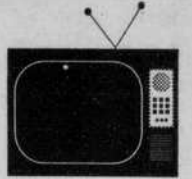


SPORTS

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Best Bet
Detroit at Seattle
7 p.m., Fox Sports



Wednesday, August 22, 2001

Ducks cover country with billboards

■ The Oregon football team caps a summer of hype with billboards in San Francisco and Los Angeles

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Recently, the Oregon football team has been blanketing the country like Rashad Bauman covering a UCLA wide receiver.

Two days after it was announced that Duck quarterback Joey Harrington would be featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated and ESPN the Magazine two weeks ago, the Oregon Athletic Department confirmed that billboards of cornerback Bauman and running back Maurice Morris would be erected in San Francisco and Los Angeles, respectively.

Bauman's billboard, which graces the road next to an entrance to the Bay Bridge, sums up the hype perfectly. The picture is of the defender with hands outstretched over Autzen Stadium, and the text reads "Covering the Country." Morris' billboard, which sits along Interstate 405 in southern California, features blurry photographs of the rusher and the word "Momentum" in white letters, with the "M" and "O" in green.

The billboards, unprecedented simply because they aren't in the team's hometown, are being funded by the same group of donors that paid for a 100-foot billboard of Harrington in downtown New York, according to Oregon Director of Media Services Dave Williford.

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said he enjoyed finding out about the billboards.

"It's great that [the boosters] think those kids warrant the attention," Bellotti said. "Not that Joey doesn't deserve it; it's just nice when other kids get a shot."

Both Sports Illustrated and ESPN the Magazine feature Harrington on

Turn to **Hype**, page 12A



Oregon wide receiver Keenan Howry (above, left) and another Oregon player block a UCLA defender last season. The Ducks will try to overcome Wisconsin in their first game this year with their potent offense, which includes running back Maurice Morris (below, left) and quarterback Joey Harrington (below, right).

Emerald

Ducks will face first test in rematch with Badgers

■ The Oregon football team will face a major hurdle to its national title hopes in the form of No. 22 Wisconsin on Sept. 1

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Toto, we're not playing Nevada anymore.

In the world of the Bowl Championship Series, you have to play tough to get respect, and the Oregon football team will test itself as soon as possible this season. Scary soon. Sept. 1 soon.

That's when Wisconsin will roll into town. The Badgers are ranked preseason No. 22 by The Associated Press and No. 23 in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll.

Both the Ducks and Badgers will have different factors working for them on Sept. 1. The Ducks will have the fabled Autzen advantage — a 20-game home win streak — a healthy team and a little thing called revenge.

"It's been on our minds all summer," Oregon tight end Justin Peelle said. "We let one get away last year."

Peelle referred to the Ducks' 27-23 loss in Madison last season. Oregon receivers dropped several passes, and Wisconsin's Michael Bennett broke out for rushes of 83, 75 and 59 yards in the Badger victory.

This season, Bennett is gone, as he is now playing for the Minnesota Vikings. Wisconsin has a trio of newcomers — none of whom have ever carried a ball in a col-

Turn to **Wisconsin**, page 12A

Oregon fall teams locking in on NCAA Championship berths

■ The Ducks' fall lineup includes the quests of the soccer, volleyball and cross country teams for the NAAs

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Soon, it will be time to kick-start, serve up and run toward the starting line of Oregon fall sports. While some Ducks, especially on the soccer and volleyball teams, will be looking to surge toward the NCAA Tournament, the runners of the cross country teams will try to better themselves individually and qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Without further time consumption, a quick preview of Oregon's fall sports:

Soccer

For the Oregon women's soccer team, winning is as easy as B-A-Y-S-A. Senior Chalise Baysa, the Ducks' all-time leading scorer, will now be a bona fide leader and veteran on a team that is a healthy mix of old and new.

Baysa anchors a midfield which

should be the strength for Oregon. Returning are Crystal David, the Ducks' second-leading scorer last year, and Julie McLellan, Oregon's speediest, feistiest player.

"By keeping [David and McLellan] wide, it will give them more room to run, which is their strength," Oregon head coach Bill Steffen said in a release.

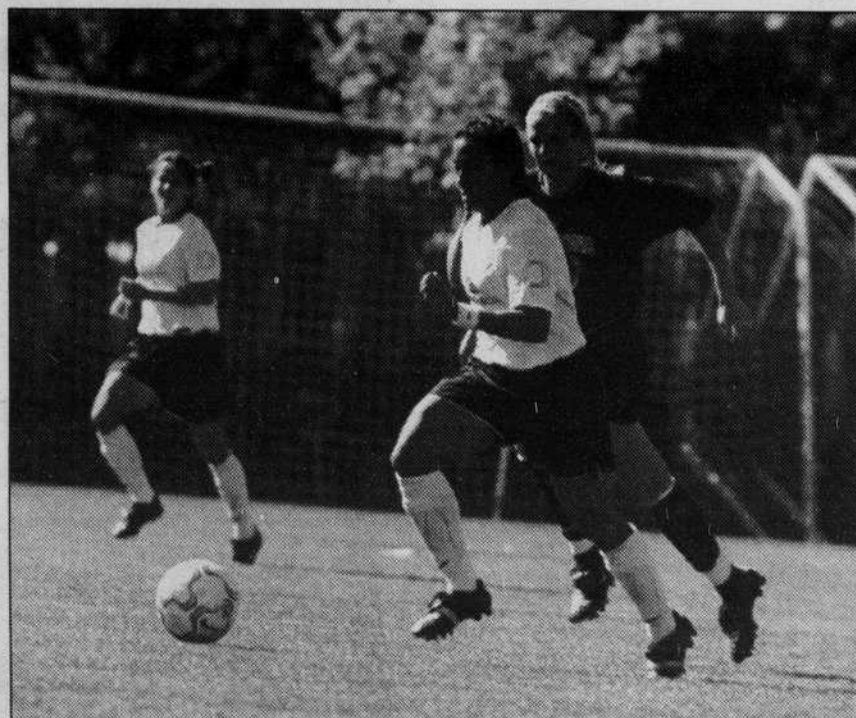
In all, Oregon returns nine of 11 starters from last year's team, and it has added exciting recruits as well.

"We've got the best of both worlds this year," Steffen said. "Typically, you either have strong veteran leadership or a talented freshmen class. Here, we've got both."

The Ducks may feel a sense of urgency to make the NCAA Tournament this year, after failing to make it there in five seasons of existence. The Ducks have a relatively easy preseason schedule, compared to the nine top-25 teams they faced last season.

Oregon opens the season with an exhibition game against British Columbia

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Oregon midfielder Chalise Baysa, the Ducks' all-time leading scorer, returns this season to lead the team with the goal of the NCAA Tournament in mind.

Emerald