

Duck 'D' ready to shine

Jerry Matson leads a defensive group that has progressed greatly since spring workouts began three weeks ago

Spring football

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

The first week saw so-so play from the Oregon offense and defense.

The second week was dominated by the Oregon offense, specifically the team's running backs. The group ran 36 times and scored three touchdowns, running the ball with success.

What week three holds is still to be seen, but surely, it's time for the Oregon defense to step up. And that's what they plan to do.

"It really is our time to shine," linebacker Jerry Matson said. "Now we're learning to adjust and use logic and use broad concepts so that every time we don't panic. Now, if we can get the young guys going fast, we have a really good fast team and we can rally to anything they give us."

The Duck defense has been without Igor Olshansky and Kevin Mitchell the entire spring, both recovering from in-

juries, and Oregon has been a bit behind its offensive counterparts. Still, Junior Siavii has filled in well for Olshansky, and Matson has been mentioned multiple times by head coach Mike Bellotti for standing out.

Yet, there is more the group needs to improve upon, and to do that today in the team's scrimmage would be a confidence builder.

"The first scrimmage was so-so, the last scrimmage went pretty well on both sides of the ball, and now its time to elevate our game as a defense to the next level," safety Keith Lewis said. "By the time we get to the spring game we should have all our tools together."

Lewis said it isn't easy to evaluate the team's defensive capabilities during the spring, especially because the team will have a whole host of newcomers entering in the fall. That includes two junior college transfers in the secondary — one being controversial recruit Rodney Woods — but in the mean time, the current group is progressing nicely.

Offensively, Oregon will be looking to get the ball back in the air after its strong ground attack last week.

The team's wide receivers are still a bit bruised, but as Demetrius

Williams said, "You get your little nicks and pings here and there."

"I'm feeling pretty good actually," he said. "I've got a little bit of soreness, but that's football. Hopefully we're going to get a lot more passes this week. We'll see what happens."

The scrimmage is Oregon's last before the spring game, set to be held May 3 at Autzen Stadium.

Draft time

After Friday's scrimmage, Oregon's attention diverts to the NFL Draft.

Headed by running back Onterio Smith, the Ducks have a host of former players that could go in one of the seven rounds Saturday and Sunday.

The group is led by Smith, who declared early after his junior season, in which he ran for 1,141 yards and entered the end zone 12 times. Tight end George Wrihster also entered the draft early and is expected to be chosen as early as the fourth round.

Wide receivers Keenan Howry and Jason Willis are also listed as possibilities, as is linebacker David Moretti, defensive end Seth McEwen, safety Rasul Webster and offensive lineman Corey Chambers.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

Men's

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Slye sits third in decathlon

Jason Slye finished Thursday's half of the decathlon with a strong showing in the last event, the 400. Now he's hoping to have a strong showing on the second day.

"I'm P'ring already, so that's good," Slye said. "I just wanted to do better in some events, and I did."

Slye had personal bests in the 100, long jump and shot put and also a personal best for first-day points in Thursday's action. He sits third in the competition behind Jason Williams and Billy Pappas, who

finished 11th at the NCAA Championships last year for the Ducks. But Pappas is now graduated, and Slye said it's been fun competing with the former Duck.

"It just pushes you, knowing he's here," Slye said. "He's better in some events, and I'm better in others, so we help each other out."

Slye has 3,560 points after the first day and needs 3,240 points today to hit the Pac-10 mark. He needs 3,440 points to make the NCAA Provisional list and 3,940 to hit the NCAA automatic mark. Today's first event of the decathlon begins at noon and the last event, the 1,500, is slated for 5 p.m.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

Women's

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have succeeded in postseason qualification.

Oregon has 28 other athletes who have qualified for the conference meet with 18, including MacDonald, reaching a regional mark.

All five of the Ducks' pole vaulters have cleared the heights to earn both qualifying marks of 12 feet and 12-5 1/2. The Oregon quintet will begin in Saturday's twilight session at 5:05 p.m.

The Oregon All-American duo of Elisa Crumley and Roslyn Lundeen will continue their quest for the 160-foot line in the javelin. The two sophomores have already qualified for Pac-10s and regionals. Junior transfer Abby Andrus is

honing in on her 5,000-point mark in hopes of earning an NCAA provisional qualifying mark after day one. After four events including the 100 hurdles, high jump, shot put and 200 meters, Andrus has 2,979 points and is in fourth place.

Andrus says she is usually stronger in the second day, with the long jump, javelin and 800 meters still to come, and that she is now just competing.

"I'm not going to listen for points," Andrus said. "I'm not going to run for points. I'm not going to jump for points."

The heptathlon wraps up today and the competitive madness will start at 10 a.m. with the twilight session beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Golf

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round tied with freshman teammate Erin Andrews at 34th overall, with a six-over par 78. Andrews would have been listed on the leaderboard had she not shot a disastrous second hole

of the day. After opening the day on the 10th hole, Andrews proceeded to shoot a nine on the par-4 11th hole. She concluded the rest of the 16 holes by shooting a composed 2-over par.

Senior Annie Davis, whose score will not count for the Ducks, completed the day tied for 47th after an opening round 81. Sophomore Jess

Carlyon finished tied for 55th followed by freshman Michelle Timpani at 58th overall.

The second round of the Pac-10 Championships is set to begin at 8:30 a.m. today.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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Oregon Daily Emerald



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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 25). Get a steady source of income this year, if you don't have one already. Cultivate a friendship with someone who really understands. Or maybe this person (or people) will emerge in the process of life itself.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) _ Today is a 7 _ Though input from friends can be a big help, discover the answer yourself. Keep paper and a pencil near your bed, and make time to write down your dreams.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 6 _ Confer with friends late in the day regarding weekend plans. Otherwise, keep your thoughts to yourself as you gather up your profits.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 7 _ Remember how somebody once told you to be polite? To be respectful to authority figures? You don't have to agree, but no wisecracks now. They'd be counterproductive.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is a 7 _ If you can manage it, get away for a while tonight as reward for a rather tough week. Old friends and a favorite setting are perfect for recharging your enthusiasm.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is a 6 _ You're alternately frugal and overly generous. You'll be more financially secure if you draw up a plan and stick to it. Consult an expert.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ Have you figured out what needs to be changed in order to make your workload easier? Make a list, because soon you'll have a chance to share your ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ You're drawing a lot of attention, partially because you're so cute. If you stay calm and don't let it go to your head, maybe you'll bring in more work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 7 _ The logjam is almost unstuck, and there'll be more progress soon. Make some special time tonight to spend with one you love. Prepare a happy surprise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is a 7 _ Keep studying, even if it seems as if you're not learning a thing. You'll find out how much you've absorbed once you finally get to use it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 7 _ Make the extra effort to get letters and packages out. Communications may become more difficult over the next few days _ OK, weeks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is a 7 _ Postpone big decisions. Things are in a state of flux. Wait until next week to make a big decision.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 7 _ Your mechanical aptitude is getting better. Combine that with your gut instincts, and you might really prove the existence of God, to yourself as well as others.

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