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Jon Roetman

Roughing the passer

Purest football played on Friday

Want to see the most talented football players in the world?

Tune into Fox or CBS Sunday afternoon.

Want to see talented collegiate athletes with something to prove?

Tune into ABC Saturday afternoon.

If football in its purest form is desired, however, then check out Friday night where the place to be is under the lights.

With Oregon's game against Utah moved up to Friday, thoughts of high school football are stirring in my mind. Even though it has been four years since I was a skinny signal caller for Portland's Marshall High School, the memories haven't vanished.

Don't get me wrong: Pro and college football games are very entertaining. Watching the most talented athletes in the world perform at the sport I love is nothing short of amazing.

But there's something different about high school football.

There are no million-dollar cry babies, no contract disputes, no discount shopping scandals and no recruiting violations — just blood, sweat and tears coming from players who want nothing more than a chance to put on a helmet and shoulder pads and then run out onto the field. When attending a game, wasting time and money on athletes who don't give maximum effort is never a worry.

Playing or just being around football on the high school level can teach lessons about life. Many of the guys I grew up with came from low-income families and had plenty of other things to worry about. With hundreds of possible distractions surrounding them, they still found ways to get their school work done and be out on the practice field. It makes one wonder why a guy making \$5 million can't wake up in time for a team meeting.

It also teaches the importance of teamwork at a time in a life when learning to mesh with others under pressure is important. In an era when certain professionals are concerned with statistics rather than winning, high school foot-

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ON TAP

Friday:
Football: Oregon at Utah, 7 p.m., ESPN2
Soccer: Portland at Oregon, 7 p.m.
Saturday:
Women's cross country: Oregon at Willamette Invitational (Salem), 11:30 a.m.
Sunday:
Soccer: Weber State at Oregon, 1 p.m.

Warren has choice words for Oregon

Utah head coach Urban Meyer silenced Parris Warren after negative words were spoken about the Ducks

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

Parris Warren has given the Ducks something to talk about.

The former Oregon receiver — now a junior at Utah — made remarks about his time in Eugene that were neither flattering of Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti nor the Ducks in general.

The Sacramento, Calif., native told the Salt Lake

Tribune on Monday he transferred from Oregon after the 2001 season because he was not a large enough piece of the offensive puzzle.

"It's going to be hard to keep my emotions down," he said of tonight's game in Salt Lake City. "But I'm going to be fired up for this game. I just feel I have a lot to prove to them."

Warren has missed in ten games for the Ducks in 2001 — missing only the team's game against USC — but was not a primary target of then-quarterback Joey Harrington. He had six tackles on special teams but failed to catch a pass that season.

Ironically, Warren threw a 50-yard touchdown pass to Justin Peelle against Utah.

After hearing of Warren's comments, Utah head coach Urban Meyer put a gag order on the wide receiver.

"I'm a big believer of shutting your mouth and playing football," Meyer said. "I wish I had gotten to him (before he said anything). Young people have a tendency to make remarks before they think about it."

Warren has become a big piece of the Utah offensive pie this season. He has caught 24 passes this year, including a season-high nine against California and head coach Jeff Tedford, formerly Oregon's offensive coordinator.

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Shy at heart

Lindsey Werdell may come across as soft-spoken and shy, but there is more to her story

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

Lindsey Werdell is easily embarrassed. For Werdell, speaking in front of a group of people is like standing in front of a firing squad.

"I'm pretty shy so I just get embarrassed by being put on the spot, like talking in front of a group of people," the senior captain of the Oregon women's soccer team said. "I get really nervous and I start holding my breath and then I turn bright red, and then I realize I'm red so I start getting more nervous."

Even bringing up the topic of how easily she becomes embarrassed leaves her blushing.

But there is more to the story of the Eugene native that wears No. 18. Werdell may stick to the shy side more often than not, but she's not afraid to try different things.

"I haven't done anything crazy, but I would," she said. "I want to go skydiving and I would go bungee jumping or do stuff like that."

Beyond the blushing

Werdell has long been an outdoor enthusiast. Every winter, she makes trips to Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort to snowboard and during the summers she enjoys backpacking at places like Glacier National Park.

"I just like the outdoors a lot and I like trying new things," she said.

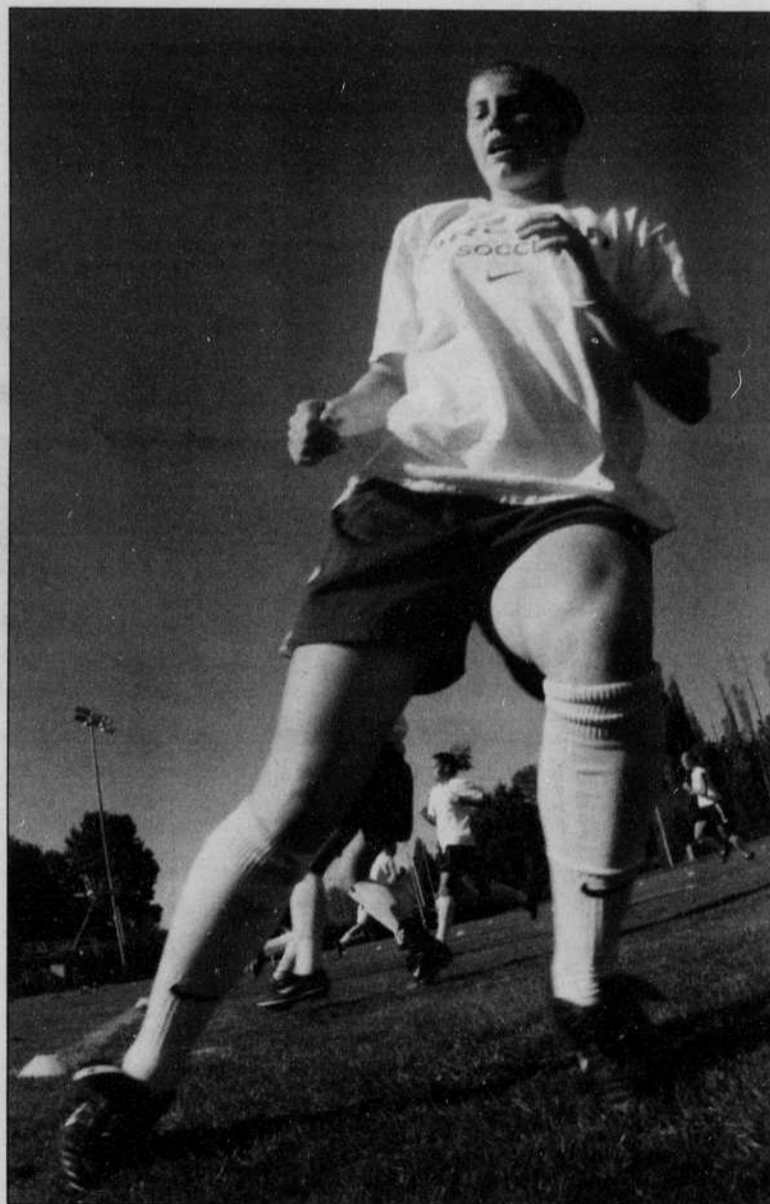
Through four years of backpacking, Werdell has found herself in situations where being shy is not an option. For instance, she was backpacking with friends near Mt. Jefferson in Oregon and a rock slide blocked the trail, causing them to be lost for an entire day.

"One guy almost fell off of a cliff and luckily he held onto a tree," Werdell said of being trapped in a ravine. "We were all freaking out. After that we got a GPS and made sure we let people know where we were going before we went."

Back on the field

When Werdell is on the field, she remains composed and likes to use her experience to slow the game down.

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Adam Amato Photo Editor

Captain Lindsey Werdell is one of two seniors on the women's soccer team this year.

Gill crowd pressures Oregon in 3-0 defeat

The Beavers prove to be too much for Carl Ferreira's Ducks as Oregon drops the match in three straight

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

CORVALLIS — Oftentimes in close games, the home fans can make all the difference.

The Oregon State volleyball team used a raucous Gill Coliseum crowd to help get past Oregon 3-0 (30-26, 30-27, 30-28) Thursday in Corvallis.

After dropping the first two games, the Ducks came out smoking in game three, taking a 15-4 lead on the strength of nine consecutive points.

The Beavers pulled within eight at 20-12, then proceeded on an 18-8 run to finish the match.

"We came out in the third game a little pissed off from the first two games and got fired up," Oregon sophomore Kelly Russell said. "We came out with a good rhythm, got ahead, but the rhythm shifted."

Oregon State's surge in game three was led by Allison Lawrence. The junior outside hitter finished with 23 points, including five kills in the final game.

"She's a little more patient than she's been in the past," Oregon head coach Carl Ferreira said. "That comes with maturity and time in (the Pacific-10

Conference). We handled her well at times but she just kept at it."

Russell led the Ducks with 19 points, while freshman Sarah Mason added 13.

The Ducks had opportunities to win each game, but other than game three, they were unable to string together a series of points when they needed to.

"In the first two games, we were just not scoring enough," Ferreira said. "Anytime you've got a sport with a scoreboard like us and there's a point awarded for play, scoring points is a big part of it. We're not having the balanced scoring that we would need on a consistent basis."

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