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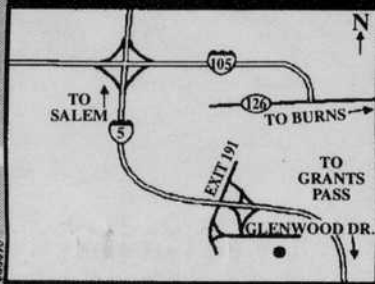
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ERIK R. BISHOFF | ONLINE & PHOTO EDITOR

Jared Siegel attempts a field goal during practice Tuesday. The senior place kicker is seven points away from passing Derek Loville on Oregon's all-time scoring list. He also needs six more field goals to pass Gregg McCallum's Oregon record of 45.

Siegel closing in on Oregon kicking records

While an Oregon kicker chases records, Woods will miss the season and Dixon will back up Clemens

CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS REPORTER

Before the end of the season senior place kicker Jared Siegel will not only hold most of the kicking records at Oregon but will also likely be the most prolific scorer in University history.

With seven more points, Siegel will pass running back Derek Loville with 272 points scored at Oregon. While Loville scored 45 touchdowns and a two-point conversion to reach his total, Siegel has kicked 146 extra points and 40 field goals to reach his mark of 266.

Siegel's 146 extra points is already a school record, and he needs six more field goals to pass Gregg

McCallum's record total of 45. However, Siegel doesn't take much of the credit for his success.

"I think the record is more of a tribute to my teammates and the great teams I have been on over the years and the caliber of success we have enjoyed," Siegel said. "I take advantage of the opportunities that my teammates present me with, because without their success I wouldn't have any points at all."

Siegel looks to return to form after a junior season that saw him make only 13 of 19 field goal attempts. It was a step back from his sophomore season, when he made 20 of 24 field goals (including a school-record

59-yard field goal) and was a Lou Groza Award finalist.

"I've worked real hard and got a lot of game-like situations in this summer," Siegel said. "I did a lot of work with the holders and snappers to develop some chemistry along with a couple of other fine things to help with my efficiency."

Woods tears ACL during fall camp

A loss to Oregon's secondary weakens an area seen as the Ducks' biggest question mark on defense coming into the game against Indiana.

Senior defensive back Rodney Woods was lost for the season when he was defending a pass during a non-contact drill and tore his anterior cruciate ligament during the second day of practice, Aug. 19.

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Can this Oregon squad break trends and be consistent?

It's a new year with a new Oregon Duck football team. That team has one word in mind: consistency.

I like to be optimistic and hope past trends will be broken.

I know there will be no quarterback controversy. Kellen Clemens is the man this year. Period.

His confidence and play should skyrocket now that he doesn't have to look over his shoulder and see a Jason Fife standing there waiting for him to make a mistake and get pulled. And especially after his coming-out party against California last season, when he drove the Ducks down the field twice in the fourth quarter for touchdowns to defeat the Golden Bears.

The secondary is once again a question for the Ducks, as they ranked 105th in pass defense last season. And that was with All-Pacific-10 Conference safety Keith Lewis, who has now gone to the NFL.

Will Oregon fans once again watch the pass-happy Pac-10 conference throw over and through our defense? Maybe the secondary will gel this year, avoid injury and slow some teams down.



CLAYTON JONES
SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

But what about another mid-season breakdown? Is that in the forecast? During the last two seasons Oregon fans have grown with excitement as the Ducks race to impressive starts just to see the air get let out of their tires and their hopes left on the side of the road.

Who can forget last year's triumphant victory over then No. 3 Michigan and a 3-0 start? And who remembers it going by the wayside after the Ducks tumbled and lost four of their next five games by a combined score of 173-53? Or two years ago when Oregon looked as though the loss of a certain No. 3 named Joey wasn't affecting them, and they started the year 6-0? The Ducks had just defeated UCLA and hopes were high. But Duck fans

were brought back down to earth as Oregon was handed back-to-back home losses leading to a 1-6 slide to finish the season.

The elements are all there for déjà vu as the Ducks play national powerhouse Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., after their game against Indiana (yes, they don't just play basketball).

If Oregon pulls off this upset, it will be HUGE! The Sooners are among the football elite and this is their year to win it all with Heisman Trophy winner Jason White and 17 of 22 starters returning. Think of the Michigan win and multiply it by 10, and that's what kind of upset this would be.

If it did happen, the potential downfall would also be 10 times larger and I don't think Duck fans and their "All Ducked Out" lifestyle can handle another disappointment.

Could you imagine if Oregon pulled off one of the biggest upsets in school history and lost to Idaho at home? Duck fans might just spontaneously combust, and shreds of bright yellow would litter Autzen Stadium.

I'm sure everyone has heard

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