



Mark McCambridge Senior Photographer

Adam Snyder (72) was the first offensive lineman since 1995 to be named Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Week. He received the award after the Michigan game when the Ducks upset the Wolverines, 31-27.

(No) Laughing Matter

Tackle Adam Snyder is a jokester off the field, but on the field, his winning ways help the Ducks score

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

There are no official statistical categories for offensive linemen.

Linemen won't set a game record for most receptions or most rushing yards.

They won't block punts, grab interceptions or return a kickoff for a touchdown.

What left tackle Adam Snyder will do is keep the other team away from his teammates.

"I like the aggressiveness and the intensity that comes with (playing football)," Snyder said. "Every time you step

on the field, it's like a legal street fight. You're out there just going blow for blow every down. It just really drives me, it feels great to be out there."

Snyder is being rewarded for his hard work.

After Oregon's 31-27 win against Michigan on Sept. 20, the California native was given the Pacific-10 Conference Offensive Player of the Week award. He is the first offensive lineman in the conference to earn the award since UCLA's Jonathan Ogden did so in 1995 and Oregon's first since Gary Zimmerman in 1983, a year after Snyder was born.

"That (award is) huge because linemen don't get that often," offensive tackle Mike DeLaGrange said. "He just livens everybody up with his work ethic. He's real playful most of the time but serious when he needs to be — real fo-

cused. He's an awesome guy."

The 21-year-old redshirt junior has played football since elementary school, but only on two teams before Oregon. Snyder played for a junior team in California during fifth grade but didn't play again until his time at La Serna High School in Whittier, Calif.

"My dad played when he was in high school, and I loved watching football," Snyder said. "When I got to high school I knew that's what I wanted to do."

Snyder was ranked as one of the top 80 prospects in California by Super-Prep Magazine during his senior season. He was a team captain that year and a starter during his junior and senior seasons.

"We were 6-6 my senior year," Snyder said. "We ran for like 300 yards a

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Sun Devils' offense optimistic after show at Autzen last year

Arizona State needs a win on Saturday after falling into a recent offensive slump

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

After three consecutive losses, Arizona State enters Saturday's game with Oregon as a team desperate for a win.

The Sun Devils are looking to turn things around against the Ducks after averaging only 12 points per game over the past three weeks.

With the strong arm of junior quarterback Andrew Walter and the memories of last year's 45-point performance at Autzen Stadium as incentives, the Arizona State offense is licking its chops.

Walter, who passed for 536 yards against the Ducks last fall, has thrown for 1,197 yards and nine touchdowns. His top targets have been senior Skyler Fulton and sophomore Derek Hagan.

Fulton set career highs with eight catches for 172 yards and two touchdowns against Utah State in week two. Hagan showed his worth last Sat-

urday against USC. He finished with eight catches for 170 yards.

"Derek has been practicing well and it showed up in the (USC) game," Arizona State head coach Dirk Koetter said. "I thought Derek did a nice job with his routes, he was physical, he ran with the ball after he caught it. He's been practicing just like that."

The passing game isn't the Sun Devils' only offensive strength. A balanced running attack with sophomore Hakim Hill and freshman Loren Wade led to early success against USC. Hill leads the team with 263 yards, while Wade has 171.

"The running game helped us out," Walter said. "We threw the ball 35-to-40 times per game last year, and this year we are not even close to that. With our running game (going) strong, it opens up the play book so that teams don't know what you're going to do every time."

Arizona State's three losses have come against Iowa, Oregon State and USC — all of which are ranked in the top 25. The Sun Devils have been ac-

cused of being too predictable on offense over the three-game stretch and will look to mix up their play calling.

"People are certainly telling me (our offense is predictable)," Koetter said. "We do a self-scout based on down and distance, based on personnel we have in the game and based on formation. I look at those numbers every week and try to gauge whether we are too predictable or not."

Defensively, the Sun Devils are looking to improve as they are eighth in the Pacific-10 Conference in total defense and have allowed 103 points in the past three contests. Junior safety Riccardo Stewart has been a bright spot, leading the team in tackles and interceptions. The Sun Devils are also second in the conference with 20 sacks.

Despite recent struggles, Koetter said the defense won't do anything special to deal with Oregon's two-quarterback system.

"I think that's way overblown," Koetter said. "I've watched tape, Oregon runs the same offense. Our

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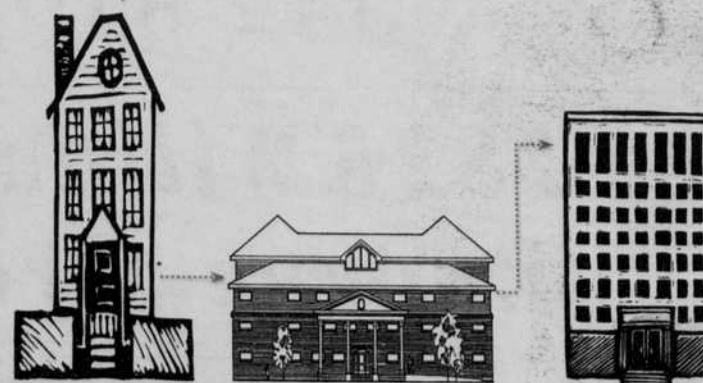
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