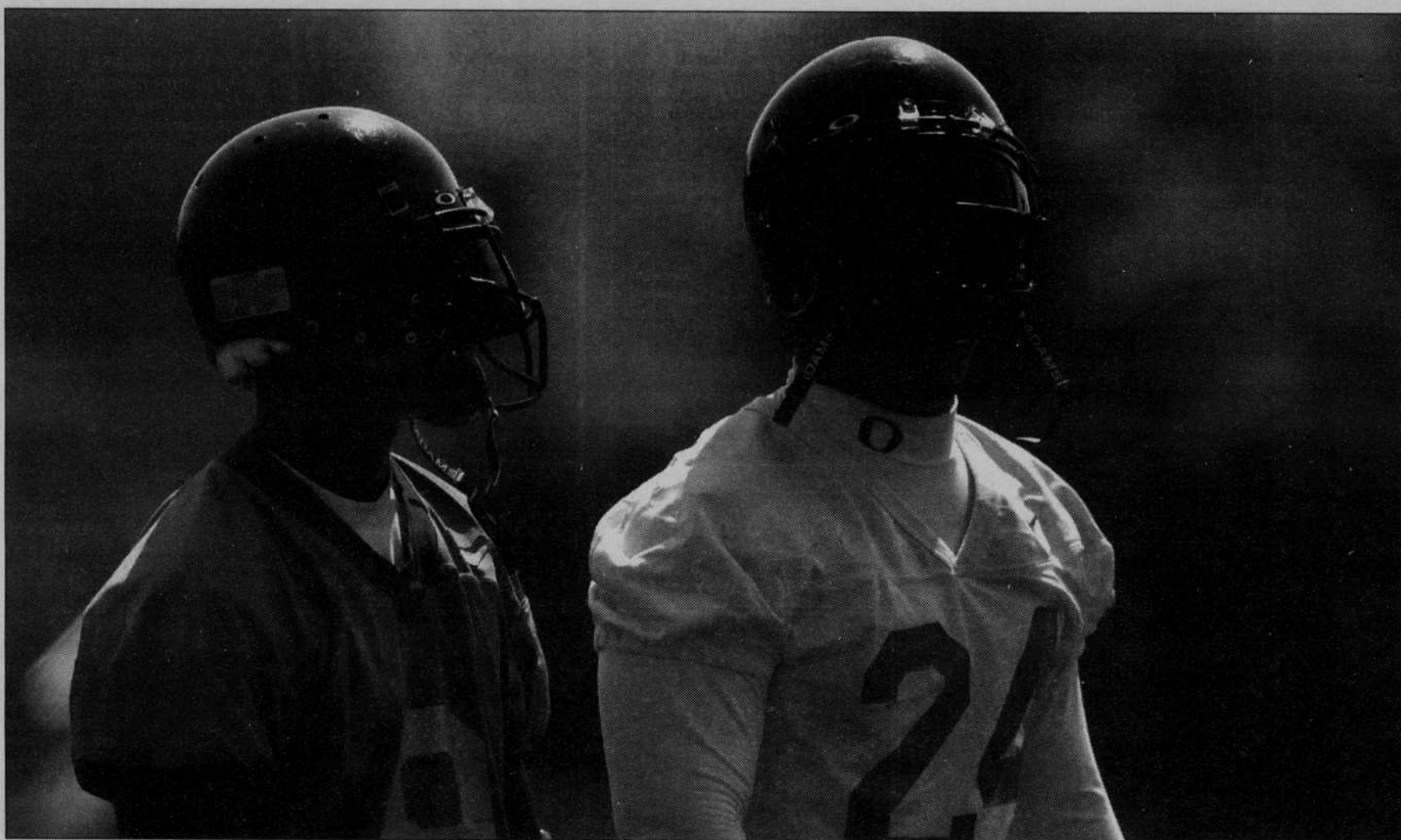


Cornerback Ryan Gilliam (left), next to running back Terrence Whitehead during Oregon's first spring workout, said he has plenty of learn before he becomes a key player for the Ducks. A native of Tallahassee, Fla., Gilliam has been penciled in as the No. 2 left corner and is expected to play a key role in the special teams units.

Danielle Hickey
Photo Editor



LEARN

continued from page 1

second scrimmage of the spring less than two weeks ago.

He is fast, perhaps one of the quickest members of the team. But that quickness can only take him so far.

"Ryan Gilliam has certainly done some things as a returner and has shown some flashes of brilliance based on his speed," Bellotti said. "He needs to play faster, though. I think that will come."

That speed has also made him a valuable part of the Oregon track and field team. At the Pepsi Team Invitational, he ran the 100-meter dash in 10.72 seconds, good for second place.

Even though the football Ducks will play in the annual spring game Saturday, Gilliam expects to participate in the Oregon Twilight later in the day at Hayward Field. He said he expects to compete in at least the 100.

"I've already qualified for (Pacific-10 Conference Championships)," he said. "I'm trying to get into the NCAA Regionals. I've got to shave my time by about eight more tenths in the 100. Track's going real good right now."

One more catch about Gilliam: He's doing all of this far away from home. He's the Oregon football player who has to travel the farthest

just to get home.

Tallahassee is 2,960 miles away from Eugene. By car, that's approximately a 45-hour drive. By plane, that can take up to eight hours.

"It's just a part of growing up," he said of the move. "You've got to experience that, got to go through it. It's done with now. I'm happy to be here in Eugene. It's great weather. I'm glad I'm here instead of home right now. I'd be sweating and miserable."

To the spring game

Bellotti indicated at Tuesday's practice that the spring game this year will be more in the form of a scrimmage, which is due to the team's lack of depth on both the offensive and defensive lines.

The game starts at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Those interested in attending the workout can gain entrance into Autzen Stadium by donating three non-perishable food items, as "requested" by Oregon.

The game will be televised on Comcast Television (channel 14 in Eugene) and on KUGN Radio (590 AM).

When all is said and done

Oregon had four players selected in the annual NFL Draft.

Keith Lewis, Samie Parker, Igor Olshansky and Junior Siavii all heard their names called. Three others, though, could join them on NFL ros-

ters once the 2004 season starts.

Defensive end Quinn Dorsey signed as an undrafted free agent with New England. Kevin Mitchell signed with Miami, joining former Oregon quarterback A.J. Feeley, who was acquired by the Dolphins from Philadelphia during the offseason.

In a familiar situation, Jason Fife will be reunited with Joey Harrington. Fife, who was Harrington's understudy at Oregon, signed with Detroit and is expected to battle Rick Mirer and Mike McMahon for a backup spot.

"I think that's awesome," Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens said of Fife's signing. "It's intriguing to see Jason and Joey playing now again together. Jason deserves to have a shot at that level."

Also of note, Lewis will be joined in San Francisco with some familiar faces.

Oregon State linebacker Richard Seigler was drafted in the fourth round, while safety Lawrence Turner and placekicker Kirk Yliniemi, both former Beavers, signed as undrafted free agents.

The 49ers also hold the rights to former Oregon running back Allan Amundson, who has made the switch to cornerback and plays in NFL Europe.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

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