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Success: UO graduated 71 percent

Continued from Page 5

"I take advantage of everything given to me, and I never used to turn a paper in unless my counselor looked it over," he said.

Griffin said he tries to devote equal time to his work in the classroom as well as on the turf.

"During the school year, you have to take care of sports first, because you spend so much time with the team," he said. "But on the off-season, I like to load up academically, usually taking 18 credits. That way they don't interfere."

Griffin, who still has one more year of NCAA eligibility, graduated this June with a bachelor of science degree in sociology and a minor in business with a concentration in sports marketing. He sometimes feels student-athletes don't appreciate how valuable the provided resources are.

"If people took away what we have in that building, there would be a lot of ineligible players," he said.

Griffin also attributes the football team's academic success to the counselors that evaluate their academic progress, although he feels that players "should be mature enough to do it on our own."

He said it was from his counselor that he learned time management skills. He also praised the individual position coaches for taking a special interest in the academic progress of the players. The coaches set up personal one-on-one meetings with the players at the beginning and end of the term, as well as throughout every term.



COURTESY

The MegaVision scoreboard at Pitt Stadium is the same as the one to be installed at Autzen Stadium.

University goes MegaVision

Twice as large as the old board, the new one will show pre-game shows and replays

By Peter Breaden
 Oregon Daily Emerald

A mad dash for the concession stands was once an observable phenomenon in Autzen Stadium.

Following a remarkable or controversial play, fans would race for the only televisions in the stadium to grind an axe or talk strategy with their well-informed popcorn vendors. With the introduction of a new \$4 million video scoreboard, Oregon football may well be seeing the end of the halftime exodus to the parking lot, headphones tuned to other games around the country and the occasional humorous misprints due to burned-out bulbs on the old display system.

The 88-foot-by-56-foot structure will be nearly twice as large as the previous scoreboard. It will include a 42-foot-by-24-foot MegaVision video display system, only the second in the country after the University of Pitts-

burgh. MegaVision is one of the first of its kind to use outdoor color LED video technology.

Athletic Director Bill Moos said Monday, "We really feel that the replay board is going to be a definite upgrade for what is already a tremendous venue for college football."

Pittsburgh officials noticed a difference.

"It was like being in another stadium. The clarity is unbelievable," said Jason Lener, director of ticket operations at Pittsburgh, "It greatly enhanced atmosphere."

Pittsburgh's ticket sales increased by more than 10,000 per game last year, Lener said.

The new system is expected to be installed in time to host Michigan State in the Sept. 5 season opener. It will offer replays, nationwide scores and highlights, taped pre-game shows and half-time activities, and statistics updates throughout games.

Surrounding the scoreboard will be ten sponsor positions, said Dave Heeke, associate athletics director for media relations and marketing.

"It is one more piece of a mas-

ter plan that we feel will make Autzen Stadium one of the premier stadiums in the country," Moos said in a recent press release.

This plan includes additional projects of conversion to a natural-grass playing surface and the possibility of 10,000 to 20,000 new seats. Previous projects have added new metal seating for general admission and refurbished the players' entrance at Gate F of Autzen. The purchase of the scoreboard was made possible through private and corporate funds and a new partnership with ESPN Regional Television. Similar to the Athletic Department's extensive fund raising for a new indoor practice facility, the approach to the new scoreboard has used new resources rather than taxes or bond measures.

"They (ESPN Regional) bring expertise in sales," said Heeke.

"The result will be an obvious benefit for our fans as well as a successfully implemented plan which will permit all advertising revenues to be funneled directly back into the athletics department," Heeke said.

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