

SPRING

continued from page 7

Saturday.

The general reaction to the freshman quarterback: "Wow."

"You saw Dennis today, I mean, wow," sophomore Kellen Clemens said. "That guy can run."

Dixon ended Oregon's day on a play that earned cheers from the players on the sideline. In an 11-on-11 drill, he tucked the ball in, ran, put some moves on the defense and would have been in the clear had it been a real game.

"Now it's time to go full pads," Dixon said. "Now it's time to see what it's really like."

That time will come today, two days after the Ducks opened up their spring workouts. Aside from the expected rustiness and the bumps and bruises — the only serious injury came to defensive lineman Victor Filipe, who separated his left shoulder — the Ducks say they generally looked good on the field.

"Aaron Gipson made a couple plays, I liked what he did," Bellotti said. "Terrence Whitehead moved around pretty well."

"I think we made progress

today. I think everyone is excited. I want the same kind of excitement and intensity when we come back on Monday."

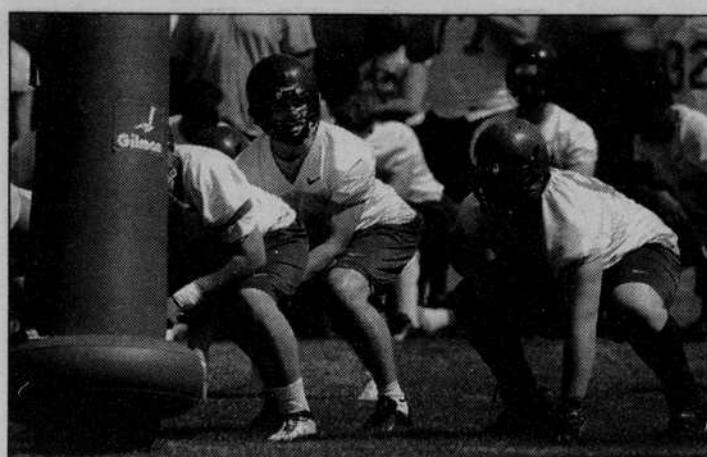
While Dixon may have been the biggest attraction at practice — at least among newcomers — the return of Haloti Ngata was also significant.

The sophomore was injured last year during the first quarter of the Ducks' opener against Mississippi State, forcing him to sit out the entire season. Now that Igor Olshansky and Junior Siavii have vacated the defensive line via early entry into the NFL and graduation, respectively, Ngata will be key.

"I thought Haloti moved around well, and obviously we don't want to push that too much," Bellotti said.

The Salt Lake City native is just one of the many veterans returning to the Ducks. While the team lost a number of starters from last season, Oregon also returns many of the backups from its 8-5 2003 season.

"We've got a lot of returning starters on offense," Bellotti said. "And an accomplished quarterback that started 13 games. We have some holes to fill on defense. We're losing seven or eight starters



Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

Johnny DuRocher (behind center) and the Ducks started spring practice Saturday.

from that group. Obviously, I think we have some answers, but we have to determine who the answers are going to be."

That, Bellotti said, is one of the keys he will look for in the team's 15 practices. He wants to see who will take over for free safety Keith Lewis.

Who will start opposite Demetrius Williams at wide receiver? And who exactly will join Jerry Matson as starting linebackers?

Besides addressing these unanswered questions, Oregon has a

busy first week of practice ahead. The team will get into full pads today, then hit the field again on Tuesday.

The Ducks have a day off — at least from practicing — on Wednesday, then return to Kilkenny Field on Thursday. They get the weekend off, but not before playing in the first scrimmage of the spring on Friday at Autzen Stadium.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

WOMEN

continued from page 7

biggest pole for the first time in a meet and felt pretty good in it."

The victory gave the first-year Duck a chance to showcase herself against the top collegiate pole-vaulters in the A section of the event. However, Enders could not match her personal best again and ended up in 14th out of 17 competitors with a mark of 12 feet, 3 1/2 inches.

Senior Kirsten Larwin participated in the same event and finished fifth overall at 13-3 1/2 in a tie with Akron senior Kira Sims. UCLA's Chelsea Johnson won the pole vault after clearing 14-9 on her first attempt.

Other Ducks also achieved personal bests in their respective events. Redshirt junior Bree Fuqua earned an outdoor Oregon personal record of 50-11 1/2 in the shot put. Fuqua, a first-year transfer from Wisconsin, met Pacific-10 Conference and regional standards with the mark and finished eighth overall in the event.

The Oregon women, under new head coach Martin Smith, will return to Hayward Field for the Pepsi Invitational on April 10 to host Colorado, Minnesota and Washington.

Contact the sports reporter at alexam@dailyemerald.com.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 5). You can make great strides forward this year with the help of an intellectual partner. You provide the motivation, and your partner will help you come up with a good plan.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) _ Today is an 8 _ A person you don't always understand, and may not always like, is similarly fascinated with you. Relax. You may be pleasantly surprised.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 6 _ Being creative isn't the problem. The problem is making it pay. Remember that money saved is the same as money earned when you're tallying up.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) _ Today is an 8 _ You're naturally good with words, but now they may be difficult to find. Don't worry. Instead, practice your nonverbal communication. Give gifts.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) _ Today is a 5 _ A work-related decision could cause changes to your home life as well. Delay your answer if you can. You'll know more about the costs and benefits on Thursday.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ The knowledge you seek will come to you, and it will be an insight you won't forget. Believe in the healing power of love. It's a conduit for miracles.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 5 _ You don't have to be outrageous

to achieve your goals, just persistent. You might even earn a bonus just for being so darned polite.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 9 _ They say opposites attract, so you may be surprised to find yourself fascinated by a rowdy, rambunctious type. Again.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 5 _ The pressure is on, and it may seem like it's all on your shoulders now. That's partially because you've proven to be so trustworthy in the past. People think you can do everything. Maybe you can.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is an 8 _ You'll be busy all day answering calls and catching up with the news. You also should review your to-do list, or else something could sneak up on you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 5 _ You're spurred to action, although you may feel that you're still not quite ready to go. Your concern is quite natural, but it looks as if you've solved all the big problems for now, so full speed ahead.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is a 9 _ Reach out and let somebody know all about your secret dreams. Tell a person who's family, or close to it. He or she can help them come true.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 5 _ Continue to save as much as you can. Pay off all your debts, and you'll see that all your creditors are eager to lend you more money.

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