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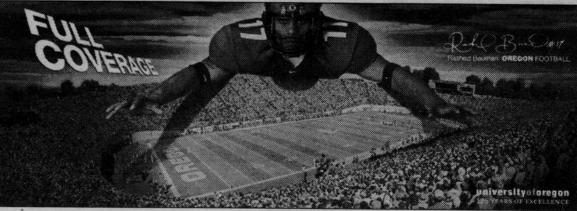
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Courteey Photo

This billboard of Rashad Bauman sits at an entrance to the Bay Bridge in San Francisco. The billboard was funded by donors.

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their college football preview covers, and both name Harrington and Oregon State running back Ken Simonton as early candidates for college football's ultimate individual prize: the Heisman Trophy.

Sports Illustrated ranked Oregon State first in the country in its preseason poll and chose the Beavers to win the National Championship, which will be held at the Rose Bowl this year. The nation's most-read sports magazine picked Oregon seventh overall.

ESPN the Magazine picked the Ducks fifth and the Beavers 12th overall. The magazine rankings came on the heels of the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll, which ranked Oregon seventh, and the Pac-10 Media Poll, which put the

Ducks first in the conference. The Associated Press ranked Oregon seventh and Oregon State 11th in the country.

"It's a reflection of the quality of the team. I'm just tickled and proud."

Bill Moos Oregon athletic director

"It's a reflection of the quality of the team," Oregon Athletic Director Bill Moos said. "I'm just tickled and proud."

"It's nice to be considered one of the better teams in the nation," Bellotti said.

The Oregon schools will soon receive even more hype via the television. Harrington and Simonton have been followed by ESPN camera crews recently and will be featured Aug. 25 on "The Life," a show that chronicles the lives of athletes

Bellotti has also been occupying the airwaves, as he chatted publicly online with ABC analyst Terry Bowden recently. Bauman and Harrington have also been featured online, as they chatted with fans on ESPN.com Monday.

Bellotti noted that all this attention won't matter come January.

"It's much more important where we stand later in the season," Bellotti said. "It's the postseason poll that really counts."

But for now, the Ducks will just drink up all the hype and hope it doesn't stop until February.

Wisconsin

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lege game — attempting to fill Bennett's large shoes.

The Badgers do have a bright spot in returning quarterback Brooks Bollinger. The second-highest rated quarterback in Wisconsin history, Bollinger also gives the Badgers a running threat. He has 913 career rushing yards, 185 short of the Badger record. In last year's contest with Oregon, Bollinger managed only 12 yards on 11 attempts, but he did rush for the winning touchdown.

Besides Bollinger, the Badgers have an advantage in the form of a game with Virginia Saturday. The annual Eddie Robinson Classic will give the Badgers a chance to form their team in a hurry, Oregon line-backer Kevin Mitchell said.

"They'll already have a game under their belt when we see them," Mitchell said. "But we'll get a chance to see them on film and learn some of their schemes."

Mitchell will be one of the Ducks' defensive forces trying to counter Bollinger's running and passing abilities. Oregon will also

rely on its secondary to shut down Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez's high-flying offense.

On the Ducks' side of the ball, quarterback Joey Harrington will try to improve his record to 15-2 as a starter, and will attack Wisconsin with a potent offense surrounding him. Maurice Morris and Allan Amundson — who had an impressive showing in the Ducks' first scrimmage Saturday, rushing five times for 47 yards — will head the running attack. Harrington will toss passes to a versatile, fast receiving corps led by returning starter Keenan Howry.

With the amount of hype building over Oregon's upcoming season, the Ducks' showdown with the Badgers represents not only an opening-game test, but a makeor-break game as well.

The popularity of the game is evident, as general-admission tickets sold out weeks ago, and students lined up at the EMU and Casanova Center Monday to get their free stubs.

The game, which will kick off at 5 p.m. Sept. 1, will be televised on ABC.

Sears Trophy to visit Wisconsin-Oregon

The Sears National Champion Football Trophy, a Waterford crystal football on top of a large stand, will make its firstever visit to Oregon Sept. 1.

The trophy will make the rounds to 10 games this year, and is a symbol of how far Oregon has come in national respect. Last season, the trophy visited games such as No. 1 Nebraska at No. 3 Oklahoma, No. 2 Virginia Tech at No. 3 Miami and No. 2 Florida at No. 3 Florida State.

The trophy also has a reputation for bringing good luck. The home team is 29-11 in front of the trophy, while the higher-ranked team is 38-20.

Each year, the winner of the trophy, which now goes to the winner of the national championship game, receives the trophy to display on its campus. A craftsman spends three months preparing a new trophy for travel the next season.

The trophy's first-ever visit to Oregon will also be its first game of the season.



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