

SPORTS

Best Bet

College hoops: Arizona vs. Maryland,
6 p.m., ESPN2

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Foster suspended as NCAA discovers violation

■ UCLA's star running back won't play against the Ducks on Saturday at the Rose Bowl

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

UCLA running back DeShaun Foster will not play Saturday against Oregon after the NCAA discovered an "extra benefits" violation by the senior, the school announced Wednesday.

The decision to suspend Foster, the Pacific-10 Conference's leading rusher, came from UCLA athletic director Peter Dalis, after a meeting among Foster, Dalis and a member of the NCAA enforcement staff. Dalis would not reveal the specifics of the violation.

"We were made aware by the NCAA

of a possible violation in connection with DeShaun and have had to declare him ineligible for this week's game," Dalis said.

The athletic director said that the school will submit a report to the NCAA with the facts of the case and request that Foster's eligibility be restored as soon as possible. Although there is no maximum time limit on "extra benefits" cases, a one-game suspension is common. The NCAA usually requires a suspension of 10 percent of the season, which is one game on the football schedule.

"I'm extremely disappointed," UCLA head coach Bob Toledo told ESPN.com after practice Wednesday. "He knows what's right and what's wrong, and he's being disciplined and

suspended, and we'll go from there.

"He said he was very sorry for what happened. He didn't realize it was going to be like this. We'll find out more about it later."

Foster has been a mainstay at tailback since his freshman year at UCLA. He is third all-time on the Bruin rushing list, and is only one yard from attaining second place on that list. His 722 career carries are first all-time at UCLA.

Foster has been the Bruins' star on offense this season as well. He has accounted for nearly a third of UCLA's total points, and ranks third nationally in yards per game, with a 138.6 average.

Foster's presence on the field Saturday would have been especially important because the rest of the UCLA

offense has been hampered by injury. Quarterback Corey Paus suffered a jammed thumb and has seen only limited action recently. Two of UCLA's top three receivers, Tab Perry and Brian Poli-Dixon, have been hit with injuries. The Bruins have also seen injuries to starters at center and right guard.

Toledo told ESPN.com that backup sophomore Akil Harris would start Saturday's game. Harris has rushed for 201 yards and one touchdown this season. He did not play in the Bruins' last two games against Stanford and Washington State.

Peter Hockaday is a sports reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at peterhockaday@dailymerald.com.



FOSTER

MOORE THAN JUST A FACE IN THE CROWD

■ After playing high school football in California, Oregon cornerback Steven Moore is fired up to play in L.A. for the first time

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Go ahead. Try and wipe the smile off Steven Moore's face this week. Can't do it.

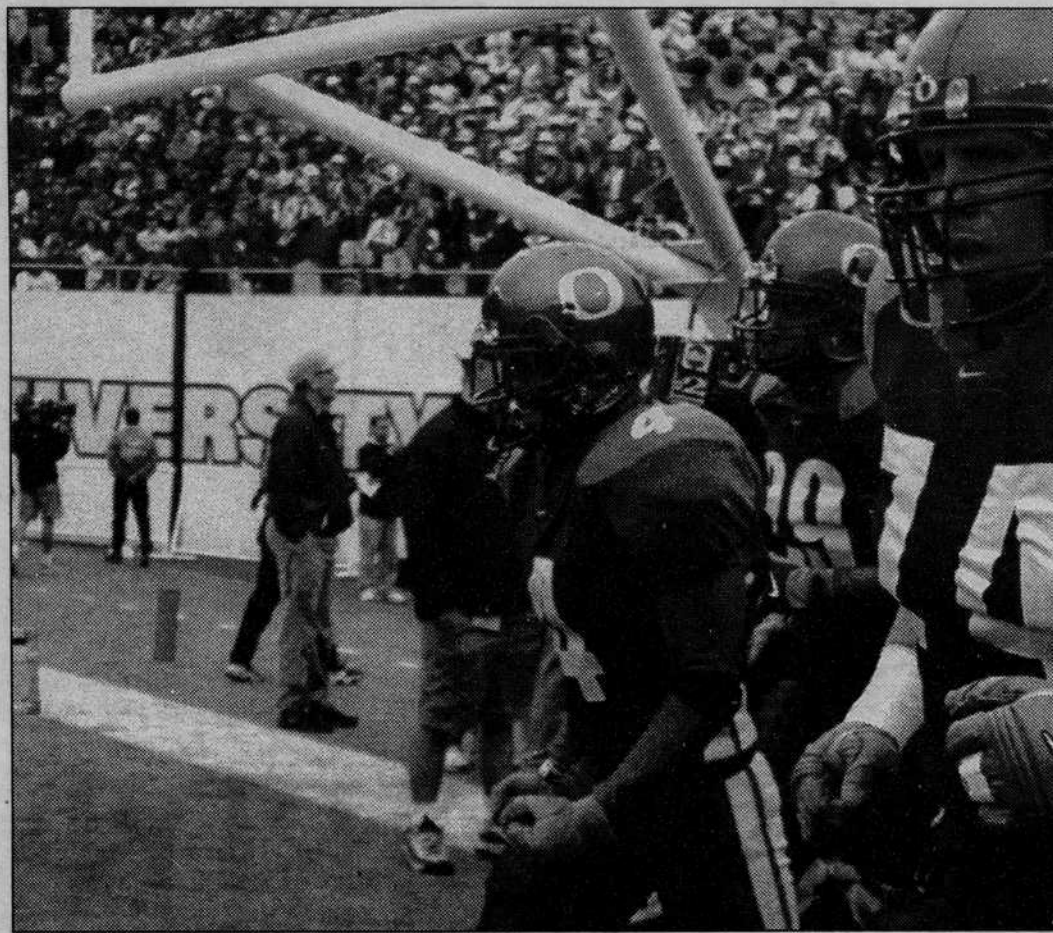
For one thing, he's going home. The sophomore cornerback for the No. 7 Oregon Ducks was born and raised in Los Angeles and is buzzing with anticipation of playing in the sold-out Rose Bowl for the first time in front of family, friends and his high school coaches.

"I can picture it, just walking through the tunnels and looking around and just, man, seeing all those people," Moore said. "And I know there's going to be 15,000 Ducks fans there, maybe more. That's going to be fun."

Speaking of those Ducks fans, who will no doubt make their presence felt at 12:30 p.m. Saturday when Oregon faces UCLA, they're a big part of the other reason why Moore has been grinning that unstoppable grin all week.

In Oregon's 42-24 win over Arizona State last Saturday, Moore unleashed a hit on Sun Devils receiver Shaun McDonald in the third quarter that generated some "oohs" when it happened live and some "ahhs" when it was replayed on the big screen.

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Thomas Patterson Emerald

Sophomore cornerback Steven Moore (4), a Los Angeles native, seen here entering Autzen Stadium for the Stanford game in October, has emerged from the pack this season. In a reserve roll, the sophomore has tallied eight tackles.

Defense must make stand in exhibition

■ The Oregon women's basketball team is looking to put more defensive pressure on Western Oregon in its last exhibition tune-up

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Take two.

In its first exhibition game together last Friday, the women's basketball team and new head coach Bev Smith came out a little shaky, particularly on defense, in a 83-77 win.

Eighty-three points is impressive, especially with five new faces on the floor, but the Ducks know their defense must improve in order to be successful this year.

With their second and final exhibition game at 7 p.m. today against Western Oregon, the Ducks will have a chance to show that they are more than just a one-headed beast.

"We felt we didn't work as hard as we could on defense," said junior guard Shaquala Williams, who paced the Ducks with 22 points in the exhibition opener. "We were kind of lazy in a lot of situations. That's more effort than anything."

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Wrestling team begins season poised for strong competition

■ Saturday marks the beginning of the wrestling season, and the prospects for the Ducks are looking good

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

Despite losing two All-Americans, the Oregon wrestling team should come back even stronger this season.

Ten letter winners, including seven starters and five NCAA Championship qualifiers, come back for head coach Chuck Kearney's team. In addition to the returning competitors, the freshman recruits will also play a large role in the success

of this year's team. According to InterMat, one of the leading Web sites for collegiate wrestling, Kearney's new class of freshmen ranks as the No. 8 recruiting class in the nation.

Kearney said that losing Doug Lee and Chael Sonnen, both of whom won more than 100 matches over their collegiate careers, is a big blow, but he said this year's team is more balanced than last year.

"We can't replace those two guys specifically, but the other weight classes are improving and getting better," Kearney said. "I think we

are going to kind of spread the load those two guys carried last year amongst 10 guys this year."

The long list of top returners for Oregon includes Eric Webb, Eugene Harris, Brian Watson and Shaun Williams. True freshman Shane Webster will step in right away for the Ducks and wrestle in the 174-pound weight class. He comes to Eugene as one of the top recruits in the country and Kearney is anticipating excellent results from him.

"I can see him making a real immediate impact and becoming a real solid performer for us," Kearney said.

In addition to Webster, Elias Soto from Eugene's Churchill High will join the Ducks' squad as a freshman

starter. Soto will compete in the 184-pound slot, where Lee dominated last year, and has had a very good autumn of training. Chet McBee from Eagle Point, Ore., will likely start for Oregon as a freshman in the 157 slot, Kearney said.

Other top freshmen, Martin Mitchell, Skyler Woods and Jacob Boyles will most likely redshirt their first years to preserve a year of collegiate eligibility.

Two wrestlers for Oregon who both competed as true freshmen and then redshirted last year, Jason Harless at 133 pounds and Jake Lair at 197, will step into starting roles. Kearney said he is expecting "some real big things out of those

two weight classes."

Because Harris, who competed last year at 157 pounds, is moving to the 165-pound slot, Luke Larwin will probably redshirt this year. Larwin, who compiled a 12-12 record last year as a freshman, will step aside for Harris, a senior.

Last year, Harris was 22-16 overall, earning 67 total points for Oregon.

In the preseason polls, No. 12 Arizona State is the team to beat in the Pacific-10 Conference. They are followed by No. 20 Boise State and No. 23 Oregon State. Oregon is not ranked in the top-25 according to InterMat, but Kearney thinks that his

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