; coaches don't make plays on the field. It's always been my philosophy to build the defense around the players you have, not make them play a defense for which they're not suited."

Ducks split two pair in Bay Area

■ **SOFTBALL:** Only nine total runs were scored over four games

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon softball team opened its Pacific-10 Conference season this past weekend with doubleheader splits at both Stanford and 11th-ranked California.

The four games were dominated by pitching as a combined nine runs were scored the entire weekend, including one shutout of each team by Oregon pitchers.

On Saturday, the Ducks (8-12 overall, 2-2 conference) needed only one run to defeat Stanford in their first game as freshman pitcher Sherri Woods threw a complete-game, two-hit shutout, earning her third win of the year. It was also Woods team-leading third complete game of the year.

Trina Salcido collected the Ducks' only hit of the game in the top of the second inning and later scored on an error by shortstop Summer Lee.

Stanford pitcher Becky Blevins suffered her fourth loss of the year despite giving up just one hit in seven innings.

Oregon started the second game scoring one run in the top half of the first on an RBI single by Lisa Preston that scored Missy Koke. But the Cardinal came right back, scoring two runs in the bottom half of the inning to take the lead.

Those two runs proved to be enough for Stanford as the pitching settled in for both teams, allowing no other runs the rest of the game and giving the Cardinal a 2-1 victory. The victory was Stanford's first conference

win of the year, improving its record to 11-9 overall and 1-5 in the Pac-10, and also marked the first time in school history that the Cardinal has beaten Oregon in softball.

Freshman Jennie Cook was the hard luck loser for the Ducks, recording her second loss of the year after giving up only two runs on seven hits and pitching a complete game.

Oregon and California swapped shutouts in their doubleheader Sunday afternoon, starting with the Golden Bears' blanking of the Ducks in the first game.

California cruised to a 3-0 victory led by ace pitcher Whitney Floyd, who limited the Ducks to one hit, a single by Kim Kampfer. This was the second game of the weekend that the Ducks' batters were held to just one hit.

Woods took the loss for the Ducks, going only 3½ innings and giving up three runs on five hits. The loss dropped Woods' record to 3-7.

But the Ducks bounced right back in the second game riding the arms of Petrina Martinez and Cook, who combined to pitch a seven-hit shutout and 2-0 victory.

Oregon scored both runs in the top of the fourth inning off RBI singles by Jennifer Francis and Maegan Christie. Kampfer collected two hits and scored one of the runs to pace the Ducks' offense.

Martinez pitched 4½ innings, giving up only four hits, to earn her first victory of the year. Cook, meanwhile, threw 2½, giving up three hits and striking out one to pick up her second save of the year.

Oregon will open its home season this weekend with a Friday doubleheader against Western Washington at 2 p.m.

Miller's injuries lead St. Louis to release him

■ **NFL:** Former Duck plans on spending the next year in Eugene

ST. LOUIS (AP) — It's been three months since former Oregon quarterback Chris Miller sustained his fifth concussion in 14 months, and he's still not back to normal. On Monday, the St. Louis Rams released him.

Miller, 30, said he would sit out next season. But he stopped short of retiring, saying he'd undergo more tests in another three months.

"I know I still have a lot of throws left in my arm," Miller said in a conference call from his home in Eugene. "I just want to leave that window of opportunity open for later."

Since the end of the season, Miller has consulted with a neuropsychologist, three neurosurgeons and the team physician of the New York Jets. All recommended against him playing.

"They put together a long, extensive report with all the doctor lingo you can't understand," Miller said. "But when you have five experts agreeing, it's not too hard of a decision to make for this season."

"Maybe if I got a cement helmet or something, I'd be all right," he joked.

For now, he'll concentrate on playing golf and managing his Eugene microbrewery, The Wild Duck.

"Hopefully by July my golf game will be so sharp I won't even be thinking about football," he said.

Miller is third on Oregon's all-time passing list, with 6,681 yards in a four-year career from 1983 to 1986. He was drafted in the first round of the 1987 NFL draft by Atlanta, the 13th pick overall.

Miller suffered his third concussion of the season Dec. 3, 1995 when he was knocked unconscious by Marvin Washington of the Jets, who bumped helmets with him and then drove him to the artificial turf. After that blow, the Rams placed him on injured reserve.

Miller said his headaches have mostly subsided, but tests have shown his brain can't process information quickly and he said he's also having trouble recalling information at times. During his news conference, he lost his train of thought more than once.

Miller said he knew the Rams were going to cut him loose about 10 days ago. The team delayed the announcement

Instant replay could return to NFL

■ **TECHNOLOGY:** New system may be applied less often than the original

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Instant replay, dead for the past four seasons, may be coming back to the NFL. It's unlikely, however, to return this year.

On Tuesday, NFL owners will again discuss using technology to review calls on the field. But whatever system is installed, it will be a more limited version than the one used between 1986 and 1991.

And it's unlikely to be approved this year, because the league needs time to test the new technology and probably does not have the required 23

votes from ownership for approval.

"I feel we'll have a really good discussion," said commissioner Paul Tagliabue on Monday after the full opening session of the owners' meeting. "But it will take a good deal of experimentation to get it in working order."

The system with the most support would allow the referee on the field to make the final decision. It most likely would be a system limited only to scoring, change of possession and out of bounds plays. That would eliminate such items in the old rule as possession on a pass play.

The coaches are for it — 26 of the 30 voted for some new system. But the competition committee voted

against it 4-3, and at least two owners with no ties to the committee are also against it, Wilson and Denver's Patrick Bowlen.

That leaves little room for error — eight "no" votes can kill any proposal. In the past, there have been enough swing votes to make it difficult if not impossible to put it through.

But general manager George Young of the New York Giants, the committee's co-chairman and a consistent opponent of replay, said he had no idea how others would vote.

"It's like the abortion issue," Young said. "I don't ask anyone how they stand on abortion and I don't ask anyone how they stand on replay."