



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Matt Floberg (32) scored two touchdowns against Mississippi State on Aug. 31, matching his season total from 2002.

Family matters

Fullback Matt Floberg is part of a close family with Oregon and contributes in whatever way he can for Duck success

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

Matt Floberg is very much a family man.

Between a tight-knit family and a close high school football team, Floberg knew he wanted a college team that would also be a surrogate family.

That's how a boy who grew up a Beaver Believer ended up a Duck.

"When I came on my visit here, I was looking for that closeness in my college team as well," Floberg said. "I felt like the team here — everybody

was friends with everybody, and everybody hung out. I felt like it was a true family."

Floberg grew up in Portland, graduating in 1999 from Jesuit High School. Members of his extended family — cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents — also live in Portland, and everyone gets together for the holidays.

His parents, grandparents, uncles and one aunt all stayed in the area for college, attending Oregon State.

"My family's really close-knit," Floberg said. "In my entire family, there's 11 straight kids without a break in between. Everybody's got a best friend. My best friend is my cousin who's one year younger than me."

The redshirt senior and his two younger brothers grew up with foot-

ball; all three played at Jesuit. Floberg's youngest brother is in his senior year at the school.

As a Crusader, Floberg earned first-team all-state honors as a fullback and on defense his senior year. He had 23 touchdowns in his final season.

After redshirting his first year at Oregon, Floberg had one carry for three yards in one game his freshman season. As a sophomore, he played in seven games at fullback.

His junior year, Floberg started all 13 games at fullback. It was his first injury-free season as a Duck.

"I think the position kind of fits my personality — there's not that much attention on fullback," Floberg said. "I'm kind of like an offensive

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Washington inconsistent, needs passing game to win

The Huskies need to stretch the field with their passing attack to succeed against the Ducks' defense

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

Washington enters Saturday's game against Oregon as a model of inconsistency.

After starting the season as a top-25 team at 3-1, the Huskies have lost three of their last four games, including a 28-17 home loss to Nevada on Oct. 11.

Washington appeared to have rescued its season by following the loss to the Wolf Pack with a 21-point trouncing of Oregon State in Corvallis two weeks ago. But just when the Husky-faithful started to breathe easy again, Washington was dismantled by USC, 43-23 last Saturday in Seattle.

If the Huskies are to get back to their winning ways against the Ducks, their down-the-field duo of

senior quarterback Cody Pickett and junior wide receiver Reggie Williams will have to produce big numbers against the Oregon defense, much like they did in last year's 42-14 win at Autzen Stadium. Pickett threw for 316 yards and four touchdowns, and Williams caught 14 balls for 198 yards and three scores as the Huskies tallied 42 unanswered points.

Oregon is currently ranked last in the Pacific-10 Conference against the pass, allowing 281.6 yards per game. The Huskies have the Pac-10's fourth-best aerial attack, averaging 278.6 yards per game.

Despite these statistics, Washington head coach Keith Gilbertson downplayed the importance of a big game from just one or two players, saying the Oregon defense looked much improved during last week's 35-0 win over Stanford. Gilbertson was also cautious because of the uncertainty surrounding the health of junior wide receiver Charles Frederick, the Huskies' No. 2 receiver. If Frederick can't go, the Ducks can fo-

cus more on stopping Williams.

"We don't want to be too one-dimensional in anything we do throwing the football," Gilbertson said. "We are certainly going to try not to be. We are going to have lots of people involved. We are going to have balance across the board in our passing game, although we do have two guys that are extra special, and when you have them on the field, then you have to contend with both of them."

Frederick sustained an injury to his clavicle area, Gilbertson said. Frederick is second on the team with 39 receptions for 586 yards and three touchdowns, behind only Williams' 58 catches, 776 yards and seven touchdowns.

"There is a chance (Frederick) will play Saturday," Gilbertson said. "But there is nothing to say for sure."

If either receiver is on the field, there's a good chance Pickett will find him. The Pac-10's sixth all-time leading passer with 9,364 career yards has

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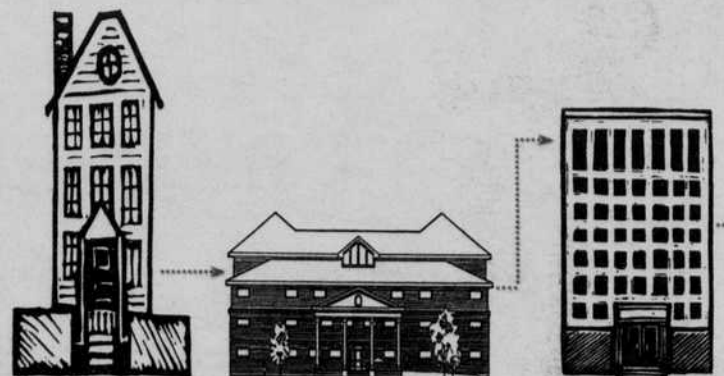
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