

Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Joey Harrington has shown good mobility both in the pocket and on the option.

Portland's Grant to miss five

TUALATIN — The Portland Trail Blazers placed Brian Grant on the injured list Monday, forcing the team's best rebounder to miss at least the first five games of the season.

Grant hasn't recovered fully from off-season surgery to his left knee. Grant suffered a deep bone bruise late last season and played in pain throughout the Blazers' run to the Western Conference finals.

Grant has participated in some practice drills but nothing full-court. He did not play in the presea-

son, in which the Blazers went 8-0. Coach Mike Dunleavy said Grant likely will return in Portland's sixth game, Nov. 12 at Denver.

The Blazers open the season Tuesday at Vancouver, followed by games against two more of the NBA's weaker teams — the Los Angeles Clippers and the Nuggets. After that however, Portland hosts the Los Angeles Lakers and travels to Utah.

The Utah game would have been the first meeting between Grant and Karl Malone since the

Blazers eliminated the Jazz in the Western Conference semifinals. In that series, Malone twice elbowed Grant hard, in the mouth in Game 1 and over his right eye, opening a nasty cut, in Game 5.

Dunleavy said the Blazers will miss Grant's energy and defense, but that the team has sufficient depth to get by without him for a while.

"We've got enough guys, we feel like, that we can combat anybody," Dunleavy said.

The Associated Press

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Droughns

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feats at Michigan State and UCLA when Droughns was less than fully healthy.

The other? Last season's overtime loss to the Bruins in which Droughns was injured and missed the deciding extra time.

In 12 games, Droughns has accumulated 1,557 yards rushing on 275 carries, an average of 5.7 yards per attempt and 130 yards per game. He has also scored 16 touchdowns.

With the way Droughns has been running lately — 82 carries for 390 yards in the last two games — he could move into 10th place on Oregon's all-time rushing list Saturday against Washington State. Droughns is currently 131 yards behind No. 10 Jack Morris.

Deke Moen, the versatile anchor of the Ducks' offensive line, has taken note of Droughns' return of late to his 1998 form.

"Reuben's Reuben right now," Moen said. "He's really making it exciting for us out there and opening up a lot of opportunities."

The reason for Droughns' explosion is clear — he's finally healthy.

"I am definitely feeling better," Droughns said. "When I'm out on the field, I feel like I'm 100 percent."

And that, undeniably, is a great sign for Oregon.

To switch or not to switch?

Ducks head coach Mike Bellotti remains quiet on who will start at quarterback in Saturday's game.

After Harrington's second consecutive heroic performance in relief of struggling incumbent Feeley, it seems Harrington would be the obvious choice.

Bellotti apparently isn't so sure. "We'll have, I'm sure, very spirited competition this week at practice," Bellotti said. "We have two quarterbacks who can both really play."

"A.J.'s fighting through something right now, and a part of it is probably confidence at this

“When I'm out on the field, I feel like I'm 100 percent.”

**Reuben Droughns,
Tailback**

point... Joey did a very, very good job, and still there were a couple of things that I thought he could do better.

"I'll push them both to exceed their performances so far."

In the last two weeks, Harrington has completed 18-of-32 passes for 292 yards and three touchdowns with one interception. The sophomore from Portland has also carried eight times for 39 yards.

Meanwhile, Feeley, a junior from Ontario, has completed just 16 of 48 for 229 yards and one touchdown with two interceptions.

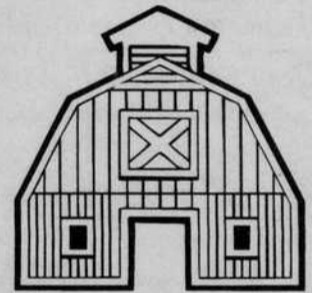
To switch

Bellotti, however, did reveal a change in the starting lineup at a different starting offensive position.

Justin Peelle, a 6-foot-4, 250-pound sophomore from Dublin, Calif., will replace junior Enyi Nwamuo as the starting tight end against the Cougars. Peelle made his first two receptions of the season, good for 32 yards, against Arizona State.

And Bellotti and the other Oregon coaches love Peelle's blocking ability.

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