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Fife

continued from page 3B

and his relationship with the rest of the quarterbacks has been very strong," Clemens said. "He's been very humble about it, and that's one of the things I'm going to aspire to in the next few years.'

But football, really, is only half of Fife's story.

Fife is a devout Mormon, a serious family man and a nerd when it comes to studying. He has a prankster mentality, to be sure, but when it comes to important things he's more Mormon than mullet.

"He's very much into football and being happy-go-lucky, but it's the little things that you don't see about him, about his religion and his family, that are really important to him," Mitchell said. "It's a great thing.

His religion, Fife says, keeps him "grounded" in his everyday life. He attends church every Sunday and generally lets his religion guide him.

"There's always the peer-pressure thing, where the guys may want me to come out and celebrate after a game, but for the most part they understand that I don't want to go drinkin,' I don't want to go smokin,' I don't want to do any of that stuff," Fife said.

"As a kid growing up in the Mormon church, you're taught things but you don't really understand them, you don't grasp them. I don't know if I really understood or grasped them as well as I thought I did in high school. But you find that, when you go to college, when you're on your own, the things you're taught, you grasp on to those ideas.

For now, Fife is still a college student struggling with football, religion and everything else packed into his life.

Maybe the next time someone tries to write a feature on him, they'll have that one anecdote. But for now, Fife is simply a shortstory collection, with many different definitions and facets. He's simply crazy, simply serious, simply devout.

In the end, he's not so simple.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Jason Fife has shouldered much of the blame for Oregon's loss to WSU.

Jason Fife file

Born: Bradley Jason Fife on Jan. 23, 1981, in San Bernadino, Calif.

High School: Played linebacker and wide receiver during freshman year at Temescal Canyon High School in Lake Elsinore, Calif...switched to quarterback and started junior and senior seasons... threw for 1,920 yards and 21 touchdowns senior season, added six rushing touchdowns.



Oregon: Redshirted 1999 season, spent 2000 and 2001 seasons as backup...has a 7-3 record as a starter...completed 55.9 percent of passes this season for a 143.6 pass-efficiency rating, good enough for fourth in the Pac-10 and 15th nationally...has passed for 2,396 yards and 21 touchdowns this season.



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Junior quarterback Jason Fife, who has just six interceptions this season, ranks No. 15 nationally in passing efficiency.