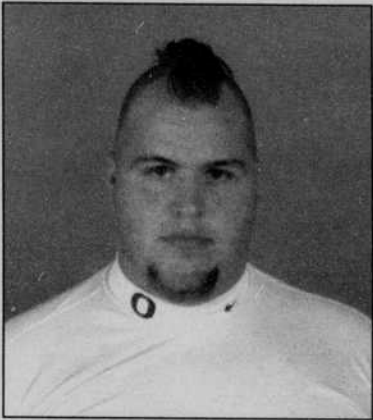


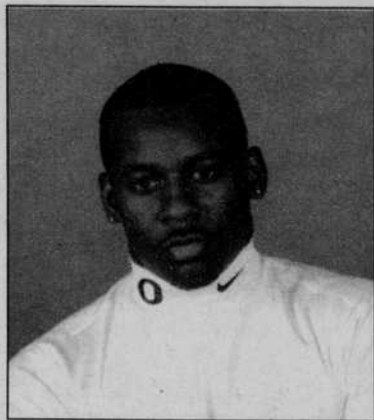
DUCK CAPTAINS

Four Ducks, two on offense and two on defense, were chosen as this game's team captains. Each will be looked upon to lead Oregon to its second consecutive conference win of the season.



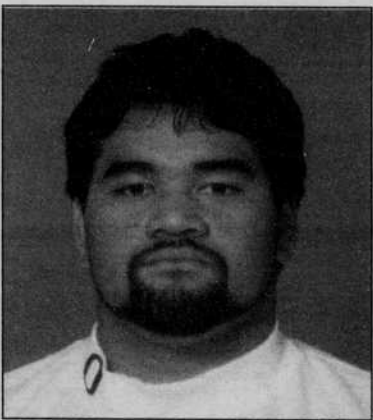
MICHAEL DELAGRANGE
RIGHT TACKLE

Michael DeLaGrange has filled in nicely at right tackle after Robin Knebel suffered an ankle injury. The Grants Pass native is one of Oregon's biggest athletes, standing 6-foot-6 and weighing 350 pounds. Injuries have been the only things that slowed the massive senior, who played in 10 games as a junior and started seven games as a sophomore. DeLaGrange garnered second-team all-state honors during his senior year at Grants Pass High School in 1999 and helped the Cavemen advance to the state quarterfinals for the first time in 16 years.



AARON GIPSON
CORNERBACK

Cornerback Aaron Gipson played one of the best games of his Oregon career last week, helping shut down Washington State wide receiver Jason Hill and intercepting his first pass of the season. The junior is tied for second on the team with 18 unassisted tackles and is one of the most experienced members of the Oregon secondary. A native of Fontana, Calif., Gipson started 11 games as a true freshman, which proved to be a daunting task. He has recovered, however, and has three career interceptions and 96 career tackles.



HALOTI NGATA
DEFENSIVE TACKLE



DANTE ROSARIO
FULLBACK

Coach: Team remembers McMillan

Continued from page 13B

The fast-paced, two-hour practices leave players exhausted, but they are more upbeat than in the past.

The night after a 49-8 loss to Washington State on Sept. 18, starting cornerback Eric McMillan was shot to death in his apartment. Two Seattle brothers have been arrested, but no motive has been established.

"You never think you will have tragedies like we have had in the first year," Holt said.

The players have maintained McMillan's locker and many have

tattoos with his number.

"Time is the best healer," Holt said. "They are comforted knowing Eric is with them."

Holt insists he does not regret leaving USC.

"The only thing I miss about USC is the coaches and players and great, great boosters they have," Holt said.

Next year, they move to the Western Athletic Conference, a league that makes more geographic sense than the far-flung Sun Belt.

The move to Division I-A has been

tough for the Vandals. They struggle to draw enough fans to meet I-A requirements, schedule numerous road games against tough opponents to pay the bills, and face constant criticism from university staff and alumni over the costs.

Recently, an advisory panel voiced concerns about the financial burden the higher division puts on the financially troubled school and brought up the idea of dropping to Division I-AA to save money. But university president Tim White reaffirmed the school's commitment to I-A.



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