

## Jones: Dark side wins, but school spirit stays intact

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many statistical categories. Unfortunately for the Ducks, they also allowed him to throw for three touchdowns.

Against the second-best pass defense in the conference, USC, Rodgers had one of the best passings in Pac-10 history. He completed his first 23 passes of the game (and stole the Pac-10 Player of the Week award from Kellen Clemens' six-touchdown performance against Washington State) on his way to going 29 of 31 for 267 yards and a touchdown.

The Ducks just don't have the continuity and the schemes to shut down this Cal team.

They will play well against the Golden Bears, much like against Oklahoma, but the game will have the same result — an Oregon loss.

Unfortunately, the other side of my brain (the I-still-have-school-pride-and-am-optimistic side) has been overwhelmed by the pure statistics and overall dominance of the Golden Bears. The "dark side" of my mind has won this argument.

But the other side of the mind is content with the fact that Oregon's season isn't lost if it loses.

It hopes.

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## Siegel: Kicker his own worst critic on a bad day, teammates say

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### Recruitment of a kicker

Coming out of high school, Siegel was recruited by many schools, but kickers aren't high on the priority list.

"Everyone's looking at you," Siegel said. "As a program slowly evaluates their needs they don't want to burn any bridges, but kickers, regardless of how good you are, are never at the top of the list."

Oregon piqued his interest because the program was heading in the right direction and supported its athletes on and off the field. But the Eugene area also brought Siegel to town.

"I saw the Eugene area being a good fit for me," Siegel said. "It was somewhere I could be happy because more than football, more than class, that's where you're going to live for the next four or five years."

### Oregon career

Siegel started his career on a team that went to the Fiesta Bowl and finished second in the nation. That's pretty big for an 18-year-old freshman.

"It was something I think you almost take for granted because it is just so overwhelming," Siegel said. "I was spoiled my freshman year, even my sophomore year, because we started 6-0 and thought we were on our way to the national championship."

They wouldn't go to the national championship, but Siegel would be named a first-team All-Pac-10 player

his sophomore year when he made 49 of 50 extra points and 20 of 24 field goals, including a 59-yard field goal against UCLA.

He went statistically slumped his junior year, but that was probably due to a slumping offense in 2003.

Freshman kicker Luke Bellotti said anytime Siegel misses a kick, Siegel himself is his worst critic.

"If he has a bad day, nobody will be harder on Jared than himself," Bellotti said. "But he is always excited to go back out there."

Now in his senior season, Siegel has accomplished a lot, not only on the field, but off the field as well. He has finished his undergraduate degree in business and is currently working on his MBA. He plans to finish the latter degree in the fall of 2005.

He even got married last June.

"Coming in as a freshman I saw a couple of the guys on the team married ... I never pictured myself being one of those guys," Siegel said. "I guess times changed and I grew up."

But Siegel said any football plans past Oregon would be a plus.

"I'm going to stay in shape and hope I get lucky and get an opportunity to kick," Siegel said. "But I'm not going to chase a dream forever."

"It will be weird (not playing football) though, because football has been part of my identity."

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## Preview: Bears intimidate with ground game

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receiving yardage this season, passing former Golden Bear Bobby Shaw. McArthur now has 2,802 yards to go along with his 177 career receptions.

Despite Cal's ability to move the ball through the air, the Golden Bears have done most of their damage on the ground.

Senior running back J.J. Arrington leads the Pac-10 in rushing yards with 1,106 and rushing touchdowns with 11.

Oregon middle linebacker Jerry Matson said limiting Arrington's production on first down will be the key to a Duck victory.

"If you control first down by stopping the run, you can do a lot of things on second down and third down that make it easier to get off

the field," Matson said. "If you give up five (yards) on first down, it's kind of like you're playing Yahtzee; you're rolling the dice."

Tedford said his team will have to be versatile on offense as he expects Oregon to focus on stopping the run.

"We're going to have to be diverse," Tedford said. "We're going to have to be balanced. There's not one phase we're going to be able to rely on. We're going to continue giving it a shot running the ball, but we're going to have to mix it up."

Defensively, Cal has been equally as tough. The Golden Bears are allowed only 12.3 points per game and are ranked seventh in the nation against the run (91.6 ypg).

Oregon has the weapons to crack the Cal defense, however. Quarter-

back Kellen Clemens enters Saturday as the Pac-10's leader in total offense, averaging more than 271 yards per game. Running back Terrence Whitehead is third in the conference with 819 rushing yards and ranks eighth in receptions with 34 for 310 yards.

Clemens said the Oregon offense will have its hands full against a Cal defense that hasn't allowed a point during its last two games.

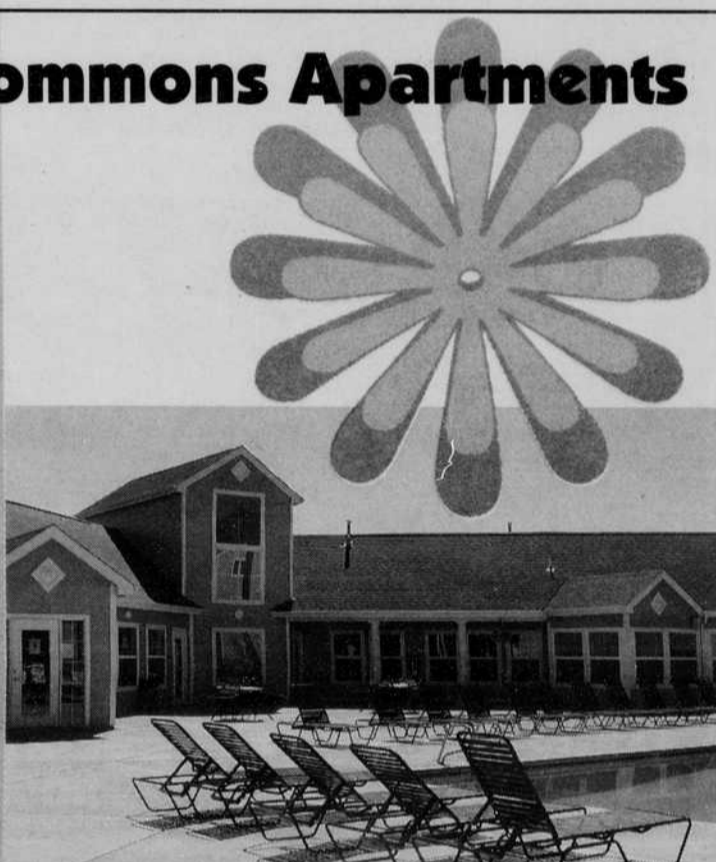
"They've got everything," Clemens said. "They've got speed in the secondary, they're very aggressive, and when it gets to the point where you're leading the Pac-10 in defense, they're struggling to keep you from getting every single yard that they can."

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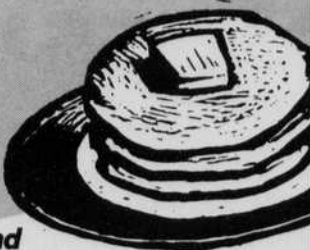
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