

Duck offense dominates

■ The offense controls the defense in Oregon's first scrimmage, while two former Ducks are NFL-bound

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

While former Ducks Reuben Droughns and Peter Sirmon experienced the joy of being selected in the NFL Draft, the current Oregon squad participated in its first major spring scrimmage of the season.

Droughns was the first to go in the seven-round, two-day draft. He was reportedly at a friend's house and not following the draft when his name was called by the Detroit Lions as the 19th pick in the third round.

Sirmon had to wait until Sunday morning to hear he was selected as the 34th pick in the fourth round by the defending AFC Champion Tennessee Titans.

The former Ducks not drafted — Michael Fletcher, Dietrich Moore, Tony Hartley and Nathan Villegas — will likely have an opportunity to try out for a team as free agents.

Saturday's scrimmage gave plenty of current Oregon players an opportunity to show head coach Mike Bellotti what they can do.

The offensive players clearly dominated the defense in the 90-minute, controlled scrimmage at Autzen Stadium.

Joey Harrington ignited the quartet of quarterbacks, completing all five of his passes for 97 yards, while engineering two touchdowns in two drives.

All in all, the four quarterbacks connected on a total of 18 of 28 passes for 385 yards. A.J. Feeley, however, was just 2 of 7 for 12 yards.

"Offensively, our quarterbacks and receivers hooked up and did a pretty good job," Bellotti said.

The surprise in the receiving

corps was former Oregon prep standout Cy Aleman, who caught four passes for 191 yards. He was the recipient of fourth-string quarterback Orlando Evans' 95-yard touchdown bomb.

"Cy is playing with a renewed attitude about football," Bellotti said. "He has gotten stronger and has been healthy and looks to be ready to contribute."

Starting tailback Jermaine Hanspard, who had to stay in town for the scrimmage instead of competing with the men's track team at the prestigious Mount San Antonio College Relays, ran for two yards on six carries.

The absences of secondary members Gary Barker and Rashad Bauman, who were nursing minor injuries, hurt the defense.

The defense could only muster two forced turnovers, compared with the three touchdowns and two field goals for the offense.

Oregon will scrimmage again next weekend, before culminating its month of workouts with the annual Spring Game on April 29 at Autzen Stadium.



Kent lands top assistant coach

■ Oregon fills idle assistant coaching position with the hiring of 22-year veteran Scott Duncan

By Jeff Smith
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At last, the staff is complete. When Don Newman left the Ducks to become an assistant coach for the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks back in September, it left a void in the Oregon basketball coaching staff.

Seven months later, that vacancy has been filled. On Friday, Oregon head coach Ernie Kent announced the hiring of Scott Duncan, who has 22 years of experience as a major college assistant

coach. Duncan is highly respected in the coaching ranks and has been a part of Division I-A programs that have qualified for postseason play 11 times in the past 16 years. Most recently, Duncan was an assistant at Clemson.

He is best known for his recruiting skills. Last November, he was a major part in helping Clemson land four of the nation's top 100 recruits.

"I was looking for someone who would be able to take our recruiting success to the next level," Kent said in a released statement.

"He has been successful at every level throughout his coaching career."

Duncan first became aware of the tradition of Oregon basketball after working at a summer camp at McArthur Court in 1977.

"Eugene is a great basketball atmosphere, maybe one of the best five places to play in the country," Duncan said. "It has captured the attention of a national audience."

But why leave a conference that includes the likes of North Carolina, Duke and Wake Forest?

"I'm sure there will be some people who would ask why I would leave the [A.C.C.] for the Pac-10," Duncan said. "The answer is Ernie Kent. He is a giant in our profession right now."



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