

# FRESHMEN

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high school. Being a freshman, you haven't really learned the ropes yet either. When you're trying to figure it all out, your head's just spinning. You get it done, but combining both. ...

"I find the hardest part is separating both. You have to have time for school and time for football and mixing them, it gets hard. Learning where to separate it is probably the biggest adjustment."

Suddenly going from a class of 25 students to a lecture hall with 200 or more other people can be overwhelming for new students. The lack of daily class and assignments and the freedom to set your own schedule can be a hindrance as much as a blessing.

The players admitted it's hard to focus without as much direction as they had from teachers in high school, but it's helpful to have staggered time to get into the groove for both football and classes.

"We start football way early," Martinez said. "As a true freshman coming in, it's nice because you get the football and then you get into school and you kind of just flow into it. But if school started at the same time football did, it would be a little harder."

Four players — Carey, Filipe, Johnny DuRocher and Dustin Holmes — made the jumps together last spring. DuRocher and Holmes are redshirting this season.

The four graduated early from high school to spend spring term in Eugene — going through spring football drills while taking classes and living in

H.P. Barnhart Hall.

"You really get a feel for classes and practices and just the whole college process," Carey said. "Not having to come in at fall camp and go through that tough month that's really hard for freshman. All you see for a month is football players, no other students, you don't have classes and that probably helped me the most — just getting used to everything."

The freshmen said they have made the adaptation and now feel comfortable with their new home, teammates and school. Most of the way through fall term, most of them say things are moving along smoothly.

But there are still adjustments to make — for each opponent and each new course.

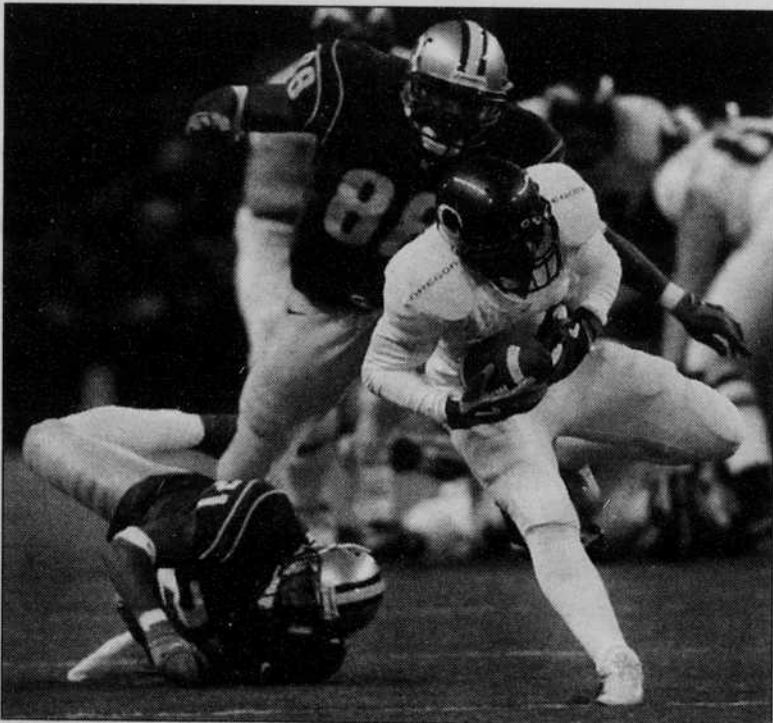
"Everything's faster — not just on the football field, but in the classroom," Rosario said. "You're not coddled like you are in high school, you're expected just to pick everything up on your own. It's been a real big jump, but day-by-day, game-by-game, practice-by-practice, it's a little bit better."

Next season, the seven freshman who have played will be joined in the games by a dozen players who lived in Barnhart with them this year but spent the season as a redshirt. While they haven't played in the games together, it's a benefit to have so many teammates so close.

"We're all having a lot of fun," Martinez said.

And that's what the game of football is about — fun.

Contact the senior sports reporter at [mindirice@dailyemerald.com](mailto:mindirice@dailyemerald.com).



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Kyle Weatherspoon (26) is one of six true freshmen to play for Oregon this season.



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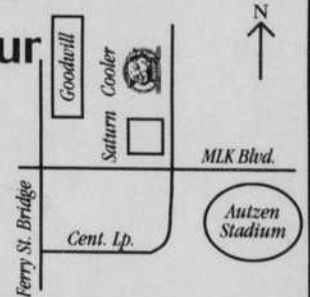
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