

Dancing

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as a makeshift rehab center.

Perhaps some tastes run farther south of the border. In that case, movers and shakers can check out salsa night at the Rumba Room. Emilio Menendez offers lessons every Wednesday at 7 p.m. The two-hour lesson includes coverage of 10 basic salsa moves. Menendez encourages anyone to attend and said that the intensive lesson can make even the novice a relative expert in a short amount of time.

"You'd be surprised how much you can learn in that two hours," Menendez said.

Menendez, who moved to the U.S. from Guatemala 12 years ago, said he likes the idea of spreading his native culture in Eugene and credits a rise in immigration to the Northwest for an increased interest in Latin dance styles.

Menendez also encourages partner-swapping in his lessons and said the ratio of couples to single dancers is roughly 50/50.

The Rumba Room also offers lessons Thursday, Friday and Saturday

nights. It is hosting a six-week salsa contest starting Jan. 18.

For those not interested in lessons, or those who just want to sweat out their troubles, a number of downtown establishments offer plenty of non-instructional dancing.

Diablo's Downtown Lounge is one of the local venues known for its dance offerings. The club hosts various weekly dance theme nights, and Diablo's owner Troy Slavkovsky said his club presents a unique experience.

"The atmosphere here is not typical of Eugene," Slavkovsky said. "We try to supply more of a city-like atmosphere." He added that his deejays offer styles that stay ahead of the trends.

Boot-scootin' boogiers can check out Rock N' Rodeo's line dancing lessons on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Of course, there's one final option that deserves mention. If you're rained-in and find yourself gathered around a television with friends, turn it off and hit the play button on the stereo. Simple, but it'll do the trick.

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at ryanbornheimer@dailyemerald.com.

Seattle bowl

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Indeed, Fife's 1-for-10 passing performance, for just four yards, indicate the abusive Dawg fans were right on this day. They could probably have said the same about many on the Oregon sideline.

The Ducks (7-6), hoping to end a dismal season with a fresh start to 2003, played the part of an eighth-place team, which it was in the Pacific-10 Conference, in allowing 497 yards while netting just 290.

Oregon's six losses are the most it has had since 1993.

"It's disappointing," Fife said. "Wake Forest came out more fired up than we did. I wasn't fired up."

"There's something missing, and we don't know what it is. But we'll have it next year. I guarantee that."

That guarantee could be Clemens, a redshirt freshman from Burns, Ore., who clearly outplayed his predecessor, going 19-of-31 for 161 yards and one touchdown. But even his fire power wasn't enough to propel the can't-wait-to-get-it-over-with Ducks past the energized Demon Deacons (7-6).

"We had to make a statement," Wake Forest linebacker Brad White said. "I don't think we had their attention at first. They thought they were going to walk all over us."

"They learned the hard way."

Oregon's tattoo-sporting, tough-as-nails linebacker Kevin Mitchell wiped away tears as he walked out of the locker room after the game. When asked about his team's mental state prior to playing Wake Forest, Mitchell said, "That I can't tell you. If I gave you an answer, it would be the wrong answer."

Like they had been in losing five of six to end the regular season, the Ducks were burned for big plays in front of a listed crowd of 38,241 — though the real attendance was later said to be about 25,000 — at the new \$435 million NFL stadium.

Wake Forest, ranked eighth in the nation in run offense, went with a no-huddle offense early and pounded the Ducks with tricky formations and end-arounds. Senior quarterback James MacPherson, who averaged just 133 passing yards per game during the regular season, connected with receiver Jason Anderson on two touchdown passes, one for 57 yards and then a 63-yard strike, both against Oregon freshman cornerback Aaron Gipson.

MacPherson finished 9-of-16 for 241 yards en route to being named the game's MVP.

"I said all along that they were going to be balanced (on offense)," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "We were plagued by some of the same problems that plagued us in the second half of the season. Optimistically, we had hoped we had remedied those problems."

Wide receiver Keenan Howry, one of 15 Oregon seniors, gave the Ducks a spark they desperately needed early in the second half. If it weren't for a shoestring tackle by White after a 42-yard return, Howry would have had his fifth career punt-returned touchdown midway through the third quarter.

On the next play, Howry took a reverse from Onterrio Smith and ran 36 yards to the Oregon 5. Three plays later, fullback Matt Floberg fell into the end zone for a one-yard score, the first rushing touchdown of his career, bringing the Ducks within seven at 24-17. But that is as close as they would get.

Smith, by the way, rushed 18 times for 68 yards in his first game since having knee surgery Nov. 18. He said after the game he had not decided whether he would enter the NFL draft, though it has been assumed all year that he would leave.

"I think we played poorly on offense and defense," Bellotti said. "If we played with all special teams, we might have had a chance."

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

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