

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

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The odyssey: a student's ticket ordeal

It is approximately two inches wide and five a half inches tall. It is green and yellow. It has a picture of the Duck mascot riding a motorcycle. Most importantly, it has those words written on it — those most heavenly words:

"Ducks vs. Oregon St.
Dec. 1, 2001.
Price: Student."

I waited six hours and 16 minutes at the Casanova Center for this piece of paper. I stood the entire time. It rained and howled wind.

I'm not complaining. I know people camped out for more than two days. These people are slightly wrong in the head, but nonetheless, I take my hat off to them.

Still, I waited six hours and 16 minutes for a piece of paper.

Without further

ado, here is one student's ticket odyssey.

6:45 a.m.: We arrive at the EMU, naively thinking that we can get a place in line and get tickets right when the ticket office opens at 9 a.m. We find out that the EMU has been open since 5:50 a.m., and the line snakes up into oblivion already. Panic begins to set in.

Noon: After class, we head to the Casanova Center, knowing that there are seven open ticket windows. We also know that students have camped out there, and we see the carnage immediately when we step out of the car. Garbage litters the Autzen parking lot. Empty pizza boxes. Half-full Starbucks coffees from the morning, dumped out onto the tarmac. Boxes of cookies left open to face the weather. We get in line. My prediction: two hours. My companion's prediction: three. Ha ha. Ha ha. Oh man, that's a good one.

1 p.m.: We begin to get the sense that something's fishy in Duck land. We call a friend who camped out overnight, and she still hasn't gotten tickets. This can't be. We've moved maybe 200 feet since joining the line. We find a friend further up in line, and we don't cut because of nasty looks from other line members.

1:15 p.m.: The guy in front of us, we'll call him "Adidas" because of his sweatshirt, speaks for the first time. He's all alone and has had his nose buried in old copies of Sports Illustrated since joining the line. We start talking about how much the situation sucked, we haven't moved, etc. Eventually, we've conversed with about six people around us in hearty conversation. This is only the beginning of the good times to come.

1:30 p.m.: We start getting reports from the front of the line. The computers are slow. It's taking 10 minutes per person. There is a mob of people at the front of the line. We begin to wonder if we'll make it by 5 p.m., when the office closes.

2 p.m.: My girlfriend arrives and joins us in line. We thank God that she wasn't beaten to death with umbrellas. Adidas, who is ultra-friendly at this point, offers to run to his car and grab

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UO seniors near end of winning road

■ The 2001 seniors are 36-10 in their careers and could set a school record with 11 wins at a bowl game this year

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Not even nasty sideways rain could ruin the sentimental feeling for Justin Peelle as he strolled onto the Autzen Stadium turf Monday for practice.

Peelle is one of 14 seniors on the Oregon football team and the reality of preparing for his final home game was beginning to sink in. Just prior to the practice, as he was dressing in the locker room, Peelle chatted with fellow seniors Rashad

Bauman and Jim Adams about how fast time has flown.

"I got choked up walking into practice today. ... I can't believe it's almost over," Peelle said. "Look at this place. I love it. I love the stadium, the fans, everything. It's been a great part of my life and something I'll never forget."

For head coach Mike Bellotti, this senior class will be one that he never forgets. They all came into the Oregon program in different paths. Some were highly recruited out of high school. Others were middle-of-the-road recruits who have worked their way into the line-up. And then there are those athletes who entered as walk-ons and, through perseverance, have solidified their roles on the team.

In all, this senior class has been a part of an incredible climb. In 1997, when players like Joey Harrington and Peelle watched from the sidelines as redshirt freshmen and Bauman returned two interceptions for touchdowns as a freshman, the Ducks went 7-5.

In 1998, Oregon went 8-4. In 1999, the record improved to 9-3. And in 2000, for the first time in school history, the Ducks recorded a 10-win season with only two losses.



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon seniors Josh Line (47), Justin Peelle (84) and Ryan Schmid (right) celebrate after a touchdown against Wisconsin. The three starters are part of a senior class that has helped raise the bar for Oregon football.

"I'd call that progress," Bellotti said. "Every year we talk about raising the level of play, and these seniors have not only talked about it, they've done it. And raising our goals and expectations and certainly having the matching record to back that up is neat."

Now the goal is to finish out the season with win No. 10 against Oregon State on Dec. 1 and achieve the program's first-ever 11-win season with a victory in the bowl game.

"To win 11 games this year would be really,

really special," senior fullback Josh Line said. "I'm excited about that possibility."

Winning has certainly been the norm for this group. Since 1998, the Ducks are 36-10, with the majority of those wins coming in the can-you-believe-what-you-just-saw? variety.

After each victory, senior offensive lineman Ryan Schmid would sit beside his locker, celebrate with his teammates and think to himself, "Man,

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UO bows out to UCLA, 3-1

■ UCLA win in four sets, but not before the Ducks make a game of it

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

The volleyball gods were smiling down on McArthur Court on Tuesday. Unfortunately for Oregon, they were looking in UCLA's direction.

In what could have been one of the biggest upsets of the 2001 season in the Pacific-10 Conference, the Bruins (18-8 overall, 12-6 Pac-10) were able to hold off the underdog Ducks in four games (30-19, 25-30, 30-16, 30-28).

With UCLA up 25-17 late in game four, junior Stephanie Martin and senior Monique Tobbagi took it upon themselves to bring the Ducks back. Martin's kill set into motion what would be a seven-point run by Oregon, with Tobbagi contributing two service aces and one kill, bringing the Ducks within one.

The two teams would trade points until UCLA again had the lead at 29-27, only to give Oregon a point with an defensive error. However, a kill by UCLA junior Lauren Fendrick gave the game and to the Bruins and kept the No. 11 team in the nation afloat.

The Ducks remain winless at 0-17 in conference play, but put up a fight against the Bruins. Twice Oregon had runs of six points or more, including the

seven-pointer late in game four. In game two, the only set the Ducks (9-20 overall) won on the night, a six-point run put them ahead 13-7 and in the driver's seat.

After UCLA came back within one point at 23-22, Oregon's resiliency took over and led them to the five-point win. Sophomore Lindsay Murphy ended game two with an emphatic kill, one of her three on the night.

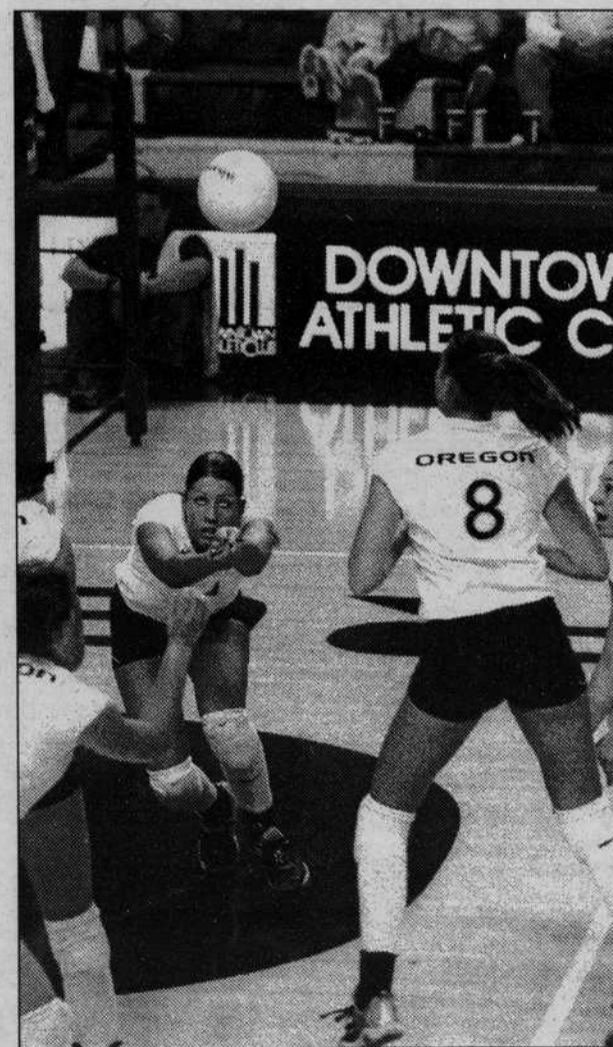
But it was all Tobbagi in game two. With seven kills in the set, the senior outside hitter led the Ducks not only offensively, but with heart as well. Whenever Oregon needed a point, she was there to provide it, including a crucial one to keep them ahead 26-24.

Tobbagi, playing in her last game as a Duck against UCLA and the second-to-last match in her collegiate career, paced Oregon with 16 kills and 11 kills, her 10th double-double of the season. More importantly, she had three service aces, including the two late in game four to keep the Ducks alive.

"Tremendous character and heart by our players to learn how to compete at a level that gives them a chance to succeed against the best in the country," head coach Carl Ferreira said. "I thought we did play extremely well."

The Ducks were simply overmatched in games one and three, losing 25 combined points. In game one, UCLA got ahead quickly, and were able to put Ferreira's squad away with two runs of four points or more. Bruin freshman Brittany

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Adam Jones Emerald

Senior Julie Gerlach (4) and junior Lindsay Closs (8) helped lead the Ducks to a game-two win against UCLA on Tuesday night.