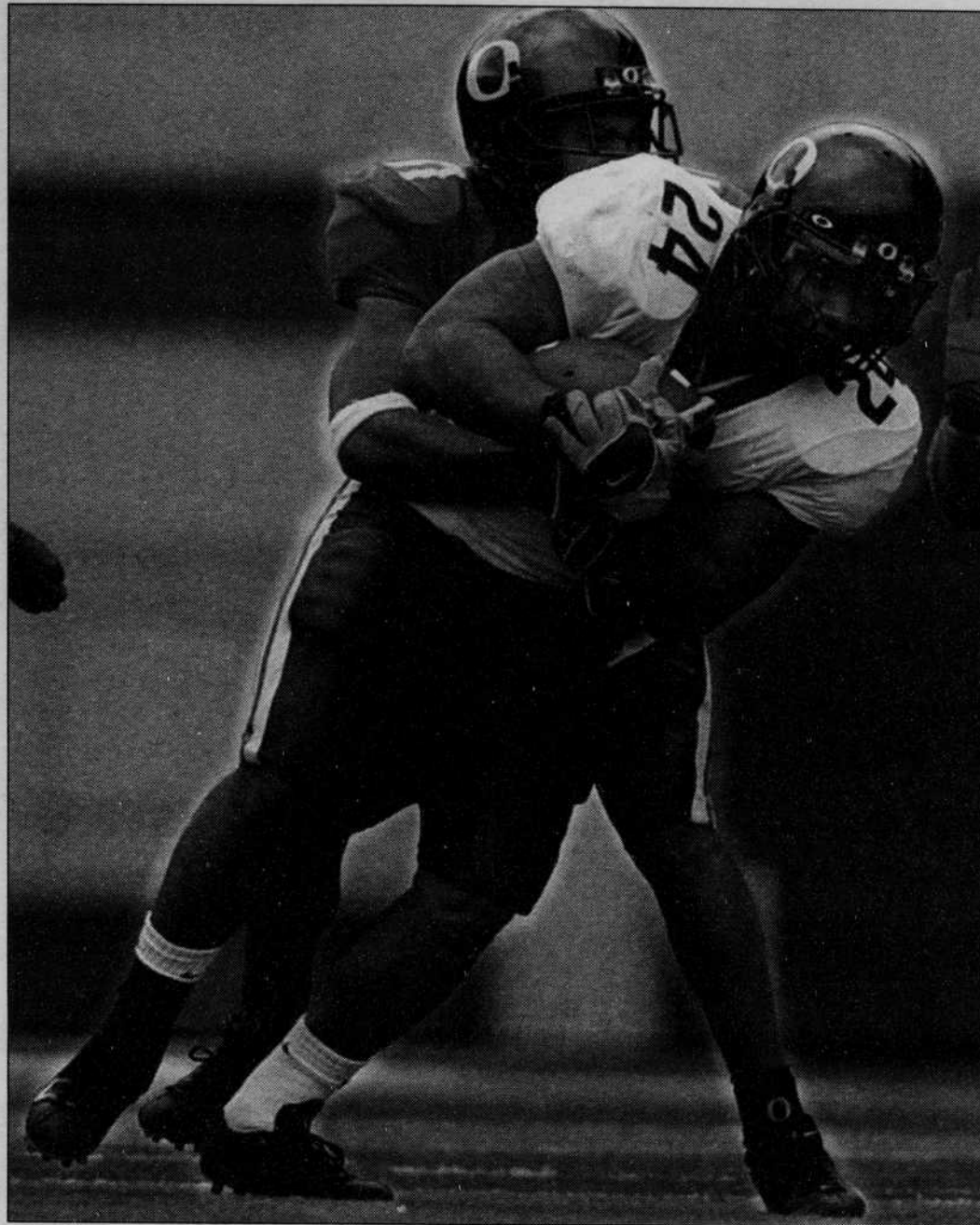


SPORTS

Best bet
NBA Playoffs:
Sacramento at Dallas, Game 1
6 p.m., ESPN2

Tuesday, May 6, 2003



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Terrence Whitehead (24) is among a group of running backs that has the potential to start next season.

Football survives without answers

Starting-spot questions go unanswered as Oregon escapes the spring relatively unscathed

Football

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

The Oregon football team had a number of questions coming into spring football workouts one month ago.

Who would be named starter, if at all, at quarterback? Which one of the four running backs would emerge as the go-to guy? And what about the defense? Would the team's secondary be able to overcome the horrors that plagued it all of last season?

For the most part, those questions remained unfulfilled. And for the others, head coach Mike Bellotti wasn't going to divulge the real answers just yet.

"I like the competition," Bellotti said of the spring's main focus, the quarterback situation. "I like what it's done for Kellen (Clemens) and Jason (Fife). I think it will continue throughout the summer, and then into fall camp. And I don't expect us to name a starting quarterback until probably midway through fall camp or maybe mid-week of Mississippi State."

Clemens played the best between the two at the spring game on Saturday, but neither he nor Fife would say who really has the true edge.

As for the running situation, a red-shirt freshman from Philadelphia muddled it all up.

At the start of spring, Ryan Shaw and Terrence Whitehead were expected to lead the way to the starting spot. Yet Chris Vincent suggested, with his play, that he has the talent to start against the Bulldogs.

Unlike every other position, the running back spot will not see additional players come fall. The four at spring camp — which also includes Kenny Washington, who injured his shoulder — will do all of the running come August.

Defensively, the Ducks made strides, but still showed they are susceptible to the long pass play. The secondary is still relatively young, but Keith Lewis and Steven Moore should be able to harness the group's ability, somewhat.

"(Secondary coach John) Neal came in with a scheme and he made us learn his system," Lewis said. "I think it really helped us. He brought in a couple of schemes from (Alabama-Birmingham) and he inputted it into our defense. It makes the receivers, as well as the coordinators, think."

How well the secondary survives will probably weigh on the shoulders of the team's defensive line. It is an talented group, although junior Igor Olshansky and sophomore Haloti Ngata have played prominently for just one season.

Olshansky did not practice during the spring, and Bellotti has said he may move to defensive end from the defensive tackle position.

"I believe we'll be the strength of the team," Quinn Dorsey said of the defensive front four. "When we come out

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Wushu U.

The Oregon Club Wushu team has competed successfully at several recent tournaments, and also performs at events like UO's and OSU's China Nights

Club Sports Tuesday

Jon Roetman
Sports Freelancer

Wushu.

It's a simple yet funny-sounding word that when spoken resembles the sound of fast-moving air.

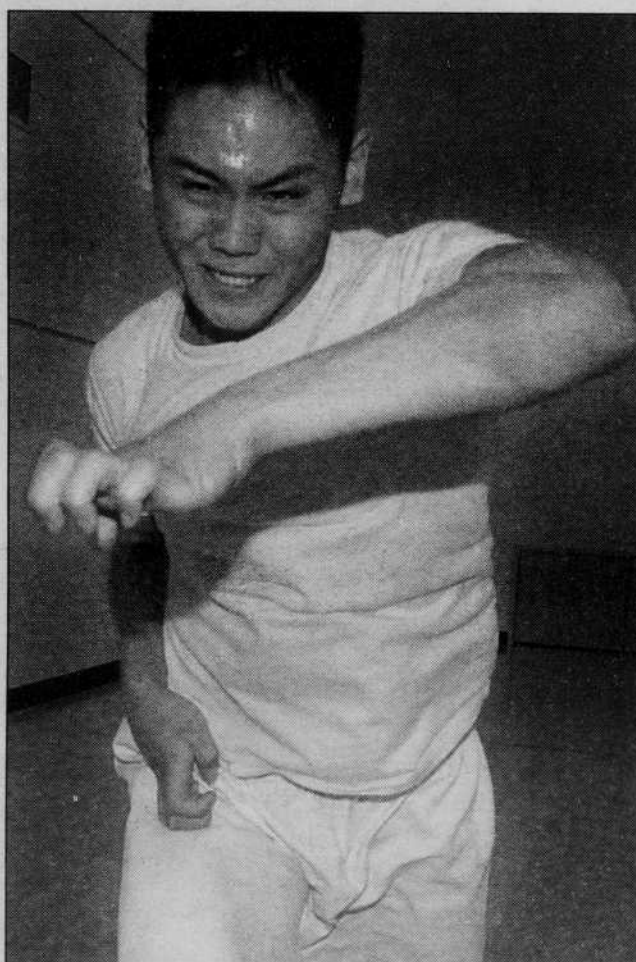
This simple word, however, has many meanings. It refers to a form of self-defense, a sport, an art and a cultural heritage of China, and when performed, wushu moves can sound like fast-moving air.

For the Oregon Club Wushu team, the word has translated into success and achievement. Focusing on wushu as a sport and a performance art, members of the club have brought home numerous medals and awards from two major tournaments this year.

The sport of wushu is "a performance based on the forms of kung fu," sophomore club coordinator Keith Hillen said. The competitive atmosphere is like that of gymnastics, where athletes exhibit skills in front of judges, who then issue a score. Tournaments are divided into three skill levels. Each skill level allows athletes to compete in the "open hand," "long weapon" or "short weapon" divisions.

Hillen referred to wushu as "Kung fu-ized rhythmic gymnastics."

The club has participated in two major tournaments this year, the most recent being the California-Berkeley Chinese

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Adam Amato Emerald

Phillip Dang won the men's all-around trophy, three golds and a silver at last year's national club wushu tournament. Although Dang looks like he's going to put up a fight, wushu is really a performance art.

'El G' won't run Pre Classic mile, but Webb might

The world record-holder bows out of the Bowerman Mile, but the field is still loaded with pro talent

Men's track and field notes

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

"El G" is "El Gone" from the Bowerman Mile at this year's Prefontaine Classic, but that doesn't mean it won't be an exciting race all the same.

Hicham El Guerrouj, who owns the world record in the mile and ran the fastest mile on American soil at the 2001 Pre Classic, returned last year but won't return this season.

But the 2001 mile was also highlighted by prep sensation Alan Webb, who broke the high school record in the event. Now, a pair of high schoolers will try to use the same favorable Hayward Field conditions to take a run at Webb's record or at least break the four-minute barrier.

One of the high schoolers is Mike McGrath, who finished second in Saturday's Bill McChesney Jr. Twilight Mile at the Oregon Twilight. McGrath, from Portland, will square off with the nation's top prep miler, Texas native Steve Magness.

The two will race among a field of top post-collegiate talent. The field is led by the Kenyan duo of Bernard Lagat and Cornelius Chirchir, who both have a history at the Pre. Chirchir and Lagat finished second and third, respectively.

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