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Oregon, Oklahoma agree to play two-game series

The Ducks face Oklahoma for the fifth time in school history when they travel to Norman, Okla., in September

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

NEW YORK — After weeks of speculation, Oregon football finally agreed to a home-and-home series with Oklahoma on Wednesday.

The Ducks will travel to Norman on Sept. 18, for the first of two games. The Sooners will play in Eugene sometime during the 2008 season.

The game next season replaces a

scheduled road contest for Oregon at Nevada. The Ducks will eventually make up that game.

"Oregon football is now at a level where we can compete with the best programs in the country," Oregon athletics director Bill Moos said in a release. "Certainly the University of Oklahoma is one of those."

DUCK FOOTBALL

"I feel we owe it to our players and our fans to make every effort to schedule marquee teams on a home-and-home basis."

Talks between the Ducks and Sooners had been on-going for about a

month. Oregon needed Nevada to allow the Ducks to get out of their immediate obligation.

"This has been an unusual and complicated process due in part to the lateness of the negotiations and the sensitivity to the University of Nevada," Moos said.

Both games between the Ducks and Sooners are slated to be played before a national television audience with both teams agreeing to pay the visitor \$300,000.

The 2004 season will mark the second such year that the Ducks will take on a nationally renowned program from outside the Pacific-10 Conference. Oregon defeated Big 10 Confer-

ence member Michigan, 31-27, at Autzen Stadium last season.

Oklahoma went 12-2 last season, losing to Louisiana State in the national championship game, 21-14.

The Sooners swept through the Big 12 Conference, winning all eight of their regular season games. However, they lost to then-No. 10 Kansas State, 35-7, in the Big 12 Championship game.

The most notable Sooner player is quarterback Jason White, who won the Heisman Trophy as the nation's top player this past season.

The Ducks and Sooners have met four times with Oklahoma winning each contest. However, the Sooners trip

to Autzen in 2008 will be their first.

"Intersectional contests like this and previous series with Michigan, Michigan State and Wisconsin provide quality competition as well as tremendous exposure not only for Oregon football but the entire University as well," Moos said.

Oregon opens up the 2004 season on Sept. 11, hosting the Big 10's Indiana. After the game with Oklahoma, the Ducks return to Autzen Stadium against Idaho on Sept. 25.

The Ducks open their Pac-10 schedule by hosting Arizona State on Oct. 2.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailymerald.com.

A small bite of the Big Apple

The careers of four Oregon seniors came to an end with Tuesday's loss to Michigan in the NIT

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

NEW YORK — Reality, Andre Joseph said, began to set in as Michigan's lead grew during the second half Tuesday at Madison Square Garden.

The Ducks' season was assuredly over. In turn, the college careers of the team's four seniors — Joseph, Luke Jackson, James Davis and Jay Anderson — came to a halt.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Now, the future comes into the picture.

"I'm going to graduate and play hoops somewhere," Joseph said. "The important thing is to get the degree, because I know I'll play ball somewhere. I know I've got to get (the degree)."

Joseph has been the most publicized of the Oregon seniors in recent weeks, most notably because of the 22-credit class load he had to take winter term. He earned a course-satisfying grade in all but one class, and will retake it in the spring before he moves on.

Davis, Jackson and Anderson are all in the graduation boat as well.

Jackson is rumored to be a first-round selection by Houston in the 2004 NBA Draft, according to NBADraft.net. But for Davis and Anderson, the NBA is something they'll have to watch on television.

"I really can't believe it's over," Davis said. "In the spring-time, when they start to work out again and start doing their individuals for next season, I really don't know what I'm going to be doing."

"It's definitely kind of exciting, but definitely very emotional right now. I'm going to miss all the teammates and all the coaches that've been there for me."

The quartet leaves as one of the most prolific player groups in Oregon's history.

Jackson finished with 656 points this season and 1,970 for his career, good for second all-time.

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NEW YORK — In the Big Apple, there are more things to see and do than any one could dream of accomplishing in a week. From the Empire State Building to the Brooklyn Bridge, there are all sorts of odds and ends to the city. In fact, just walking 40 blocks, it's easy to see the opposite ends of the cultural scale.

Nicknamed the "Met," the Metropolitan Museum of Art sits at Fifth Avenue and 82nd Street, flush up against Central Park. The building has immense rooms to arms and armor from England, China and the United States, among others. Of course, arms and armor was my favorite.

Not that I got a chance to see everything inside. The building is so large, it's easy to accidentally double back on yourself. Jumping from one exhibition to another is also easy, which adds a little variety to the visit.

Walking back to midtown — the museum is about 45 blocks away from Times Square — you can stroll through Central Park, which stretches for about 25 blocks. That's when you see those giant skyscrapers begin to get closer and closer. Or so it seems.

That's also when you reach the Ed Sullivan Theater, home to "Late Show with David Letterman." And when you get to the theater, walk around the corner to Jee, as you may or may not know, is the proprietor of the deli and appears often on Letterman during the one-hour late-night show. He is basically an honorary member of the show.

Tickets to the show are hard to come by. So when taping begins, it might be wise to wait around outside the deli. When I stood there, a group of passersby decided to congregate around the deli as Letterman was using Jee in another of his skits.

Just a few things to see in the city that never sleeps. At least until 5 a.m., that is.

— Hank Hager



Adam Arnata Senior Photographer



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Eric R. Bahoff Photography

Nyhus pitches one-hitter in sweep of Portland State

The Ducks swept Portland State in a doubleheader at the Vikings' Erv Lind Stadium

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

Ani Nyhus almost did it again.

For the second time in as many starts, the transfer from Central Arizona College pitched a stellar shutout — this time throwing a one-hitter as

the No. 17 Ducks (27-9 overall, 1-0 Pacific-10 Conference) shut out Portland State, 1-0, in the second game of Wednesday's doubleheader.

DUCK SOFTBALL

The one-hit victory followed close on the heels of her no-hitter against Utah State on Saturday.

The sole hit that Nyhus allowed was an infield single to Viking center fielder Whitney Olsen, the lead-off

batter in the first inning of the game.

Despite giving up the hit, Nyhus faced the minimum number of batters — 21 — with the help of a double play in the bottom of the first. She is now 12-4 this season.

Nyhus struck out 12 in the victory, her second consecutive start with a double-digit strikeout performance. In the Utah State victory, the junior broke a 10-year-old Oregon record, striking out 16 batters.

Offensively, The Ducks managed

four hits against Portland State pitcher Vanessa Holm. Holm struck out 10 in the game.

Oregon's lone run came on catcher Jenn Poore's fifth home run of the season. Poore was 2 for 3 in the game. Shortstop Breanne Sabol and third baseman Ashley Richards added Oregon's remaining hits.

In the first game, the Ducks' offense came alive in the final innings.

After Oregon's Anissa Meashintubby allowed seven hits and two runs in

five innings, the Ducks put together three runs in the top of the sixth to take a 3-2 lead.

With the lead, Oregon brought in Nyhus to relieve Meashintubby. She pitched two shutout innings, earning her first save of the season.

The Ducks added two runs in the top of the seventh for a 5-2 win.

Meashintubby earned the victory, improving her record to 10-2 in her

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