

Boo-ya! And now back to Bristol for a quick update

Bud-a-dum. Bud-a-dum.

Chris: Hello and welcome to a very special edition of Sportscenter. I'm Chris Berman, that's Stuart Scott, and we're about to take you through Alice's rabbit hole on a surreal ride through Oregon's 2002 fall season.

Stuart: Boo-ya!
Chris: Well put, Stu. We'll start where everything starts. On ... the ... grid ... iron (cue Onterrio Smith/Jason Fife highlight reel from Mississippi State and Idaho games with NFL Films music). The Ducks opened the season flying higher than a Mandrake. They passed all over Mississippi State and ran across Idaho and Portland State. They blocked. They kicked. They did everything, in short, that they needed to do. They even de-ja'd the vu with close wins over Fresno State and UCLA. They started the season 6-0 and shot to No. 6 in The Associated Press poll (cue graphics box with statistics from first six games. Cut back to anchors).

Stuart: Boo-ya!

Chris: Again, I couldn't have said it better. But like all fairy tales, there was a big, bad wolf laying in wait just around the corner (cue Andrew Walter/Carson Palmer/Jason Gesser/Cody Pickett/Derek Anderson slow-motion montage with scary-movie music). Pac-10 quarterbacks. Can't live with 'em, can't live without... oh, never mind. Anyway, the Ducks really couldn't live with 'em, as they gave up records amounts of yards each week. They tumbled out of the Rose Bowl picture, out of the national rankings and out of favor (cue graphics box with statistics from past six games compared with first six. Cut back to anchors).



Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

Stuart: Boo-ya!

Chris: No, Stu, not Boo-ya. Just boo. But luckily for the Ducks, there was hope ... on ... the ... hard ... wood (cue Luke Ridnour/Luke Jackson highlight reel from Kansas game with "Gladiator" music). The Ducks opened the season with a flourish, rising to No. 7 and then beating a top-25 team (cut back to anchors). The last time Oregon even played a top-25 team in the preseason, Stu's mom was just going to her high school prom!

Stuart: Boo-ya!

Chris: Right. Indeed, it seems good times and much hoop-la lay ahead for the men. Now, the women's team also had success recently against a top-25 team. And it's all because of their star — no matter how far she's fallen. Shaquala Williams was suspended from the team and they suddenly bonded, coming back in epic fashion Saturday to strike fear in their opponents' hearts that yes... they can win. Without big Shaq. But she's actually pretty small.

Stuart: Boo-ya!

Chris: OK, Stuart, it's getting annoying. Moving along, the Ducks had many other teams in action this fall, starting and certainly not ending with the cross country squads (cue Jason Hartmann/Ryan Andrus slow-motion highlight reel, with "Chariots of Fire" theme music). Yes, I said cross country. That's where they run. Quite far. And these Ducks ran well, along with far. The men finished fifth at the national meet. The women didn't make it there, but had one girl (cue Carrie Zografos highlight reel) make it there, ending Tom Heinonen's cross country coaching career on a high note (cut back to anchors).

Stuart: Boo-ya!

Chris: Stuart, I swear to God, if you do it one more time, I will kill you. We're getting to the Cheshire Cat now. Oregon volleyball and soccer had mediocre seasons but looked good doing it! Each squad had what we in the media love to call "moral victories" (cue Sydney Chute/Lind-

sey Peterson/Sarah Peters highlight reel). Volleyball's moral victory was a Pacific-10 Conference win, and the soccer team held Final Four team North Carolina and eventual national champion Portland to a combined six goals (cut back to anchors). Moral victories, Stuart, you gotta love 'em (pause). Don't even say it. I swear (another pause, as the anchors glare at each other).

Stuart: Boo.

Chris: Stuart...

Stuart: Boo.

Chris: OK. Enough. That's all we've got.

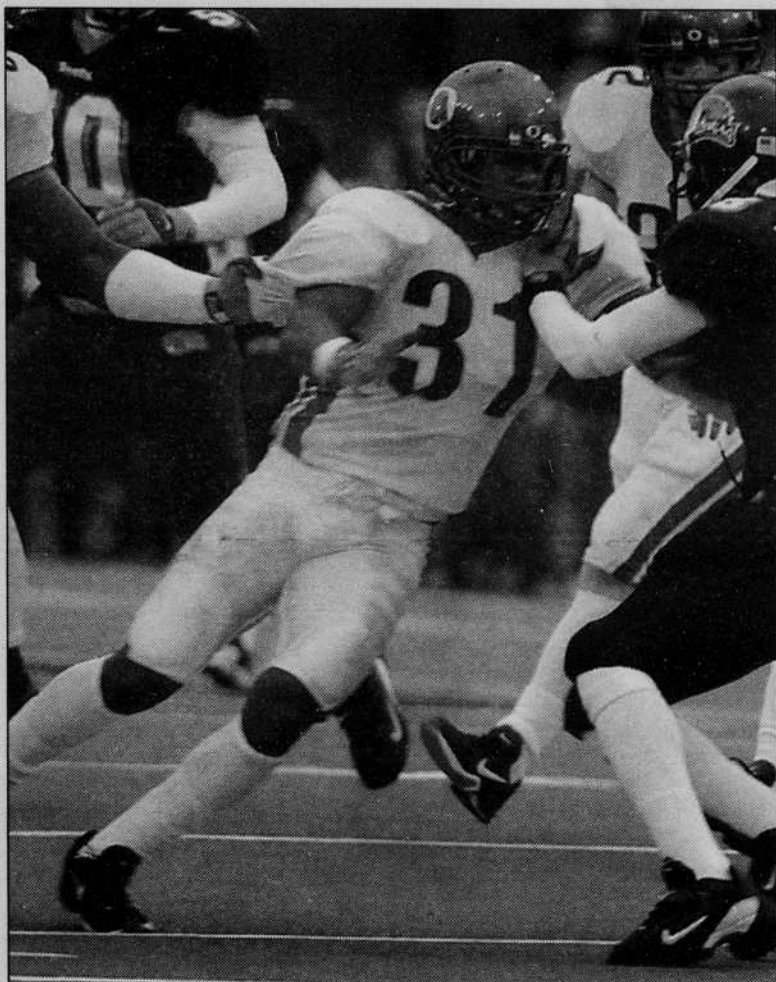
Stuart: Boo.

Chris: Until next time, I'm Chris Berman. That's hardly Stuart Scott. You'll see us again in five. Good night.

Stuart: Boo-ya!

Bud-a-dum. Bud-a-dum.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Justin Phinisee and the Ducks will play Wake Forest at Seahawks Stadium.

Seattle

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Valley Classic will feature Fresno State and Georgia Tech.

"We felt all along that if we had a chance, that Seattle was in the best interest of the team, the program and our fans," Moos said at a press conference Sunday.

Moos said he hopes to attract 15,000 to 20,000 Duck fans to the \$435 million, 67,000-seat Seahawks Stadium. Oregon was required to purchase 12,500 seats at \$53 each.

Seattle Bowl officials missed at least two deadlines to provide the NCAA with letters of credit which would prove the bowl could give participating teams the required \$1 million payoffs. But Terry Daw, principal owner of Aloha Sports Inc., which owns the Seattle Bowl, said the financial situation has been cleared by the NCAA.

As for the game itself, the Ducks said they will start preparing for Wake Forest on Tuesday when they can start studying film.

"I don't know much about them," said Oregon redshirt freshman Kellen Clemens, who should see time at quarterback along with Jason Fife in the bowl game. "All I know is that they have a hell of a basketball program."

Indeed, the Oregon basketball team defeated Wake Forest in the

second round of the NCAA Tournament last March. The only time the football teams met was 10 years ago in Shreveport, La., for the Independence Bowl, a game the Demon Deacons won 39-35.

"We had a good season, and we're tickled to death it's not over with," said Wake Forest head coach Jim Grobe, whose notable wins this season were against Georgia Tech and Purdue.

The Ducks are tickled to have their star player back for the bowl game. After having surgery Nov. 18 to repair torn cartilage in his right knee, Onterrio Smith is "completely

healthy," Bellotti said. The junior running back, who may forgo his senior season and opt for the NFL, has been going through light workouts in the last week and will play against Wake Forest.


The Ducks will head to Seattle on Dec. 26, which allows them to spend Christmas with their families. Bellotti said the team has several choices for practice facilities, including the Huskies' new indoor facility or the Seattle Seahawks training center in Kirkland, though he has not made a decision.

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



Adam Amato Emerald

Junior wide receiver Samie Parker led the Ducks with 46 receptions this season, including seven touchdowns.



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