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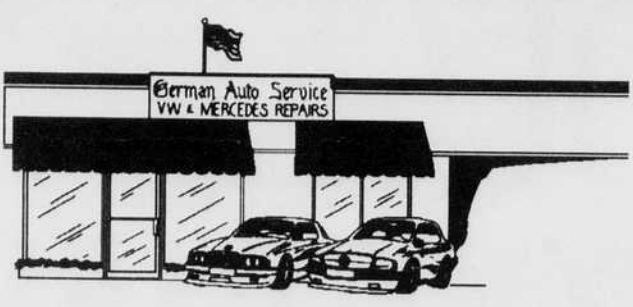
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Ducks bowling? Beavs blowing

I don't know the history of the rivalry, and I really don't care to know the history of the rivalry. Who cares, I say. 100th-game anniversary? Big deal.

What I do know, though, is that in the five years that I have lived in this state, Oregon has won 32 games and gone to three bowl games, while Oregon State has won 11 games.

In other words, as far as I'm concerned, the Beavers suck. If you don't believe me, check out their athletic department's website at www.orst.edu/Dept/Athletics. The address says it all.

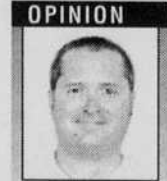
In fact, they suck to the point that it makes me wonder why this game creates such hoopla. The Ducks are obviously the superior football team, the University of Oregon is the superior school, Eugene is the superior town to live in, and the people of Corvallis are, well, see the top 10 list and figure it out for yourself. Basically, this game is played just to prove Oregon's dominance and superiority.

That may sound a little harsh, but hey, facts are facts.

Oregon State has such a pitiful football team that it would be seriously challenged by Junction City for the state 3A high school championship. It runs an archaic option-style offense that consists of the quarterback and the tailbacks playing paper-rock-scissors in the huddle with the winner getting to carry the ball. That confusing system must give

the opposing team's defensive coordinator fits trying to prepare for the game.

Granted, using the option was an effective strategy at one point



Chris Hansen

in time before this neat little thing called the "pass" was invented. Maybe that's something those kids up there in Corvallis should look into. I mean, it's simple logic: OSU has been using the option for as long as anyone can remember and at the same time, they have been just God-awful for as long as anyone can remember. Ohhh, it's slowly starting to make sense now.

Of course, to switch to a modern-style offense they might actually have to get a quarterback who does more than act as a buffer between the tailbacks and the offensive line. That would mean recruiting real football players, something that head coach Jerry Pettibone used to be known for back in his days at Oklahoma.

But the truth is, Pettibone can't be held responsible for the dismal state of this program, because the team stunk it up long before he came to OSU.

Maybe it's having a buck-toothed, flat-tailed, wood-gnawing, overgrown rodent as its mascot that brings the morale of

the team down.

Or maybe it's the fact that the players have to wake every morning from pleasant dreams to find that they are still in Corvallis. Man, there's a happy thought. Ugh.

You think that they would at least be inspired to play once they entered beautiful Parker Stadium with its stands packed full of screaming, knowledgeable fans that ... um, wait a minute, forget that.

Give the Beavers their due, though — they usually give the Ducks a run for their money. It seems the Civil War game is the equivalent of a bowl game for the Beavers, which in itself is a little stupid. You would think that a football team would set its sights a little higher. But hey, they have to base their season around something, and because they know it won't be a winning season, I guess they have to take what they can get.

So, for the third straight year, Oregon's post-season will be determined partly by the outcome of the Civil War. With the opportunity to go to the Aloha Bowl on the line, it seems to be the perfect scenario for the Ducks.

Even if it is OSU they're playing on Saturday. Or should I say, especially because it's OSU.

Chris Hansen is a sports reporter for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

Preview: OSU passing game non-existent

Continued from Page 1B
bone said. "It was all a plus for us."

Pettibone also knows that Oregon is no Northern Illinois and that the Beavers are going to have to put together their best game to have a chance at beating the Ducks.

"There's no way we're going to move the ball on Oregon like we did on Northern Illinois," Pettibone said. "Oregon has quality defensive players, and they're really getting better."

Oregon's "quality" defense may be at full-strength this weekend for the first time in a long stretch. Everyone is healthy except for Desmond Byrd, Derek Allen and Matt Lofrano, who are nursing minor injuries but all could play this weekend.

The Ducks will need to be at full-strength against the ninth-ranked rushing team in the nation. Oregon State has led the Pacific-10 Conference in rushing for the last four years and has aver-

aged 246.9 yards per game rushing this season, mainly utilizing the option. Akili King leads the Beavers in rushing with 701 yards on the season. Fullback Darron Kirkman has 557 yards, and quarterback Tim Alexander is third on the team with 554 yards rushing.

The only downfall to the Beavers' rushing attack is their virtually non-existent passing game. Alexander has only completed 37 percent of his passes this season for 270 yards. Back-up quarterback David Moran has completed 39 percent of his passes for 251 yards.

The Beavers' average of 81.2 yards per game passing this year pales in comparison to the Ducks' 308.3 per game passing yardage. Both Oregon quarterbacks, Tony Graziani and Ryan Perry-Smith, have passed for more yards in any one game than either of the Beavers' quarterbacks have all year. Although Perry-Smith is listed as the probable starter, Oregon's main passing weapon,

Graziani, will definitely play this weekend after sitting out the last game with a re-injured knee, said head coach Mike Bellotti. Leading rusher Saladin McCullough will also be ready to play this week, although he may not start.

"I think I'm in a little bit better [shape] than I was before," Graziani said. "It's not taking me as long [to recover], and it doesn't hurt as bad."

Even without McCullough and Graziani, the Ducks put up good numbers last week with Perry-Smith passing for 256 yards and two touchdowns and the running combination of Derien Latimer, Kevin Parker and Jerry Brown gaining a combined 231 yards rushing.

"They've done a great job of throwing the ball all year and now they've got their running game going," Pettibone said about the Ducks. "They've got good balance and we're going to have to deal with that."



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