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Expansion of Autzen proceeding as planned

Construction crews are working steadily to complete the stadium renovation, which expects to add 12,000 seats for next season

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

Even though the football season has ended, the dust is still flying at Autzen Stadium.

The University Athletic Department, with help from state bonds and private donations, is funding an \$89.7 million renovation of the home of the Ducks, which will increase the capacity of the stadium from 41,698 to approximately 53,800 seats.

The day after the Dec. 1 Civil War game, demolition crews began the work, which included the removal of the press and coaches boxes, adjoining canopy and all of the seats on the south side of the stadium.

To design the new look of Autzen, the University hired the architectural firm Ellerbe Becket, a company that has designed sports complexes around the world, including the Rose Garden in Portland and the Fleet Center in Boston.

The project manager for the design team, John Poston, has maintained the single continuous-seating bowl design that Autzen has always had, but the "new" Autzen will include 32 luxury suites (which will each be leased for \$30,000 per year) in a three-story luxury suite/press box area that will sit on top of the south rim. The new structure will actually look down at what is now the taller north side.

The 12,000 new seats will include 3,000 "Club Section" seats, most of which are underneath a canopy, and 2,000 "Sideline Preferred" seats — both sections will be theater style seats as opposed to the bench style in the remainder of the stadium.

The viewers in the club seats will have access to the Club at Autzen, a

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Thomas Patterson Emerald

Construction crews work on the east side of Autzen Stadium on Wednesday. In two weeks, two cranes will be brought in to accompany the crane already at the site.

With day off, Ducks keep eye on Pac-10

Oregon doesn't play tonight but has an interest in several games that could shake up the standings

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

The birthday party for McArthur Court has come and gone. After having Wednesday off to regroup from the festivities, the Oregon men's basketball team returns to practice today and shifts its attention back to the Pacific-10 Conference.

And tonight, with eight Pac-10 teams in action, the Ducks will be keen observers while they await Saturday's Civil War in Corvallis.

Oregon (12-4) is currently in second place in the Pac-10 with a 5-1 league record, trailing only the 5-0 USC Trojans. Behind the Ducks are 4-1 UCLA and 4-2 Arizona.

This promises two big games down in the desert tonight as the Trojans visit the Wildcats, and the Bruins tangle with the Sun Devils.

"Certainly we'll have an eyeball on who wins those games, because depending on who wins or loses, Saturday's game (against the Beavers) could even get bigger with what's on the line," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "Potentially, it could be a share of first, first place all by yourself or maintaining second place."

Usually during Civil War week, the Ducks have plenty of

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Women make most of Mac Court edge

Historically, the women's hoops team has fared extremely well at McArthur Court

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

With so much attention this week banking on the men's program and the 75th anniversary of McArthur Court, it's understandable if the women's basketball team is feeling a bit unappreciated.

Come Saturday, though, that will all change.

The year's first Civil War meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, a game that has always been a hot sell for all Oregon sports, including women's hoops.

There's no "Pit Crew" for women's games, but the home-court advantage is historically evident — especially against Oregon State. The four largest crowds to attend women's games at the Pit have been against the Beavers, with the biggest support coming in Oregon's 69-60 Civil War victory on March 8, 1996, when 9,738 fans attended the game.

"Traditionally, this has been one of the biggest drawing games for the women's program. And this year should be no different," first-year Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "I really hope that we get a good crowd because regardless of who wins the game, women's basketball wins, and that's what's really important."

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Adam Amato Emerald

Senior Jamie Craighead and the Ducks are 5-3 this season at McArthur Court with Oregon State coming to town Saturday.