

# Rugby club to take on UW

By **Jeremy Dickman**  
for the Emerald

If you thought the only big game with the Huskies this year is at Autzen Stadium next weekend, take another look.

The Oregon men's club rugby team is off and running this weekend with its first road trip of the fall season. The Ducks play Washington in Seattle on Saturday, then battle Western Washington on Sunday in Bellingham.

"Coordination is the key [with club sports]," first-year coach Bob Snyder said. "The kids have never been the problem with de-

veloping a team — the organization is usually the problem."

The Ducks are jumping into the 1998 season against Division I-A teams for the first time since



1995. Last Saturday, Oregon defeated Southern Oregon 12-5 in Ashland, in a contest that Snyder said was more of a scrimmage than anything else. Southern was one of the Ducks' common opponents last year, along with Reed Col-

lege and Willamette University in Salem.

However, the Huskies matchup should prove to be a little different.

"Washington is actually one of the lower tier teams in the league," Snyder said. "But Western Washington will be a pretty good test."

Snyder's projections for the league predict Central Washington as probably the strongest contender. But Snyder sees Oregon State and Western Washington as the probably the next toughest competitors in the division.

# Football

Continued from Page 7

tent to play at Stanford in 1994 but chose instead to pursue a baseball career after being drafted in the first round of the amateur draft.

After coming to Oregon late this summer, Smith finally got significant playing time against USC when inside linebacker Aaron Cheuvront went out with a hip flexor injury and a migraine headache.

Smith seems to have enjoyed the experience.

"Pac-10 football is so intense and exciting, that when you get the opportunity to get in there and play, it's tough to find something better than that," Smith said after the game.

"I haven't thought about baseball for a while because here there's so much going on, so much to learn, my days are so busy," he continued. "When you get out there and see 45,000 fans screaming and everybody excited, it's tough to focus on anything else besides what you're doing."

# Albert Belle may play for the Yankees despite problems

By **Ronald Blum**  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Albert Belle in the Bronx?

Listening to George Steinbrenner, that's a possibility for next season if Bernie Williams doesn't re-sign with the New York Yankees.

"Nobody's history scares me," the Yankees owner said. "We have a discipline in the organization that has proven itself."

This is the Albert Belle who prefers to be left alone, who has been fined for profane outbursts and violent incidents, who used his vehicle to chase trick-or-treating teen-agers after they threw eggs at his house.

Belle in the media center of the world? In the clubhouse of team tranquility?

"Who comes from deeper problems than Darryl and Doc?" Steinbrenner said, referring to

Darryl Strawberry and Dwight Gooden. "Yet they accepted the discipline and accepted the direction."

One of New York's off-season decisions was pushed back a week. The Yankees and David Cone agreed the pitcher would have until Nov. 4 to decide whether he will exercise his \$5.5 million player option.

Cone's original deadline was midnight EST Wednesday.

"David Cone is very dear and very important to me," Steinbrenner said. "He's a real New Yorker. I realize he's coming to that point in his career where maybe he has to consider all the options."

Williams, who turned down a \$37.5 million, five-year offer from the Yankees last winter, wants a deal at least seven years long and agent Scott Boras sounds like he wants more than

the \$13 million average Mike Piazza will get from his record \$91 million, seven-year contract with the Mets, which was agreed to last weekend.

"I think that all of baseball, to be honest with you, was stunned by that," Steinbrenner said of Piazza's deal.

Piazza's contract, a baseball record for total and average, will change what other players ask for.

"The dollars were a little staggering and that will reflect," Steinbrenner said.

There's no doubt Belle can produce. He hit .328 with 49 homers and 152 RBIs last season.

But there's also little doubt he's an island to himself in the clubhouse and has largely refused to help his teams sell tickets.



At this stage, it's hard to tell if the Yankees are serious about Belle or trying to send Williams a message that they won't wait for him the entire off-season.

Belle, who agreed to a \$55 million, five-year contract with the Chicago White Sox in November 1996, has a unique clause in his deal that allowed him to become a free agent Tuesday and also gives him the option of returning to his White Sox contract any time through Nov. 25.

Arizona general manager Joe Garagiola Jr. said Wednesday he intends to have Williams in for a visit next month. Diamondbacks manager Buck Showalter was Williams' manager in New York from 1992-95.

"The idea is, here's a player who was the American League batting champion, a gold glove center fielder. I think it would be useful, if he wants to, to have a

conversation with him," Garagiola said. "He is one of the most attractive players on the market."

Steinbrenner made an appearance Wednesday to donate two \$100,000 checks from the Yankees foundation to repair buildings destroyed by Hurricane Georges.

One will pay to rebuild the Dr. Carl Th. Georg Regional Children's Hospital in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic. The other will fund reconstruction of the Center for Senior Citizens in Jurabo, Puerto Rico.

Even though he's technically no longer a Yankee, Williams will personally deliver the checks in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic along with team officials.

"I don't know how you can read anything into it other than he cares for the people," Steinbrenner said.

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