

OREGON OUTDOORS

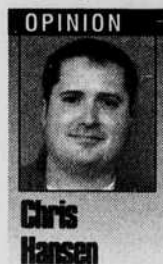
Packers, 49ers, Seahawks; it doesn't matter

Growing up in Minneapolis, a city that had four professional teams who I pledged my allegiance to, was not only obvious, but an ingrained part of my being.

It's like a marriage. I stick with my teams in good times and in bad — and there are plenty of those. In fact, that is almost half the fun.

And just because I have lived in Eugene for close to six years, my devotion to those teams is still unwavering. That's why it's annoying to watch NFL fans in this town flip-flop between favorite teams every year

or so.



When I first moved here, this was definitely a San Francisco 49er town. This in itself was a little bit strange when you consider how most of the locals favorite hobby is hating anything that comes from south of the Oregon border.

This just proves the bandwagon mentality of the local fans. The Seattle Seahawks are more of a logical choice considering they are geographically closer to Eugene. And Washington is seemingly less detestable than California to the locals. But the Seahawks are a god-awful team.

Then there was the brief stint three years ago when the Kansas City Chiefs were shoved down our throats by the local television stations when Joe Montana's career was coming to an embarrassing end. After all, Montana had played for the 49ers.

But this year takes the cake. Eugene's fickle fans have done the unimaginable. Like little roaches crawling out of the wood work, this town is suddenly infested with... Cheeseheads.

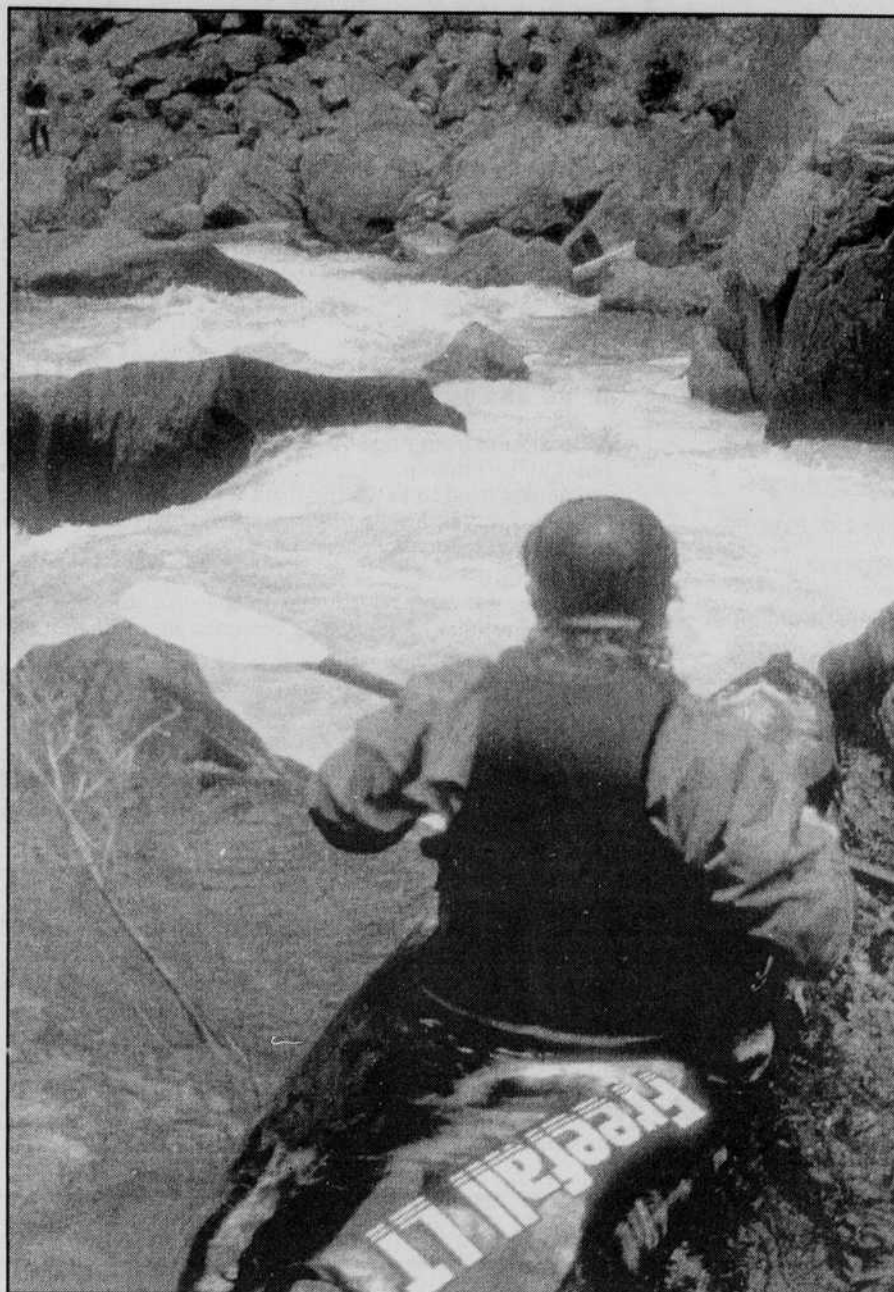
Why?

What is the allure?

Sure, the Green Bay Packers were picked to win the Super Bowl by most national magazines and their "experts." Sure, the Packers are the NFL's chic team of the year. But that's what makes this so strange. Here in Eugene,

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The Great Outdoors



Water sports are the most popular trips in the Outdoor Program. Whether it be rafting, canoeing or kayaking, students can find a variety of ways to get out into nature.

COURTESY PHOTO

The University's Outdoor Program offers many recreational trips along Oregon rivers for students

By Andrea De Young
Assistant Sports Editor

So you want to go hiking or rafting or mountain biking. But you don't want to go alone?

No problem. There is a simple solution to your dilemma — the Outdoor Program.

Located in the basement of the EMU, the resource center and staff offices can be hard to find. But simply follow the sounds of the arcade through the game room and down the hall

and you're there. Although finding the Outdoor Program can be an adventure itself, the fun is only beginning.

Students can explore Oregon and the world through the program. Every week-end different trips take you out to enjoy nature. Some are only a few hours long and others last days. There is something for everyone.

According to OP's coordinator Bruce Mason, the most popular trips right now are the white water trips, but sea kayaking is also gathering interest. Just in time for this increase in interest is an "Intro to Sea Kayaking" clinic on Oct. 24 in OP's resource center. The event is free.

If you don't know what you want to do, an open house is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Veterans of the Outdoor Program will talk about trips and present a slide show of what the program has to offer.

OUTDOOR PRGRM.

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Umpires' strike until Alomar serves time

■ **BASEBALL:** The start of the 1996 playoffs could be delayed if a compromise is not reached



By Ben Walker
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major league umpires voted Monday to boycott the baseball playoffs until Roberto Alomar's five-game suspension goes into effect, umpires' union head Richie Phillips said.

The playoffs are scheduled to start Tuesday, beginning at 1:07 p.m. EDT with the Cleveland at Baltimore game. The San Diego at St. Louis and Texas at New York games are set for later Tuesday.

"Our executive board voted unanimously to withhold services until the Alomar suspension goes into effect," Phillips said.

Rich Levin, the spokesman for acting commissioner Bud Selig, said baseball officials will go to court Tuesday to seek an injunction that would force umpires to work the games.

The umpires agreed to a five-year deal in May 1995 that ended a 120-day lockout

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Kennedy, Fregosi given walking papers

■ **FIRING:** Boston Red Sox and Philadelphia Phillies begin search for new managers

By Jimmy Golen
The Associated Press

BOSTON — There was a 6-19 start to the season and constant gripes from the players at the end. At some point in between, Boston general manager Dan Duquette decided Kevin Kennedy had to go.

The Red Sox manager was fired Monday despite a 171-135 record over two seasons that included last year's AL East division title and a third-place finish this season after a franchise-worst 2-12 start. But he did it in a player-friendly style that angered management.

Duquette refused to accept part of the blame for the dissension, which largely focused on his hard-line negotiating tactics and his rotisserie approach to filling out a roster. Instead, he blamed Kennedy for failing to win the players over to management's point of view.

Duquette also blamed Kennedy for the team's unprecedented poor start, saying the fielding failures that characterized the first part of the Red Sox season should have been ironed out in spring training.

"Coming out of spring training our team just was not prepared to play," Duquette said. "I thought in particular the team had a hangover from '95 going into the '96 season."

Kennedy, who has one year remaining on his con-

tract, is owed \$500,000 for the year remaining on his contract, plus a \$200,000 buyout for the 1998 season.

Jim Fregosi was fired Monday by the Philadelphia Phillies and Duquette said he, as well as ex-Pirates manager Jim Leyland would be considered to replace Kennedy.

When the phone rang at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Jim Fregosi realized his days as manager of the Philadelphia Phillies were over.

"I knew exactly what it was," Fregosi said. "When you've been around long enough, you know what it is."

"It" was the news that had been rumored for several days. Fregosi, who led the Phillies to an unlikely NL title three years ago, was fired by general manager Lee Thomas.

That may be true, but the rift that had developed between Thomas and Fregosi foreshadowed the change, which came a day after the Phillies finished the season at an NL-worst 67-95.

The Phillies, who have followed the 1993 pennant with three straight losing seasons, came into the season with shaky pitching, with four projected starters still recovering from offseason surgery on opening day.

Then Lenny Dykstra (back) and Darren Daulton (knees) were injured, leaving the Phillies with huge

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