

Judge reduces Woods' felony charge

With his felony charge reduced, Rodney Woods is eligible to play football for the University pending acceptance

Brad Schmidt
News Editor

The felony conviction preventing junior college standout Rodney Woods from accepting a University athletic scholarship was reduced to a misdemeanor in a California court Friday, ending an emotionally charged legal battle and setting the stage for an addition to the Ducks'

defensive secondary.

"I'm pleased that Rodney Woods will get a chance," football head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I'm more pleased for him than anybody else."

University President Dave Frohnmayer, who said in February that he would have liked to have been included in



Bellotti

discussions with the Athletic Department about the recruitment of Woods, declined to comment on the decision.

Friday's verdict marked the end of a five-week saga that pitted serious ethical dilemmas on opposing sides. Athletic Director Bill Moos announced earlier this year that the University would not offer athletic scholarships to felons, prompting Woods and his lawyer to ask that Woods' conviction be reduced to a lesser offense.

Neither the University nor the Athletic Department ever asked the

court to consider the request, although Bellotti and defensive coordinator Nick Allioti wrote letters asking for an expeditious decision. These actions, and a lack of discretion by University administrators, propelled some to criticize the University and its program.

Bellotti said the entire situation was challenging, but he added the need to adhere to Moos' policy of not accepting felons.

"I think (Woods) definitely deserves another opportunity, but at the same time, we have to draw the line somewhere," Bellotti said.

Woods was convicted of assaulting Kevin Walker on May 19, 2000, while two of Woods' friends fatally injured another man, Christopher O'Leary. According to several reports, Woods initially confronted O'Leary but did not take part in the beating. When Walker tried to break up the melee, however, he too was assaulted.

Woods pleaded no contest to assault charges against Walker, and he later had murder and assault charges in O'Leary's death dropped. Woods spent almost nine

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Flying with honor

Members of the Tuskegee Airmen spoke Monday at the University to honor the centennial of aviation

Roman Gokhman
Campus/City Culture Reporter

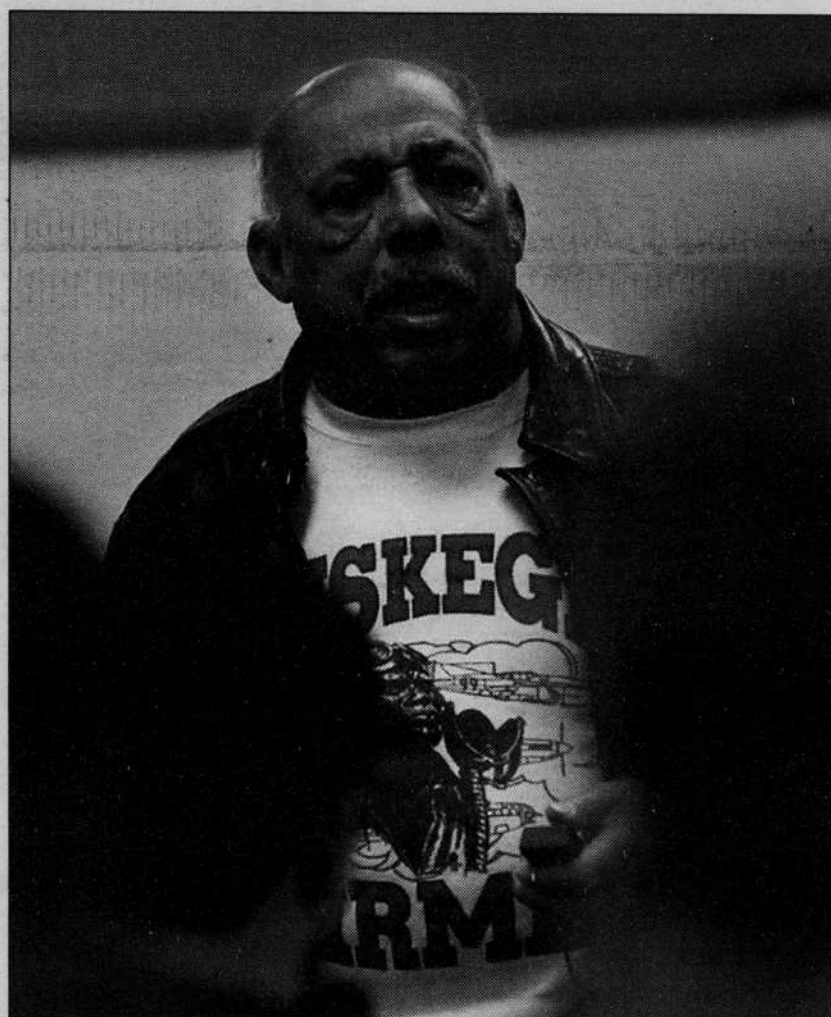
Black American pilots are now recognized for their accomplishments in World War II, but as late as the '70s, many Americans did not know that black Americans flew airplanes during the war.

Retired Lt. Col. Edward Drummond Jr. and retired Lt. Col. William Holloman III, members of the famed Tuskegee Airmen — the U.S. military's first black American pilots — told the audience that getting to fly for the honor of the country was a difficult battle.

"Those are the things that hurt," Holloman said. "You are laying your life on the line, and you have to fight to do that."

Holloman said while he was training at Tuskegee, Ala., he did not tell his superiors he already had flight training because they would attempt to remove him from the program. He said the base at Tuskegee was the only base where blacks were allowed to train, while white cadets honed their skills at three or four fields. The veteran added that military and government officials purposefully tried to fail black trainees to prove that they were incapable of being trained.

Drummond, the younger of the two
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Mark McCambridge Emerald

Retired Lt. Col. William Holloman III, a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, shares his personal experiences as a pilot with audience members at the Fir Room in the EMU Monday.

International students face INS scrutiny

A new wave of international students will be required to interview with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

The thought of a job interview often injects fear into the hearts of students. But many students in the University's international community face a tougher interview: registration with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Unlike a job interview, where the worst possible consequence is not getting hired, failing the special registration interview can earn international students a one-way ticket out of the country.

Fears about the registration process have been escalating as country after country is added to the Immigration Special Registration list. Journalism instructor and member of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation Micky Lee said new developments with special registration are especially troubling because they will affect a significantly higher number of University students than previous registration phases.

"It is simply unfair to ask them to go up to Portland and be questioned by the (immigration agency)," Lee said. "A lot of international students don't even have a car."

Males 16 or older from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan and Kuwait are the latest batch of temporary foreign visitors required to take part in special registration. Students from these countries must register with BCIS between Feb. 24 and April 25. Ginny Stark, director of International Student and Scholar Services, said Indonesian students make up the sixth-largest population of international students at the University, as 75 students were enrolled in fall 2002.

Rahmat Rahmat, an Indonesian graduate student in
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WEATHER

Today: High 48, Low 40, slight chance of rain showers

Wednesday: High 47, Low 37, windy with rain likely

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday

The University Athletics Task Force hosts a public forum

Thursday

Should Oregonians get out of the car and pump their own?

Professor brings passion for flight to UO

Professor Emeritus William Lamon flies his WW II-era combat training plane through the skies of Eugene every weekend

Ducks in profile

Roman Gokhman
Campus/City Culture Reporter

At 1,800 feet, Autzen Stadium may be eclipsed with the palm of a hand. At 160 miles-per-hour, it takes only 15 minutes to travel from West Eugene to Autzen and back. And on a rare sunny day in March, the entire city can be viewed all at once.

University Professor Emeritus William Lamon — a veteran pilot for the Royal Canadian Air Force as a Belgian cadet — is well-acquainted with heights and high velocity. Every weekend, he flies his

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Professor Emeritus William Lamon's passion for flight has led him to teach flight history classes at the University and fly his World War II-era North American Harvard T-6 every weekend.
Roman Gokhman
Emerald