

The Wriqh-Stuff

Junior tight end George Wriqhster has stepped out of Justin Peele's shadow early and often this season

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

In the 2002 Oregon football media guide, under George Wriqhster's name, it says that the tight end "improved leaping ability with 28-inch vertical jump during off-season testing as well as lower-body strength, bettering squat best 60 lbs. to 405."

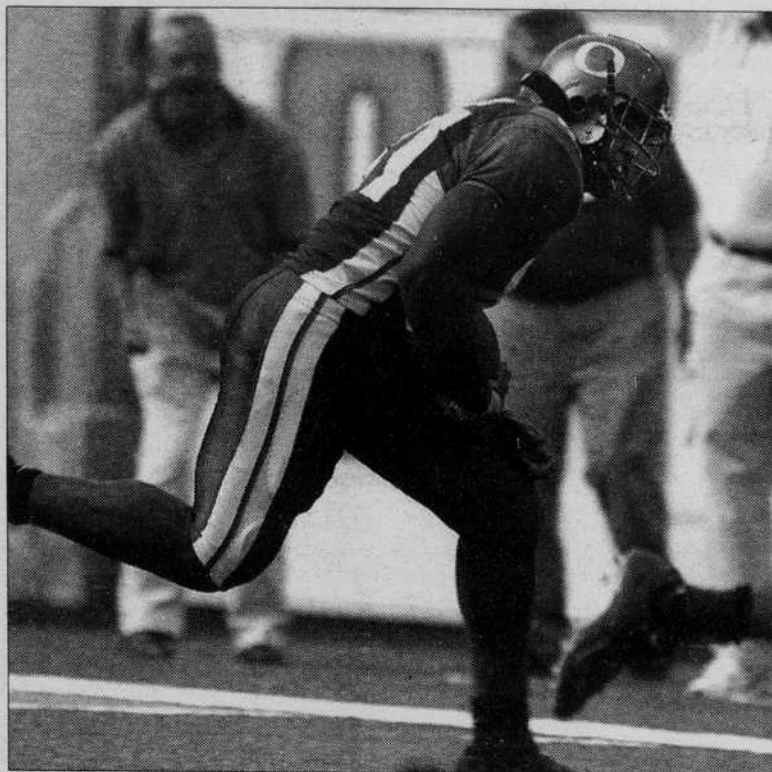
Anybody who saw Wriqhster leap over an unfortunate Mississippi State defender for a touchdown last week knows that the vertical-leap number might be slightly unforgiving.

"That figure is wrong," Wriqhster said. "My vertical is bigger than that. It's, like, 30 (inches), I think."

The junior from Van Nuys, Calif., needed every inch of that vertical leap to score his second touchdown of the contest on Saturday, and he's needed every inch of his 6-foot-4, 249-pound frame to handle the full-time duties of being the starting tight end for the Ducks. But it's a challenge faced head-on by Wriqhster, who could become the best in a line of standout Oregon tight ends.

And if it hadn't been for George Wriqhster Sr., George Wriqhster Jr. may never have made it to Eugene. Wriqhster's father got all over him after a call from an Oregon coach, who said he was going to send over some Duck information during Oregon's recruiting period. Wriqhster, a top prospect in the nation at that point, got the Ducks' package but left it in his locker. His father pestered and pestered.

"I didn't really care," Wriqhster



Adam Amato Emerald

George Wriqhster runs for one of his two touchdowns against Mississippi State last Saturday. The junior tight end picked up where NFL-bound Justin Peele left off.

said. "It was from Oregon, and I didn't know anything about Oregon. They were never on television. The only thing I knew about them was that they played in the Rose Bowl against Penn State in '94. My dad told me that if I didn't bring that information home, he wasn't going to let me drive."

"Then he took my car."

That did it. Wriqhster's father read him the information, which prompted Wriqhster to take his next recruiting trip to Oregon, where he bought into the Ducks' team philosophy and

was sold right away on the program. Still, with offers on the table from "everywhere," as Wriqhster put it, the tight end still needed a sign pointing north.

"I was sitting on the plane (back from the recruiting trip), and I prayed about it," Wriqhster said. "And I shook my head, and my mom said, 'What's wrong with you?' because my mom and dad came on my trip. And I said, 'I think I'm going to Oregon.' And she said, 'That's what I think, too.'"

Turn to **Wriqhster**, page 5

COLLEGE STUDENT SPECIAL

(no coupon required)

\$6 OFF

ANY LARGE PIZZA

COLLEGE ID REQUIRED

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

ALL COLLEGE IDS ACCEPTED

2 PIZZAS MAX PER I.D.

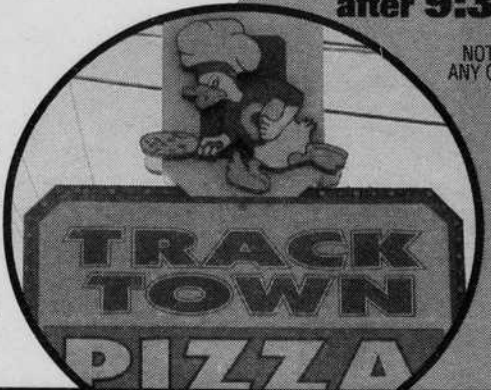
EVERY NIGHT SPECIAL

(non-student, no coupon required)

\$6 OFF

ANY LARGE PIZZA after 9:30pm

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER



FREE DELIVERY 1809 Franklin Blvd. 484-2799

Sun.-Thu. 11am-Midnight Fri.-Sat. 11am-1am



Welcome Back!

STUDENTS RECEIVE 20% DISCOUNT W/ STUDENT I.D.



Clothing



Appliances



Furniture



Household items



Mattresses

free delivery in August/September

You won't find lower prices!

2065 W. 7th Ave., Eugene • 343-3341

346 Main St., Springfield • 747-2665

Good Times, Great Food!



Join Us For Half Price Appetizers!

(selected appetizers)

3 pm - 6 pm & 9 pm - Close



Eatin' Good in the Neighborhood

3024 Gateway St., Springfield

phone: (541) 744-1364 fax: (541) 744-1482

Located right off Gateway St. and the Gateway Mall entrance

Eugene's Best Kept Secret

Las Brasas

authentic Mexican Cuisine

Try the Las Brasas Burrito only \$5.75!

with rice, beans, guacamole, sour cream and cheese melted on top.



Large Selection of Burritos

Lunch and Dinner Combos

Imported Beers

Mexican and Tropical Drinks



Las Brasas

authentic Mexican Cuisine

541 Blair Blvd. Eugene • 338-0807
We Accept Credit Cards