



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Jared Siegel is 4-for-5 from beyond 35 yards this year, and kicked a career-long 53-yard field goal last week at Arizona.

Siegel

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sidelines for an hour and then all of a sudden he asked to come out and kick a 43-yard field goal."

One of those 'other positions' Siegel played in high school was strong safety, and more than one Pac-10 returner has found that out the hard way when Siegel pops him as the last line of defense on a kickoff return.

It was hard for Siegel to make the switch from handyman to specialist, but, his mother said, he threw himself into kicking like he throws himself into everything else.

"Jared will get to whatever goal he sets for himself," Debey Siegel said. "He will work however many hours he has to get it."

"He loves football, and he wanted to be as active as he possibly could in high school. But he doesn't have the greatest size. He realized he needed to specialize in something. As he started looking at colleges he realized size was going to make a difference at the college level."

So Jared Siegel weighed his options. He could have gone back East to an Ivy League school and played both ways while earning a top-notch degree. He could have gone somewhere else and walked on or tried for a scholarship.

But he took one recruiting trip to Oregon and was hooked.

"We purposefully did not go on any of his recruiting trips," Debey Siegel said. "I didn't want to have a favorite, and I know my husband didn't want to either."

Shortly after making the decision, it was reaffirmed when the Oregon staff guided him through a

Jared Siegel file

Born: Jared Christopher Siegel on June 19, 1981 in Monterey, Calif.

High School: 1999 all-state selection and two-time all-Metropolitan League while at Jesuit High School in Sacramento, Calif. ...kicked 47-yard field goal and booted 70 of 72 extra points as a senior...played fullback and kicker for rugby team that won national championship in 1999 and finished second nationally in 2000.

Oregon: Went 4-5 under 40 yards and 3-7 from beyond 40 during disappointing freshman campaign...has kicked 11 of 12 field goals this year, including 4 of 5 from beyond 35 yards...only missed field goal was a block against Mississippi State...booted career-long 53-yarder at Arizona on Saturday.



broken leg in 2000.

His brothers must have loved that. It meant that maybe Siegel would shag for them for once.

Siegel has two younger brothers and a sister, and both his younger brothers are, of course, kickers. So Siegel calls them after their home games and gives them tips.

And, of course, makes them shag for him when he comes home.

"They've shagged for him for years," Debey Siegel said. "My husband and I have shagged for him as well. I think the whole family gets out there. Now, Jared turns around to help them, shags for them every once in a while."

"Our youngest is a left-footed kicker, so (Jared) doesn't know how to deal with that. They are both working with Jared, and when he comes home, he works with them, and they totally enjoy it."

His brothers aren't the only kids to benefit from Siegel's presence. In high school, he volunteered at

campus for disabled children and taught at an elementary school. He will, Debey Siegel said, offer any person, young or old, advice on how to boot a 53-yard field goal.

Maybe it's because Siegel is still a kid himself, still kicking that football into the sunset. And like any kid, Siegel has dreams that seem almost larger than life.

"He told me last game he could kick 55 into the wind, 60 with the wind, so I always deduct just a little bit," Bellotti said. "But I think he could have made ... I would have (had Siegel kick) about a 55 or 56-yarder with the wind the other day."

A 56-yard field goal may seem like an unachievable goal. But when you're like Jared Siegel, always kicking into the sunset with the wind at your back and the crowd on its feet, anything is possible.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

Pac-10

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and is the Pac-10 leader in that category. Tailback Steven Jackson has the two longest runs in the league this year - 80 yards against UCLA and 75 against Fresno State.

The Beavers are outscoring opponents 68-13 in the first quarter and the OSU defense leads the Pac-10 with 12 interceptions.

Junior wide receiver Shaun McDonald is on a streak for the Sun Devils with three consecutive 100-yard games. Quarterback Andrew

Walter has been playing exceptionally well with 400-yard passing days the past two weeks.

It will be a wild Saturday in Tempe, and maybe the Beavers won't let history repeat itself.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Hoping for the Heisman

Charles Rogers ■ Junior WR ■ Michigan State

Season: 32 receptions for 687 yards and seven touchdowns.

This Week: The Spartans travel to Iowa.

Seneca Wallace ■ Senior QB ■ Iowa State

Season: 109-of-170 passing for 1,653 yards and 10 touchdowns; has rushed for 115 yards on 45 attempts.

This Week: The Cyclones host Texas Tech.

Willis McGahee ■ Junior RB ■ Miami

Season: 640 yards on 79 rushing attempts and 10 touchdowns; has caught nine passes for

139 yards.

This Week: The Hurricanes host Florida State.

Onterio Smith ■ Junior RB ■ Oregon

Season: Has rushed for 612 yards on 130 attempts and recorded nine touchdowns; has six receptions for sixty yards.

This Week: The Ducks visit UCLA.

Maurice Clarett ■ Freshman RB ■ Ohio State

Season: Has 715 yards rushing on 113 attempts with 11 touchdowns; has caught eight passes for 63 yards and one score.

This Week: The Buckeyes host San Jose State.

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