

Ducks, Beavers will let pads do talking

Learning from recent mistakes, not much is being said to stir up emotions on the eve of the Civil War

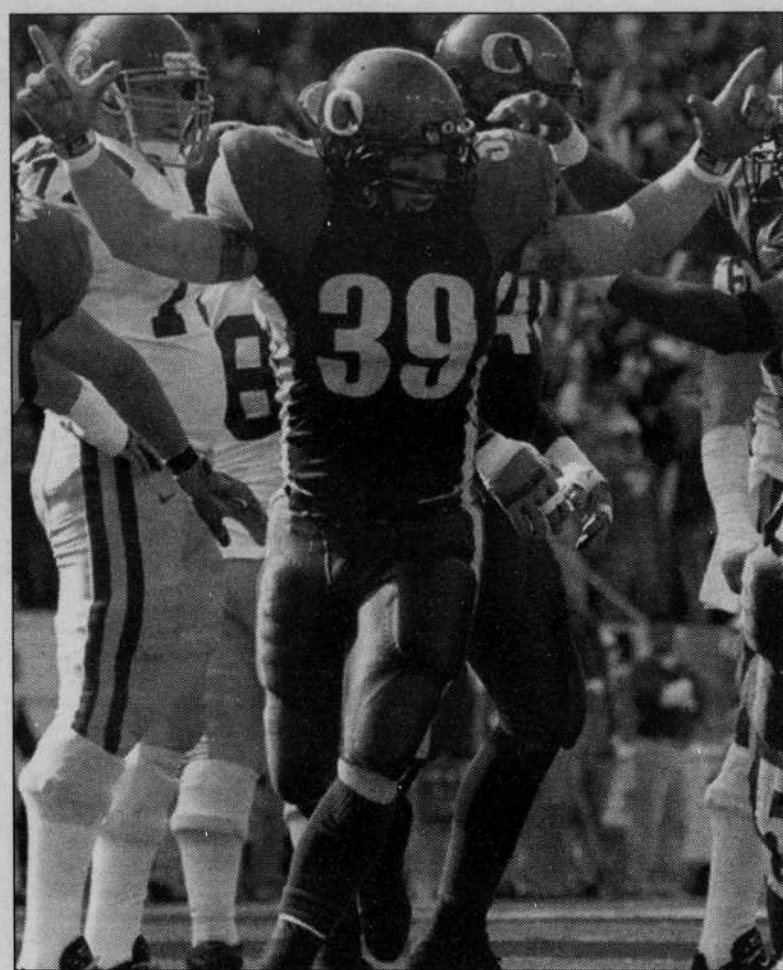
106th Civil War

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

All's quiet on the Civil War front. A little too quiet. If you didn't know any better, you'd think this was just another week. "For me, it's just a ballgame," said Oregon junior linebacker Kevin Mitchell, who hails from Orange, Calif. "I don't buy into the whole rivalry stuff." Are you kidding? It's Civil War week. No war of words? No trash talking? Anyone? "You just have to make sure they can't take a line here, a line there and a line from somewhere else and make it into a quote. You just have to be careful," Oregon State senior guard Mike Kuykendall told the Corvallis Gazette-Times. "We don't want to give them an extra motivation. There's enough motivation with the game, so we don't need to give them anything extra." But that doesn't mean the Ducks and Beaver like each other now,

meanwhile, has turned its season around because of the bulletin-board material. "It seems like ever since Siegler called us out, that our team has really decided to flex its muscle," Washington's Elliott Zajac told The Seattle Times earlier this week. "Since that comment, it seems everybody has been on the same page, putting a lot more into practice and playing a lot harder." As much as they're not saying, the Ducks and Beavers are aware of what's at stake Saturday in Corvallis. "It's the biggest game of the year," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "For one, it's the last game of the year. Two, because it's for all the marbles, in a sense. It's the in-state rivalry, and we're playing for a better bowl game." "We have a lot to play for." And there is the bowl seeding at stake. With four teams tied for fifth in the Pacific-10 Conference, including Oregon and Oregon State, another loss could be detrimental. Then, of course, there's pride, and bragging rights for the next year. "Growing up in Oregon, it gives you a better understanding of what's going on," said Ducks fullback Matt Floberg, a Portland native. "You're either a Beaver or a Duck. There's no in between." "I'm sure once the game starts, all the politeness will be thrown out the window," Duck linebacker David Moretti said. "That's all just window dressing right now. We're always urged not to do the trash talking, especially to the media." "We want to do the talking with our pads." That hasn't been the case in the past few weeks. The lack of traditional trash talk that surrounds this year's Civil War can be attributed to the absence of Oregon and Oregon State's best jabbers. Duck safety Keith Lewis, who's never shied away from controversial comments, has been banned from media interviews after telling a Seattle radio station two weeks ago that Washington quarterback Cody Pickett was "overrated." Similarly, Oregon State linebacker Richard Siegler, always eager to throw in a quick jab about his opponent, was not one of seven Beavers selected by head coach Dennis Erickson to talk to the press this week. In the week leading up to Oregon State's loss to Washington on Nov. 9, Siegler mocked the Huskies, who at the time had lost three straight. Lewis and Siegler paid for their comments, and the Ducks and Beavers don't want to make the same mistake again. Washington,

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Kevin Mitchell (39) and the Ducks are avoiding the trash talk this Civil War week. Jeremy Forrest Emerald

2000 War pitted teams in fight for postseason

The Rose Bowl was on the line when the teams met in Corvallis

104th Civil War

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

So much can change in two years. On Nov. 18, 2000, Oregon State hosted the Ducks in the 104th Civil War. Both teams had dreams of the Rose Bowl, but an Oregon State win combined with a Husky win in the Apple Cup sent Washington to Pasadena. The Beavers had a 14-0 lead after the first quarter, but after scoring a touchdown to make it 23-13 with 14 minutes left in the game, the Ducks were confident they would get another comeback win. "I had no doubts," then-junior quarterback Joey Harrington said after the game. "We had the ball at the 10-yard line, we score, we cut it to three points with six, seven, five minutes left, it didn't matter — because we'd battled back all year." Harrington fumbled the ball, and Oregon State's DeLawrence Grant recovered, giving the Beavers a chance to run down the clock.

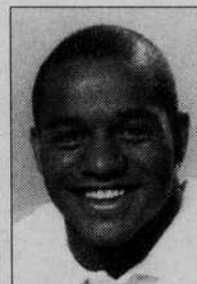
The Ducks got the ball back before the end of the game, but Harrington gave up one of his five interceptions to end Oregon's hopes of winning. "I was getting really good reads on the quarterback and seemed to know where he was going," Beaver safety Jake Cookus said. Cookus picked three of five interceptions Oregon State got from Harrington. Oregon State's win gave the Beavers a 10-1 season finish. "When you go 10-1 at a school that has never been 10-1, and was at rock-bottom a few years ago, it doesn't get any better than that," Erickson said. "I thought the key to the game was going up 14-0 and forcing them to play catch-up all game long," Oregon State quarterback Jonathan Smith said. The Beavers scored 17 points before Oregon scored its first touchdown. Two years later, the Ducks and Beavers are competing in Corvallis again. This year, instead of fighting over the Rose Bowl, the teams are fighting over breaking even in the Pac-10. So much can change in two years.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Amundson

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lot of pressure sometimes because it's often a third-down situation when I get in there, and it may not go that great. There's some pressure, but I'm willing to work hard all week, all year, four years... whatever, I'm ready for it. This being the last senior game, of course I want to play. I don't know how many reps I'll get, but I want as many as I can get.



Amundson

Q) You interned at the Springfield Police Department last year. What did you gain from that experience?
I was pretty sure I wanted to be a police officer, but I didn't have any idea what a being a police officer was like. The internship allowed me to learn what it was really like. All I knew about being a police officer was from television and the media. The internship sealed the deal. I can't wait. It's awesome. It's everything I hoped and imagined it would be. At some point, I'm going to end up a police officer.

Q) Who's faster, you or Samie Parker?
I'd say Samie. I have the fastest recorded time. I guess it was a good day on the new turf and Samie wasn't there that day. I've faced him in track, and 100 meters is a little long for me, but even in 50 meters indoors he can get me. He's blazing.

Q) Are you going to run track again this year?

I'm thinking about it. I still have to talk to (conditioning coach Jim Radcliffe) about it. I don't like track that much. I like the meets, but practices are real tough. I remember getting dizzy after one drill and almost getting sick last year. It was terrible. But I love the relay, the team aspect of it. I don't like the 100, I get too nervous. It's a precision sport, and if you do it right, it feels so good.

Q) Do you golf?

Yeah, I took a golf class this summer. My girlfriend, Katie Cunningham, is on the golf team. I haven't played her yet, and I don't want to. I'm pretty good, but she's too good. It would be embarrassing (laughs). I love golf. It's frustrating, but it's a lot of fun.

Q) Your ideal foursome?

It would be fun to play with some of the greats, but I wouldn't want them to see me play. If I had to pick, I'd say (quarterback) Jason Fife, we did some golfing this summer, (fullback) Matt Floberg, my girlfriend and maybe throw Tiger Woods in there, too. I need to learn from someone.

Q) What are you going to miss most about being a Duck?

The stadium, the crowd, and just playing at Autzen. Everything. I don't know if I'll miss practice that much, but everything else. It's been awesome. It's weird how fast it flies. Four years seems like a long time, but it's gone by like that (snaps his fingers). In a flash. It's been challenging, but it's been the most fun four years of my life.

Contact the senior sports reporter at adamjude@dailymerald.com.

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