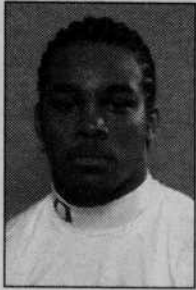


## DIFFICULT

continued from page 7

It wasn't easy.

"It was very hard and when I first got back, I couldn't take my mind off of it," Reed said. "When I got back, I don't think I played in a game throughout the end of the season. Most of that had to do with me not being able to eat, just not having the energy to even be able to get out on the field playing."



**Ramone Reed**  
Senior Oregon  
linebacker

More than six months later, Reed still faces days when he doesn't feel like going out onto the field. But penciled in as Oregon's No. 1

weakside linebacker, he's expected to be out there a lot. It's still hard. "I just try to think about the reasons I play this game," Reed said. "I try to think about all the days when I was six, seven years old and I used to go outside and play by myself. I used to make footballs out of socks or whatever I could."

He said it's slow going in terms of getting things back to normal. Maybe that day will come. Maybe it won't.

Regardless, the consensus is that Reed is improving, both on and off the field. "He's changed a lot," said senior linebacker Jerry Matson, a close friend of Reed's. "You can see the joy in his eye instead of just dealing with all of the outside pain. And he can finally focus on things that are fun and (has) conducted to better himself in football and school."

"Before, family has got to come first, so he wasn't very enthusiastic about anything in his life. But now, you can tell he's changed his outlook

on a lot of things and he's getting back to having fun."

He didn't go to El Paso, Texas, with the Ducks for the Sun Bowl.

"He wasn't even in good enough condition to come in and participate," Matson said.

Much like a number of spots in Oregon's defense, Reed does not have the weakside linebacker position pinned down. He knows that, and he understands it.

He wants to get better. He wants to be another Kevin Mitchell for the Ducks, even though the two play different styles.

At least he wants to make Mitchell's kind of impact.

"I am pleased, probably more pleased just for Ramone personally, that he is here with us," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said last week. "He is committed. His personal life has been really difficult in the past two to three years and I think he has come through it a stronger person. I think he has finally found a focus. And I'm excited because he's a very good football

player and he seems to be back.

"I'm not going to say he's totally there or anything like that because there's a lot of room for improvement, but he's making plays. He seems to be enjoying himself at practice and playing the game of football. He is back in his adopted family."

### Scrimmage No. 3

Oregon players will participate in their third and final scrimmage of the spring today at Autzen Stadium.

Bellotti said the team will probably go through 60 plays — much like the previous two scrimmages — but that "we're hoping to get more but it's going to depend on the health of the lines."

The Ducks practice on Tuesday and Thursday next week before playing the annual spring game next Saturday at Autzen.

Contact the sports editor at [hankhager@dailyemerald.com](mailto:hankhager@dailyemerald.com).

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Women in Sports Business Symposium returns to UO

After a one-year absence, the Women in Sports Business Symposium returns to Eugene today.

The symposium, which begins at 1 p.m. in 282 Lillis Business Complex, is a half-day conference with the theme, "Motivate, Inspire, Elevate: The Future of Women in Sports Business."

Lucy Activewear CEO Sue Levin will give the opening address and two panel discussions will follow at 2 p.m.

The panelists include Sonja Henning, former president of the players' union for the Women's National Basketball Association; Jolynn Ovington, director of Adidas Women; and Erin Hubert, a former executive vice president for the Portland Trailblazers.

The panels are designed to be interactive discussions with the audience members. Following the panels, there will be a reception in the Lillis Atrium.

Admission to the symposium, which is hosted by the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center, is free to the public, but space is limited.

The symposium will also be webcast live at [http://www.warsawcenter.com/events/wsbs\\_webcast.htm](http://www.warsawcenter.com/events/wsbs_webcast.htm).

— Minda Rice

### Clarett denied in bid for NFL by Supreme Court

NEW YORK — The Supreme Court threw Maurice Clarett for another loss on Thursday, justices twice denying his appeal to enter Saturday's NFL draft.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg rejected the 20-year-old running back's request to overturn a lower court's stay, and Justice John Paul Stevens promptly turned down a second emergency appeal. Clarett's attorney, Alan Milstein, had no plans for a third appeal.

USC wide receiver Mike Williams, who entered the draft after the original decision in favor of Clarett, is also ineligible and has told the NFL that he will drop his legal challenges, according to the league's executive vice president, Jeff Pash.

Williams' agent, Mike Azzarelli, was still hoping for the possibility of a supplemental draft but that would occur only if Clarett prevails in his ongoing challenge to the league bylaws that requires players to wait three years after high school before turning pro.

The two Supremes did not rule on the merits of Clarett's case against the NFL. They refused to interrupt the stay because the NFL will provide a supplemental draft if Clarett wins his lawsuit.

Milstein, who was optimistic about prevailing back in February, had no comment on Thursday's ruling. There is no timetable for a three-judge panel that issued the stay to reach its final opinion. That decision by the 2nd

U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals could take weeks. The simple issuance of a stay is an indication that it will side with the league, because the court has already agreed that the league can win its case.

Clarett, meanwhile, is in limbo. His chances of regaining his NCAA eligibility and returning to Ohio State would be "far-fetched," according to Buckeye coach Jim Tressel.

Tressel told The Associated Press that "(f)rom an academic standpoint, unless the NCAA really changes its posture about academics, I think it would be difficult."

Clarett, a freshman sensation, lost his sophomore season after accepting money from a family friend, then trying to deceive investigators. He has since dropped out of school.

Clarett would be eligible for the 2005 draft if the current rules stand, but his value probably would go down. The 20-year-old was out of shape and unimpressive at the combine workouts.

Williams, however, would have been a sure-fire first-round pick and was being projected as Michael Vick's playmate in Atlanta. Williams hired an agent, which usually prohibits a player from returning to college. Still, the door is open for him to apply for NCAA reinstatement because this is such an unusual situation. USC coach Pete Carroll has said the national champion Trojans would welcome him back.

— Hank Gola  
New York Daily News (KRT)

### Come Celebrate "Hiking Day" Sat. April 24th

Come in and enjoy a day of FREE discussions, seminars and resources for getting the most out of hiking in Oregon.

\* 11am - 12 pm \*  
Shoe/Boot Fitting and  
Foot Health Clinic.

\* 12 pm - 2 pm \*  
Book Signing - Bill Sullivan  
local author of 12 books  
including "Cabin Fever".

\* 2 pm - 3 pm \*  
Effective Packing Tips for  
a Day Hike.

\* 3 pm - 4 pm \*  
Hiking Safety Clinic.

\* 4 pm - 5 pm \*  
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### Information Sessions:

Find out more about the Ambassador Program by attending one of the information sessions.

Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 3:00PM, Umpqua Room, EMU  
Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 2:00PM, Century Room E, EMU

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ambass>

Applications now available @ 465 Oregon Hall • For Further Questions, call 346-1274

Applications due Wednesday, May 5th by 5 P.M. in 465 Oregon Hall