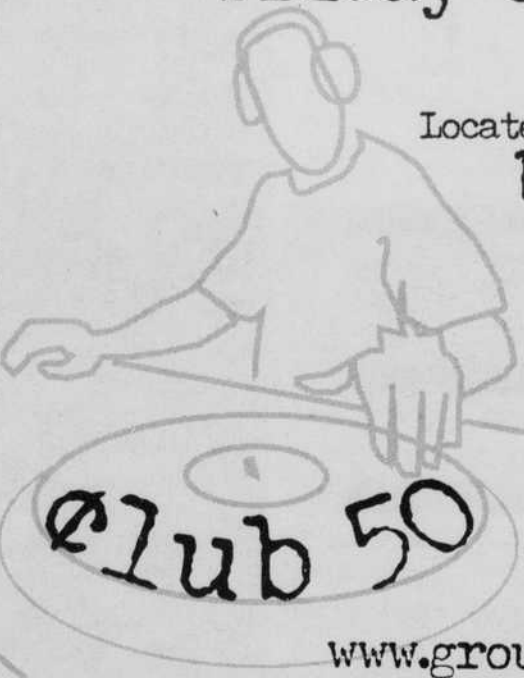


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Rivalry game still excites students

The freshmen are fired up for this weekend's rivalry

By Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The Civil War football game is the pinnacle point in Oregon's 12-game regular season schedule for some students. It's the one game that must not be missed.

Others, though, see it as just another football game or another Civil War. One thing is for sure: Class and age can have an effect on how one views the in-state rivalry.

Freshman Jonathan Parks, a history major, made sure he would make it to Autzen Stadium on Saturday. Parks was in line outside the EMU at 5:30 a.m. the day off of the ticket release.

"It's the experience of just waiting in line and getting the tickets," he said.

This statement holds true for many freshmen. Parks was among 15 friends who received tickets and will all be attending the game. Parks didn't sleep the night before and missed two classes to get a ticket.

"The few games that I've been to have been the absolute greatest part of this year — they were all riots," Parks said. "I'm sure this is going to be the biggest game of the year, and it's prob-

"The few games that I've been to have been the absolute greatest part of this year ..."

Jonathan Parks
Freshman, history major

ably going to be the most fun I've had in the school year so far."

This Civil War doesn't have the implications of years past. A bowl game will be in Oregon's future, but it won't be the Fiesta Bowl like two years ago. Oregon State and Oregon sit third and fourth in the conference rankings, but Parks doesn't seem to care.

"It'd be nice to have the whole conference ride upon that game, but it's still bragging rights throughout the whole state, and it's still going to be a huge game," he said.

Freshman Danny Dougherty had similar sentiments.

"It's not 2001, it's definitely different," Dougherty said. "It's not the same, but still it's a good way of finishing off the season to get to a bowl game."

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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ment a reputation for him as a big-game quarterback. He torched the Ducks last season, so he knows what it takes. It's just a case of consistency for him as well.

But let's play a little game. Let's imagine what it would have been like if either had taken different paths and their roles were reversed.

What would happen with Anderson in Eugene? Would he have started in place of Jason Fife last season, or would he have been relegated to the bench like Clemens was for most of the year?

As for Clemens, would he have gotten a better chance to produce early with the Beavers? Would the presence of Steven Jackson, a running back Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti calls the best in the nation, help ease him into the lineup? Would the runner's capabilities have given Clemens a blanket that would have allowed him to develop without criticism?

Better yet, would it have been the Beavers last season that went through a 1-6 drop late in the year? If Anderson had been in Eugene, would it have been the Beavers instead that fell so hard?

Maybe it's the system. Maybe having Jackson in the backfield has been a boon for Anderson, giving him the chance to get used to the system while

a first-class running back stomped out of the backfield.

OK, so it's not so easy to predict what would've happened, much like the difficulties predicting their careers in high school.

My guess is that they've taken the right paths and that talent and an ability to remain "cool" can't be taught.

Clemens has taken the slower path to stardom, but when it really comes down to it, he's probably going to have the better career of the two. He's got leader written all over him, evidenced by his confidence level. He's said a number of times this season that his confidence doesn't waver when results go sour.

That's a pretty significant statement, especially for a redshirt sophomore.

Anderson may have the physical tools — at least more so than Clemens — but he hasn't blossomed into that leader just yet. He's a junior and has one year left, so it better come soon.

The major difference between the two surrounds the fact that Clemens will be around for two more seasons.

It may not show now, but it looks like the Ducks will have come out better in the deal.

Anderson would've been a nice choice too.

Just not in the long run.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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