Oregon lineman loses appeal; must sit out against Cougars

Quinn Dorsey's suspension for trading in tickets will force him to wait another week to take the field for Oregon

> By Hank Hager Sports Editor

Defensive lineman Quinn Dorsey will not play against Washington State.

The senior had his appeal for reinstatement denied by the NCAA on Tuesday, meaning he will not be eligible to step on the field for Oregon until Oct. 3 when the Ducks take on Utah.

Oregon suspended Dorsey prior to this season for trading complimentary tickets for rent breaks during previous seasons. Per NCAA guidelines, the Ducks suspended him for the first four games of the season because the benefits he received amounted to more than \$600.

The NCAA did not agree; however, opting to suspend the defensive end for a fifth game last week.

Dorsey and the Ducks immediately appealed, but the appeal was turned down.

"The reasons were that the monetary value dictated 30 percent of the season," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "(The NCAA) decided to add another 10 percent penalty to make it 40 percent of the season because it involved the use of comp tickets, which are only available to student athletes. In their book that is a dastardly deed, and in reality, it is not something we condone or obviously are proud of."

Dorsey redshirted the 2002 season to recuperate his ailing knees and for other reasons Bellotti deemed "personal."

The decision does not necessarily hurt the Ducks on the defensive line. Already beset by Haloti Ngata's season-ending leg injury, the group has been steadfast. They've allowed an average of 53 yards-per-game rushing through the first four contests, even holding Chris Perry to 26 yards on 11 carries last week.

Entering the game, Perry had led the nation in rushing.

Oregon is also tied for third in the Pacific-10 Conference with 14 sacks; just two behind leader Washington State.

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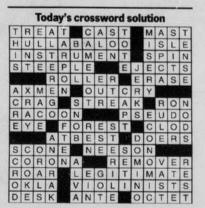
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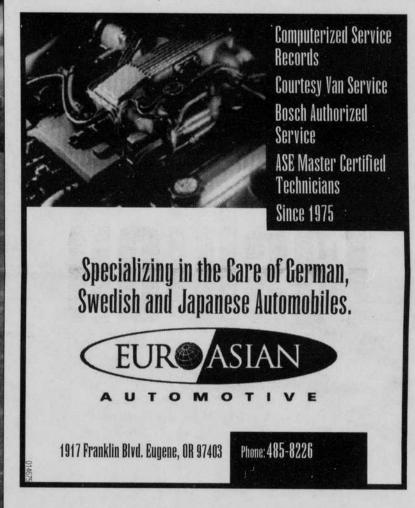
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Courtesy Washington State Athletics

Jason David (29) and Will Derting make their first trip to Autzen Stadium on Saturday. The Cougars haven't been to Eugene since 1999.

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"He was very, very accurate for us last year," Doba said of Dunning, who was 22 of 33 on field goal attempts last year. "He's a seasoned veteran and he's kicked under pressure."

The Cougars also had some major losses on the defensive side of the ball, losing cornerback Marcus Trufant and defensive tackle Rien Long to the National Football League draft. Trufant, a shut-down corner who was rarely tested, was taken in the first round by Seattle. Long, the 2003 Outland Trophy winner, was selected by

the Titans in the fourth round.

Despite the loss of Trufant and Long, the defense has allowed only one rushing touchdown and leading the Pacific-10 Conference with 16 sacks.

Senior Jason David and junior Karl Paymah have held down the corner positions. David returned an interception 41 yards for a touchdown against Colorado, helping the Cougars to a 47-26 win that put Washington State back into the top 25.

Doba said the Cougars have been able to handle the loss of Long because of tremendous depth at tackle, including seniors Jeremey Williams and Tai Tupai, who have anchored the defensive line. Doba added that the Cougars will need freshman tackle Odell Howard to fill in for junior Steve Cook, who is out four to six weeks with a broken foot.

With players stepping up on both sides of the ball, the Cougars look to win their first game at Autzen Stadium since 1997. Doba said if the Cougars stand a chance against the Ducks, they need to jump out to a quick start and keep the crowd out of the game.

"I don't think you can silence that crowd, period," Doba said. "Hopefully we can slow them down a little bit or get them a little bit quiet."

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