

Shehee, Huard injured against USC

A sprained knee may keep Husky Rashaan Shehee out for the rest of the season

By Jim Cour
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The No. 6 Washington Huskies are facing the remainder of November with the possibility of being without Rashaan Shehee and with a less-than-100-percent Brock Huard.

Shehee, the Huskies' starting running back, and Huard, their No. 1 quarterback, were injured in Washington's 27-0 victory over Southern California on Saturday.

"We don't have a problem with depth," All-America guard Benji Olson said.

Shehee had to leave the USC game in the first quarter with a sprained left knee and Huard left in the third period when he sprained his left ankle.

Huard is expected back. Shehee may be lost for Washington's final three games. His sprained knee is considered an injury that will take two to four weeks to heal.

"All the backups are confident," freshman quarterback Marques Tuiaosopo said.

If Huard is held out Saturday against Oregon at Husky Stadium, the Huskies will give Tuiaosopo his first college start. He replaced Huard against the Trojans and completed six of six passes for 77 yards, including a 41-yarder to Jerome Pathon to set up a field goal by Nick Lentz.

When Huard sprained his ankle in the opening quarter against No. 1 Nebraska Sept. 20, Tuiaosopo came in and played well in a 27-14 loss.

Until Shehee returns, Washington will go with 215-pound sophomore Maurice Shaw as its running back with junior Jason Harris moving up to be Shaw's backup.

The Huskies' latest injuries don't figure to slow down their offense against Oregon, which has surrendered 154 points in going 1-4 in Pac-10 play.

But Washington (7-1, 5-0) will need all the offense it can get in its final two games at No. 10 UCLA Nov. 15 and in the Apple Cup regular-season finale against No. 16 Washington State in Seattle Nov. 22.

Frank: Benson happy with athlete turnout

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its-kind event that allowed children a chance to meet and compete in games with Oregon athletes to build positive role models.

The event, which was part of the athletic department's A.L.A.R.M. (Athletes Living as Role Models) program, was Benson's project for her summer internship with Oregon sports psychologist Karen Nelson.

"Mendy has done a wonderful job coordinating everything," Nelson said.

In addition to supervising the day's activities, Benson, along with Nelson, organized all of the day's events, including the donation of T-shirts and pizzas for the children.

About 125 children and at least 130 athletes, according to Nelson, took part in the event.

After watching the goings-on for a few minutes, it was difficult to tell whether the athletes or the children were having more fun.

At a time when more newspaper ink is spent on athletes who throw people through a plate glass window than on the good things they do to benefit a community, Sunday's event was something special, indeed.

The look on the faces of the children and the athletes was enough to make the whole event worthwhile.

Oregon football player Greg Payne leading a group of kids to a kickball game, all screaming in unison, "Green Ducks! Green Ducks!" was a sight to behold.

And watching flag football games where Oregon

wide receivers LaCorey Collins and Damon Griffin were throwing touchdown passes to 11- and 12-year olds instead of catching passes in front of 40,000 fans was equally enjoyable.

"The athletes did a great job of wanting to be here," Benson said. "They were awesome."

You can say all you want about athletes being spoiled and getting special standards, but this event shows the kind of people who compete for Oregon.

Every sport was represented at the event, except women's soccer, which had a game, and men's basketball, which had a special team meeting.

For the parents of children taking part, the athletes being there was something special.

"Just for the chance to be with the athletes lights their eyes up," said Connie Pratt, whose son, Kyle, 12, and daughter, Amanda, 13, were taking part in the day's events.

Cindi Schweigert, a 1981 graduate of the University, didn't have any children there, but her contribution to the event was invaluable.

Schweigert, a vice principal at Oaklea Middle School in Junction City, used the event as a positive reinforcement for students at her school and brought 40 students. She said the event will stick in the children's minds for some time.

On a day when the sun shined over Autzen Stadium like a scripted novel, the day couldn't have turned out any better — for the students or the athletes.

Ryan Frank is sports editor for the Emerald.

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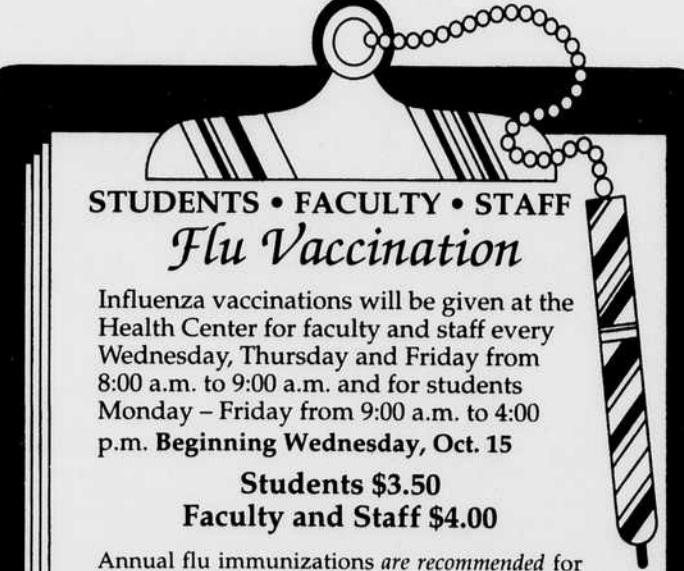
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