

Duck fans: appreciate Bill Moos' presence

Wow, what a time to be a sports fan at the University of Oregon. Think about it.

The football team had an amazing season full of improbable comebacks, and it capped its year with the upset 24-20 victory over then-No. 12 Minnesota in the Sun Bowl. Next year's team looks to be just as high-powered with the recent addition of junior college tailback Maurice Morris — who had been mentioned as the top junior college prospect in the country.

Of course one of the main reasons that the team went 9-3 was all of you out there who packed Autzen Stadium on Saturdays. Many of you might not even know what it feels like to watch your beloved Ducks lose. Oregon hasn't disappointed its Autzen faithful since a 39-31 loss to UCLA on Oct. 11, 1997 — 14 home games ago.

And then there are the basketball teams. Both the men and women have excelled this year and are gearing up for the NCAA

Tournament after the Civil War games conclude this weekend.

Of course one of the main reasons the teams have gone a combined 20-5 at home is all of you out there who pack the Pit each and every home game. But digging deeper into the reasons for

such success, there is truly only one man who deserves the bulk of the credit. That man is athletic director Bill Moos.

Moos loves his Ducks. He loves attending Oregon athletics of all sorts. And he loves reveling in his teams' success.

No more was that evident than in the postgame press conference room following the Oregon men's heart-thumping 86-81 upset win over then-No. 3 ranked Arizona.



Jeff Smith

While head coach Ernie Kent, guard Alex Scales and forward A.D. Smith spoke to the herd of media, Moos just observed. He sat there in a chair and on his face was a smile, the type of smile that a father displays when his 8-year-old son records his first hit in Little League.

As Moos speaks, his devotion toward Oregon athletics and his commitment to winning is evident.

"Our entire staff is working so hard," Moos said. "I've always said that if you surround yourself with good people and let them do their jobs, it'll all work out."

It certainly has. In only four years on the job, Moos has already solidified the future and set the standard for other colleges across the nation. Since he's been here he's completed the \$14.6 million Ed Moshofsky Center, installed the \$4 million scoreboard in Autzen's west end zone and renovated ancient McArthur Court.

"I've been in this profession awhile and have worked with a lot of different athletic direc-

tors," Kent said. "The best A.D. out there is someone that really knows athletics, which he does, and someone who has an outstanding business mind, which he does."

It was Moos that ignited the five-year, \$3.7 million contract with ESPN regional to make Oregon one of only three schools with such a contract.

"My job is just to provide the resources and the tools to be competitive and let the coaches use their talents and abilities," Moos said. "And that's what they're doing."

Often throughout the season the Oregon men's basketball team has referred to themselves as a family. And although Kent is the one who molds his players, it is Moos' family philosophy that has all Oregon teams thriving in team unity.

"We just have a great family feeling in a wonderful community," Moos said. "What is unique about Oregon is that we are now 'big time,' yet we've never lost that family feeling. We look out for each other, and we care about

each other."

Moos cites Oregon quarterback Joey Harrington's obvious enthusiasm in the "Pit Crew" at basketball games, especially last weekend's home wins against the Arizona schools.

"Here's someone who himself beat Arizona State a few months ago," Moos said. "And now he's leading the charge with a 'Pit Crew' t-shirt."

He's a Duck. And whether he can throw a football or not, he loves Oregon. This is where he should be."

And boy, we all should thank our lucky stars that Moos is in Eugene.

Next week, when we all watch the Duck basketball programs battle it out on the national stage in March Madness, remember one thing.

Kent and women's head coach Jody Runge may have been the keys to winning, but they couldn't have achieved success without their keyhole, Mr. Moos.

Jeff Smith is a sports reporter for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

Martin wants to put brakes on golf cart dispute with PGA

By Mark Long
The Associated Press

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. — Casey Martin turned on his cell phone Monday and found an unusually large number of messages.

He thought something was wrong. He quickly found out

everything was finally right.

At least he hopes so.

Martin's lawsuit that allowed him to use a cart in PGA events was upheld in appellate court Monday, possibly ending his two-year dispute with the tour.

"I am thrilled about it," Martin

said Wednesday as he prepares for this week's Honda Classic. "I can't say that I actually stressed a lot about it, but it's been in the back of my mind for a couple of years now, wondering about my future."

"It feels great to have that behind me. Obviously there might

be another round to go, but that is in the future if it does happen."

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Monday that federal disability law entitles Martin, who has a rare circulatory disease in his right leg that makes it difficult for him to walk 18 holes, to

use a cart during PGA Tour events.

The court upheld a magistrate's 1998 ruling that allowed Martin to become the first golfer to use a cart on tour. The court rejected the tour's argument that requiring competitors to walk is an essential part of professional golf.

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