

Feeley grabs NFL spotlight

The former Oregon backup quarterback attempts his first NFL pass and leads the Eagles to a comeback victory

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Down 13-3 on the road. Less than three minutes to play. Sound like an insurmountable lead?

Not for a certain former Oregon quarterback.

While Joey Harrington was still basking in his Fiesta Bowl glory and preparing to impress NFL scouts, the athlete he once beat out for a starting job was proving his worth in the league Harrington soon hopes to join.

A.J. Feeley, a fifth-round draft pick by the Philadelphia Eagles last year, won the third-string quarterback position in fall camp, but had yet to attempt a pass in the team's first 15 games.

But on Sunday, in the fourth quarter of a game between Tampa Bay and Philadelphia, Feeley didn't waste his opportunity to shine, completing 10-of-14 passes for 143 yards and two touchdowns.

The former Oregon quarterback, who only attempted 13 passes during his senior season in 2000, started the final quarter with the Eagles trailing by 10.

The score remained the same until Feeley pulled out a comeback in the closing minutes that would have

even impressed Captain Comeback (aka Harrington) himself.

With 2:12 remaining, Feeley hooked up with Dameane Douglas for a two-yard scoring pass to trim the lead to 13-10.

The ensuing kickoff was fumbled by the Buccaneers, putting the ball back in the hands of Feeley who had a chance to



FEELEY

lead his team to a game-tying field goal, or maybe even the win.

"I was thinking to myself, 'Don't do anything stupid to get us out of field-goal range,'" Feeley told the Philadelphia Inquirer. "Our offense was clicking. We were on a roll."

His first pass of the series, on a first-and-10 from the 24-yard line, fell incomplete. But the second one connected.

Feeley threw down the right sideline to Douglas, who again hauled in the Feeley toss and raced in to complete the 24-yard touchdown pass.

One failed Tampa Bay possession later, the clock wound down to clinch the 17-13 victory for Philadelphia and give Feeley his first comeback win as a professional.

"I was just hoping to play a quarter," Feeley said. "I just wanted to get that first pass completed. I didn't want to

make mistakes. I didn't think I'd throw touchdowns and win the game."

The Eagles were resting many of their starters to keep them healthy for the rematch with Tampa Bay in this weekend's playoffs. Starting quarterback Donovan McNabb only played the first part of the game, before giving away to backup Koy Detmer and Feeley.

Detmer completed just 5-of-14 passes for 51 yards and may now be given a run for his money by Feeley to retain his No. 2 quarterback status.

"A.J. looked great out there," McNabb said. "What he did out there is something that maybe you'll see in the future."

Feeley did have one mistake, an early fourth quarter interception that deflected off his tight end's hands.

"I'd like to have that one back," Feeley said.

Other than that, it was a memorable afternoon for the quarterback who once started over Harrington in the beginning of the 1999 season before an injury paved the way for Harrington to begin his storybook career.

"I think it's great Joey's doing well," Feeley said.

With Harrington poised to be drafted high in the NFL Draft, maybe some day down the line, the two quarterbacks who battled for playing time at Oregon will share the same field at the same time.

On a Sunday, and on opposing teams.

Wrestling

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and performing the stuff that I do every day in practice. If I do that, most likely I'll come out on top."

Freshmen stepping up

Injuries have plagued the Ducks wrestling squad lately with key starters Shaun Williams, Jason Harless, Tony Overstake and freshman Shane Webster forced to watch from the side.

Overstake (149 pounds) should be back from a knee injury by the end of the week, and Williams, a senior with an ankle injury, may be back on the mat soon as well. Harless, who has a high ankle sprain, and Webster, who had a knee scoped recently that is still swollen, will have to wait possibly another couple of weeks.

While these beginning-of-the-year starters are recouping, their understudies have hardly missed a beat.

"I've been really impressed with our freshmen this year," junior Brian Watson said. "At the last duals on the road (Nebraska and Northern Iowa), every freshman we brought just stepped up to the competition. It was amazing to see. I've never seen that in my four years here."

Martin Mitchell, Elias Soto, Webster (prior to his knee prob-

lems) and redshirt freshman Dustin Fisher have all competed well for the Ducks and provided an excellent foundation for Kearney's future teams.

"They are talented, hard-working, committed and working hard to get better," Kearney said.

Weary travelers

Of their nine events this season, the Ducks have competed once at McArthur Court. They have traveled to Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada (Reno and State Line), California (Stanford and Davis), Ashland and Corvallis.

Starting Friday, though, Mac Court is the site of seven of the team's next nine meets.

"When you are able to wrestle in a place like McArthur Court that you are comfortable in, it makes a difference," Kearney said.

Kearney and the Ducks are also looking forward to the hometown officials at Mac Court, many of whom will officiate a few of their matches. That can often be beneficial as the referee gets to know the competitors.

The extra days of training, which are taken away by travel days for away meets, will also be very helpful for the Ducks, Kearney said.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 9). The truth will be revealed this year, in more ways than one. Something you've been worried about turns out to be safe, but something you took for granted needs more of your attention. Continue to clean out your closets and find more treasures. Examine your fears and find more peace.
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - You can see much farther now, and you're anxious to get going, but little things you were worried about could upset your plans. Take extra precautions so that you won't have to do the whole job over again. Follow through on that hunch.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - Sometimes you get a little tense when contemplating financial matters. You really shouldn't. You have a natural talent for making your money stretch.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - If you have a problem, it's OK to ask for help. There's no need to be ashamed if you can't do it all. You're amazing but limited. To take on the real challenges, you'll need expert assistance.
CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - Now that you know what you're after, get to work! It takes a long time to build a legacy. That's not your primary objective, but it's what happens while you're on your way to a greater goal.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - Perhaps not everything is going as smoothly as you'd like, but it's not as bad as it was. Your sense of humor should be reforming, and that's a big help. Schedule some time with a person who always puts you back in touch with the dream.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - Strangely, your interest in working is coming back. You may even find something interesting about your old routine. An area that needs changing should also become quite obvious. Become more efficient, and you'll have time for other things.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct 22) - Today is an 8 - New evidence seems to contradict an old belief, and you're left wondering where the truth lies. You'll understand by looking at the bigger picture.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - Your income looks pretty good, but don't be wasteful. It won't go as far as you'd like. Invest in something you need for your home before getting any more toys. Replace an appliance that's in danger of breaking down.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - Things are starting to look up. You're more in control. This situation is temporary, so don't get too cocky. Treat a gentle person with respect. He or she may have more influence than you think.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 6 - As you gain experience, you realize that some of your previous conclusions were wrong. No need to be so embarrassed that you can't say you're sorry. It's a mark of courage to admit that you were wrong.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - A friend who's going through changes needs your help. Lend this person your problem-solving skills, but keep your money in your pocket.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - You're generally pretty easygoing, and that's a big help. Schedule some time with a person who always puts you back in touch with the dream.

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