



ON THE TUBE
Major League Baseball
Astros vs. Braves,
ESPN (34), 4:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
Emerald

Football over Stones right choice

The University has been getting a little bit of heat lately as a result of its decision not to allow the Rolling Stones to play at Autzen Stadium Sept. 30.

The possibility that the Oregon football team would need the stadium for practice the day of the concert as well as the day after was the reason for saying no to Mick Jagger and gang.

Stupid reason, say thousands of fans who would be ecstatic to see the Stones' first concert in Oregon since 1966.

Great reason, says this reporter.

Before I get into why I think the University's decision was the correct one, I must admit that it is a difficult choice and there would be many pluses for the University and the city of Eugene if the Rolling Stones came to town.

The University reportedly would have received \$150,000 for the use of the stadium.

It would have likely meant millions of dollars to the city of Eugene in food and lodging expenses for the nearly 37,000 fans, not to mention the notoriety that would go along with hosting an event of that magnitude.

It would obviously be a great opportunity for fans in the area to get a long-awaited chance to see one of the world's most popular rock 'n' roll bands.

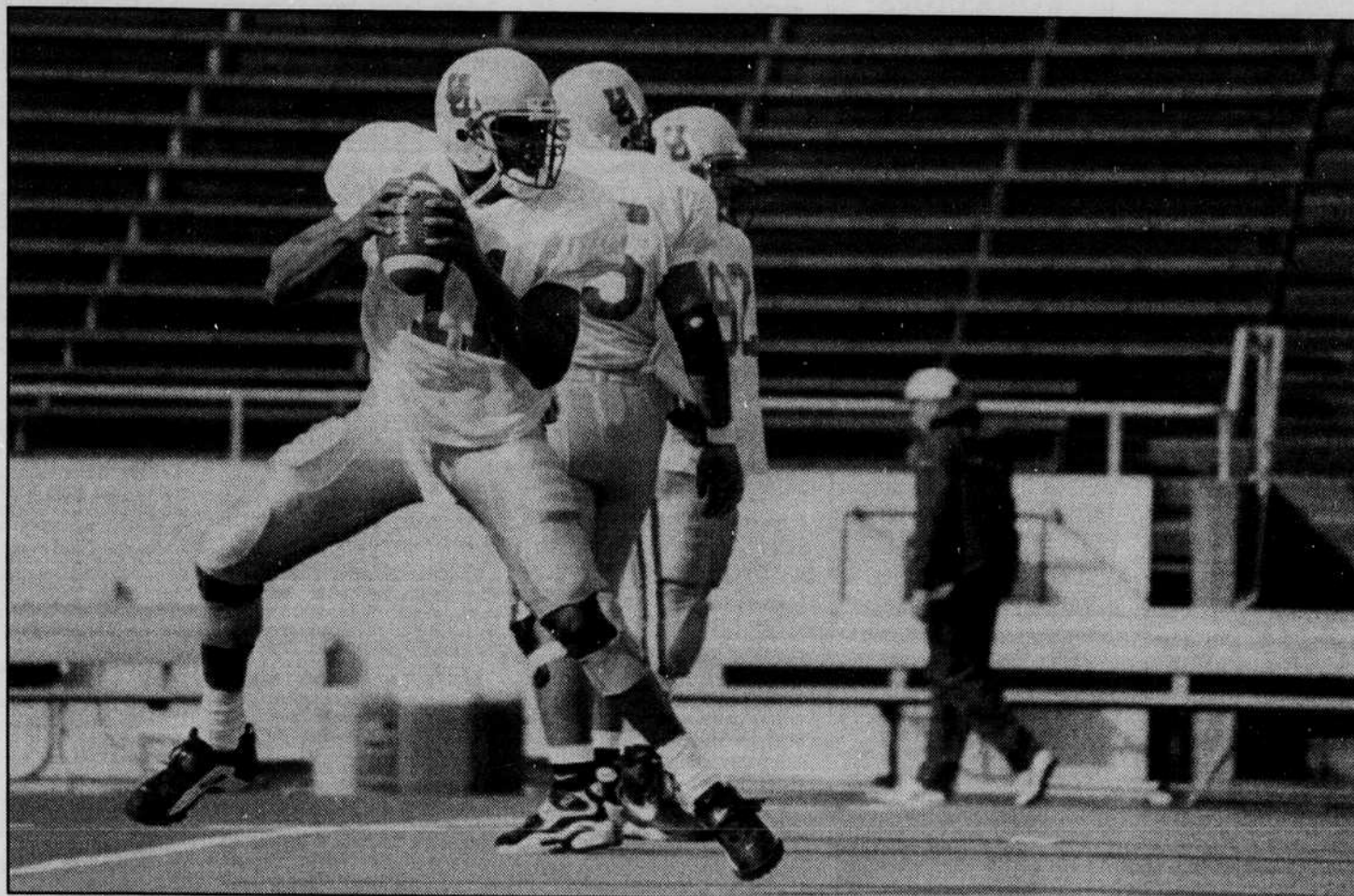
Which is why University student Woo Haskins spent about eight hours combined Monday and Tuesday collecting 732 signatures for a petition that he said assures people to show their displeasure despite the fact he and others know the decision has already been made and it likely will not change.

"It should be done to get a voice of the students," Haskins said. "September 30 will come and go as just another practice, but it could have been a historic day."

Well, yes and no.

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OREGON FOOTBALL 1997



CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

Oregon's newest candidate for quarterback, Grossmont Community College transfer Akili Smith, drops back for a pass during one of the Ducks' spring practices.

Taking Oregon by storm

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

Hopefully for the Ducks, the weather will be the hardest thing that Akili Smith will have to get used to.

Luckily for Oregon fans, it hasn't scared him away yet.

"Oh it's real nice. Very seldom do you get a breeze like this with the sun out. Yesterday when the sun went down it was cold so I'm going to make sure to start adjusting to that," Smith said on one of the nicest days to date of the spring practice season, warmly wrapped for after sundown hours showing that he has adjusted just fine.

Smith, used to better weather, playing his high school and college ball in San Diego, chose Oregon to take his shot at Division I football over a host of other schools, much to the surprise and chagrin of many.

As a junior college standout at Grossmont Community College and one of the most sought after quarterback recruits in the nation, Smith was seemingly headed for the hometown school of San Diego State, or perhaps another bigger program like Michigan State or Oklahoma.

But he is in a green and yellow jersey this spring

and is now concentrating on adjusting to making the step to the next level.

"The coaches are real positive and they're working with me," Smith said. "They understand that I'm new here and that I need to get a feel for the game and the terminology. Everything's looking positive right now."

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti is on the same page with Smith, going slowly and making sure not to miss anything along the way. But he wasn't expecting the new guy to come in and know the system already.

"He's doing well," Bellotti said. "As good as can be expected for a guy that's been here for a total of a week. Obviously there's a lot of things to learn that just aren't going to happen overnight, especially for a quarterback."

But on the other hand, Smith is living up to expectations, as big as they were, and Bellotti knows that it's just a matter of time.

"I think that he is as physically gifted as we thought he would be, but it's not just his physical performance

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Oregon's new Mr. Smith has come in, bringing a lot of hype and hope to an Oregon football program greatly weakened by graduation.



Moos' decision will be announced no earlier than Thursday

■ NEW COACH:

University Vice President Dan Williams met with Athletic Bill Moos Tuesday to discuss the decision

By Ryan Frank
Sports Editor

Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos met with University Vice President Dan Williams Tuesday afternoon to talk about the hiring of a new men's basketball head coach.

Neither Moos nor Williams could be reached for comment, but coaching candidate Bobby Braswell, who last talked to Moos Monday night, said he did not hear from Moos after his Tuesday meeting.

Braswell went on to say that he knows of no timetable for Moos' announcement, but expects one sometime this week.

Originally Moos said he wanted to have a new coach hired by early this week, but according to

University officials, that decision will come no earlier than Thursday.

Ernie Kent, another candidate for the job, said he only knows what has been in the local newspapers and that he had expected a decision Tuesday or Wednesday.

Kent, the current head coach at Saint Mary's, last talked to Moos Sunday, but his sources have told him the search has been narrowed down to one or two names.

The other two candidates for the job, Oregon assistant Mark Turgeon and Montana head coach Blaine Taylor, could not be reached for comment.



Moos first contacted the three candidates with an Oregon connection, Braswell, Kent and Turgeon, then officially met with Taylor last Saturday in Salt Lake City.

Braswell was hired by former Oregon coach Jerry Green in 1992 and coached under Green for four seasons before leaving the Ducks to take over as Cal-State Northridge's head coach for the 1996-97 season.

In his first season, Braswell took Cal-State Northridge to a 14-15 record.

Kent played and coached at Oregon in the 1970s; and in 1997, Kent took his current team, Saint

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