

Sports Editor:
Adam Jude
adamjude@dailymerald.com
Assistant Sports Editor:
Jeff Smith
jeffsmith@dailymerald.com

Oregon Daily Emerald

SPORTS

Best Bet
MLB: Atlanta at Florida.
4:05 p.m., TBS



Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Welcome back sports; America has missed you

The Week that sports stood still.

Sports Illustrated may have said it best with that plastered on its cover last week. Sports indeed stood still, but who could have imagined it ever would?

Sports is synonymous with America. America often depends on its sports. After what happened, it was not surprising to see our nation's athletes take time off.

We, as Americans, depend on our athletic teams to bring us joy and a sense of hope. When they win, we feel

good. When they lose, we feel their pain. But when we have no teams to root for, we feel empty, without any sense of right or wrong, good or bad.

That's why the tragic events of Sept. 11 will haunt us forever — not just because of the lives they took, but because of the frame



Hank Hager
Behind the Dish

of mind they put us all in.

Not since World War II has baseball ever seen any kind of stoppage of play that wasn't related to a labor strife. Football has never stopped play, even when President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. Heck, even hockey, considered Canada's national pastime, decided it would do the right thing and cancel its games for the week.

Can it be called the right thing? Was it wise for professional and collegiate athletics to stop play, especially when we needed them the most?

Plain and simple, yes. In fact, it was the only option.

Athletes are not gods. We regard them as though they are, just because they can hit a baseball 450 feet, or shoot a hockey puck at 95 mph. Unfortunately for those of us who watch games regularly, athletes are regular people. They have the same feelings and emotions as the rest of us. For that reason alone, sports needed to take a step back and reflect.

The athletes felt just as much grief and disillusionment as the rest of us that fateful day.

Some had families affected by one of the tragic accidents. The Los Angeles Kings even had two scouts on one of the planes that hit the World Trade Center towers.

Athletes' minds were not in the right place, nor should they have been after the attack. Could anyone have imagined Derek Jeter stepping onto the hallowed grounds of Yankee Stadium, knowing there were still people trapped in the rubble only miles away?

I couldn't and don't even want to. But those in Afghanistan and other countries harboring terrorists seem to think we should be afraid to resume daily life.

Turn to Hager, page 21

Injury ends Keyes's football career

■ Sophomore A.K. Keyes said he's 'fortunate' to be able to walk after suffering a neck injury Saturday against USC

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

A.K. Keyes's promising career is over, but it could have been worse.

And while it was tough for him Monday to watch Oregon's football practice in street clothes, the fact that he was able to walk, albeit with the help of a cane, is something that he's not taking for granted.

"It's a blessing that I can still walk," said Keyes, who spoke to the team at Monday's practice. "A lot of people have this happen to

them and they never walk away. So I'm fortunate."

Keyes, a 20-year old sophomore cornerback from Los Alamitos, Calif., was involved in the scariest moment of the night Saturday during Oregon's win over USC. At the 3:13 mark of the first quarter, Keyes was playing back in the zone defense and went after Trojan tailback Sultan McCullough to attempt a tackle.

As all the players got up after the short two-yard gain, Keyes lay motionless on the field.

"I just remember getting pushed from the side and from behind and that's when I knew. ... It was weird, like I thought I got back up and was ready to go back into the huddle, and then I realized I was still on the

ground," Keyes said. "At first it was just, 'OK, I'm up.' I thought I was up. Then I realized that I hadn't gotten up yet.



KEYES

crowd grew scarily silent as some players from both teams fell to one knee as they witnessed every football player's ultimate fear.

A cart was brought out. Then a

stretcher. And the reality of the seriousness of the injury began to hit home.

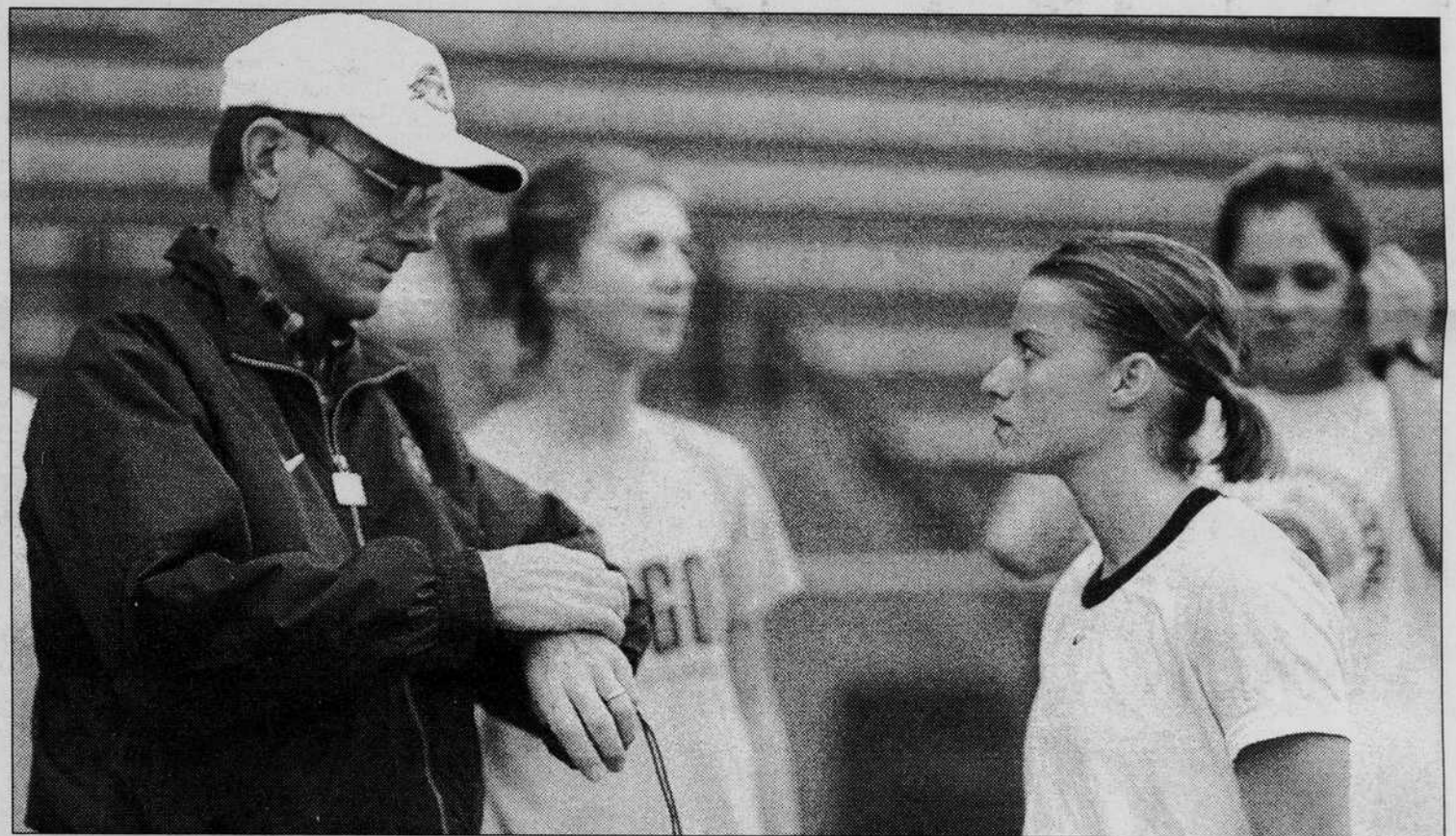
"It's scary because that's like my brother out there laying on the ground helpless, and I can't do nothing but stand there and watch," said Oregon cornerback Steve Smith, who was on the opposite side of the field at the time of the injury. "It's a sad story, but (ending his career) is for the best for him and his well being."

Keyes was gingerly propped up onto the stretcher and then white tape was wrapped around his helmet to keep his body in place. He could feel the silence all around him, and said at first, he "couldn't move anything except for my eyes."

"I tried, but I couldn't."

Keyes had suffered a neck injury that caused him to lose feeling in his arms and legs. The usually ear-piercing Autzen Stadium

Turn to Keyes, page 20



In his 27th year at the helm, cross country head coach Tom Heinonen, with sophomore Tara Struyk, leads a young team into action this year.

Cross country teams excited for healthy season

■ Junior Jason Hartmann leads a host of freshmen as the men prepare for their first race this weekend

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

It sounds like a Week of Welcome campus tour — a junior leading four freshmen — but this pack is actually the No. 13 ranked Oregon men's cross country team. And junior All-American Jason Hartmann is ready to lead the men's charge.

Last Wednesday at Pier Park in Portland, the "B" unit ran to wins against Portland's "B" unit and Portland State, and now the top stars want to show their speed. Along with Hartmann, freshmen Ryan Andrus, Seth Pilkington, Brett Holts and Eric Logsdon will probably be the top five runners for the Ducks when they travel to

the Roy Griak Invitational in Minnesota on Saturday.

Pilkington and Holts are fresh out of the prep ranks and looking to make an immediate impact at the collegiate level. Last year Holts ran for Bend High School and Pilkington for Roy High in Utah. Logsdon, who redshirted, will utilize an extra year

of eligibility, captured state and national titles in the 3,000 meters and competed in a few track and field events in the area last spring. Andrus transferred from Wisconsin, where he ran under Martin Smith, now Oregon's head coach. Andrus then took a two-year religious mission in Mexico and came to Eugene in late December.

Hartmann said he hopes this season to personally improve on

all his performances from last year, which included runner-up finishes at the Pacific-10 Championships and the Western Regional.

This summer, Hartmann trained in Eugene as well as in his home town of Rockford, Mich. He keeps a level head about the season and how it may progress.

"I'm sure there will be guys that run really well, and there'll be guys that don't run up to par, but that's just racing," he said.

Hartmann said he can't wait to get moving in the team's first race this weekend.

"We're all excited to see what kind of shape we're in and ready to run," he said.

Struyk likely to be ready this weekend

The women's cross country team has one race under its belt and knows what needs to be done

in order to achieve its goal of going to the National Championships.

"Things are going to have to come together perfectly," junior Carrie Zografos said.

Redshirt sophomore Tara Struyk, who is recovering from an injured calf, said that in order for the team to make it to nationals, the entire team needs to be healthy.

Struyk's leg, which she says is "on the mend," should be ready for Saturday's run.

In terms of chemistry, both teams are working well together. Zografos said that during races and away from the course, the team members help each other out.

"It's good to have somebody you know close by in the mess of runners," she said. "Lots of us are at the same level of fitness right now."

Emerald