

Oregon Daily
Emerald

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Perspectives

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Something to cheer! about

With the Ducks surpassing expectations, the Beavers coming out of the cellar and the Trailblazers on the road to success, Northwest sports fans have much to be happy about

Finally, a nexus of success for Northwest sports teams. After spending the greater portion of recorded sporting history as a topsy turvy jumble of up-again, down-again teams jockeying for superiority within the Northwest, the entire region has multiple successful programs to take pride in.

For those who love football, this is a terrific time. In the collegiate ranks, the Ducks, Beavers and Huskies are all surpassing expectations. The Ducks have already beaten national preseason expectations while the Beavers have their first winning season in 28 years. That's a lot of repressed joy that finally gets to escape. Due to their many years perfecting the fine art of pathetic play, the Beavers now elicit cheers from University fans who are just happy to see an underdog finally have its day. The Ducks have built such a solid fan base over the last few years of success that there are plans being considered for a \$50 million expansion of Autzen Stadium that would add more seats and luxury boxes.

And the action in football isn't just in college ranks. The Seattle Seahawks, after being perennial losers and underachievers, have a new coach and a new win-now attitude that is surely a welcome change to the years of expected disappointment. Hall of Fame receiver and current U.S. Congressman Steve Largent would be proud.

When examining college athletics at the University it would be remiss to forget women's basketball. Often brighter than the men's program, the women's team is again expected to make it to postseason play while offering fans hard-to-beat entertainment. They are currently ranked 16th in the nation and the Northwest's version of Shaq doesn't biff free throws.

The men's basketball team may offer even more

excitement throughout the region this year. The Ducks have as much talent as any team in the Pacific-10 Conference while having their backcourt named the best by such standards of excellence as ESPN.com.

Besides hope for this year, the Ducks have managed to recruit some excellent high school talent to start building a future on. The Beavers will most likely be a rank below but have already been tabbed to be likely for NIT action at the end of the year. But not even the glow of this year's Duck future can compare to the thrill and promise of this year's Northwest NBA teams.

While the Seattle Sonics offer an exciting fare for fans, the Portland Trailblazers have title hopes that run as deep as their billionaire owner's wallet. After a half a decade of being bounced from the playoffs in the first round, the Blazers finally advanced to the Western Conference Finals before losing to the eventual-champion San Antonio Spurs in 1999. The team was able to trade for a future Hall-of-Famer and a veteran shooting guard who's known for showing up in the clutch. They

share the league's best record with San Antonio as of Sunday night.

All this success at one time is a rare event. No longer can the Beaver football team be expected to play the role of cellar-dwellers or the Seahawks as dying birds. It'd be easy to take all of this for granted, but the feat before us must be appreciated as the congealed effort of all of those coaches, administrators and players that have poured in hours of their effort that will go unremembered.

Whether you're a fan of men's or women's athletics, indoor or outdoor sports, it's hard to remember another era that had as much success converging for regional teams. And, though convergent success is fleeting, it's better to have been successful and fallen back to earth than to never have been successful at all.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Giovanni Salimena Emerald

THUMBS



To hitching a ride on the bus

The Lane Transit District will extend service to Cottage Grove residents. The service will be of great benefit to students currently living in Cottage Grove and currently having to commute.

To 6-year-old Cheddar

The Oregon Zoo left for Malaysia Friday to pick up a 6-year-old female elephant named Cheddar they hope will diversify the gene pool of Asian pachyderms in the United States. They paid \$100,000 for the animal that will be the fourth female elephant at the zoo.



To slow progress

Despite progress for women breaking into the top ranks of American corporations, they are still under-represented in the "line officer" jobs that lead to promotions, according to a survey by the research group Catalyst. About 3.3 percent of companies' top earners are women.

To belated library hours

Eugene's \$31 million public library could open six months later than originally projected, a total time frame of three years from this fall.

Letters to the editor

Grateful for support

My family and I continue to be so grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support we have received from students, faculty, staff and friends at the University.

We truly appreciate and are touched by the many caring messages we have received. I wish it were possible to respond to each letter, note, phone call and card individually, but it is not — so I am taking this opportunity to respond to many at once.

Lynn, my children and I simply want to say thank you for your expressions of concern. This is a wonderful place to live and to work. And we are very lucky to be cared for by this special community.

Dave Frohnmayer
University president

Challenging the Senate

Nov. 12. The day the EMU began to fall apart. The day the mission of the incidental fee became void. Each student pays around \$135 per term. It is

the Student Senate's responsibility to allocate these funds to the Athletic Department for tickets, the EMU for services and the programs for cultural programming. Is the senate doing its job? No. There are individuals that challenge the senate. For what reasons: not holding office hours. Well, I challenge the senate. I do not advocate for the removal of any official. However, I do advocate for the students on this campus. All of the students. The students that got barely a 48-hour notice about their budget being due in programs throughout the ASUO. The students whose special requests are not being fully considered because the senate is conflicting internally. We need a strong body that will not only allocate money, but allocate it responsibly. Over a million of your student dollars is being funneled through that body. How confident are you that it is being dispersed fairly and responsibly?

Jamila Singleton
Business

Nike ad offensive

This letter is in response to the Nike ad in the ODE (Nov. 4). This is one of the most offensive things I have ever seen. It is great that Nike has re-

cently disclosed its factory locations to seven universities, but the result of this has been the development of a large ego, with the recent ad just reinforcing Nike's arrogance. Nike has blatantly slapped the face of the student anti-sweatshops movement by challenging the very student movement that has done most of the work. It would have never disclosed hadn't a large student movement in this country demanded it. Nike claims that it is doing something about sweatshops by asking students to pay \$75 to help out Nike's plan to help people around (not in) factories. I do not care if Nike pays its workers triple a country's average pay. Does Nike think we are stupid by challenging us to make a difference using the pop culture reference "for less than the cost of a half dozen CDs, you can help people?" Why does it need more money? Why didn't it use the money it spent for this ad to improve conditions in Vietnam? Nike has no right to be arrogant about its reactionary stance on sweatshops. After reading the ad I was so angry that I purchased six CDs just to spite this ego-driven disgrace of a marketing technique.

Jevon Culture
Undeclared