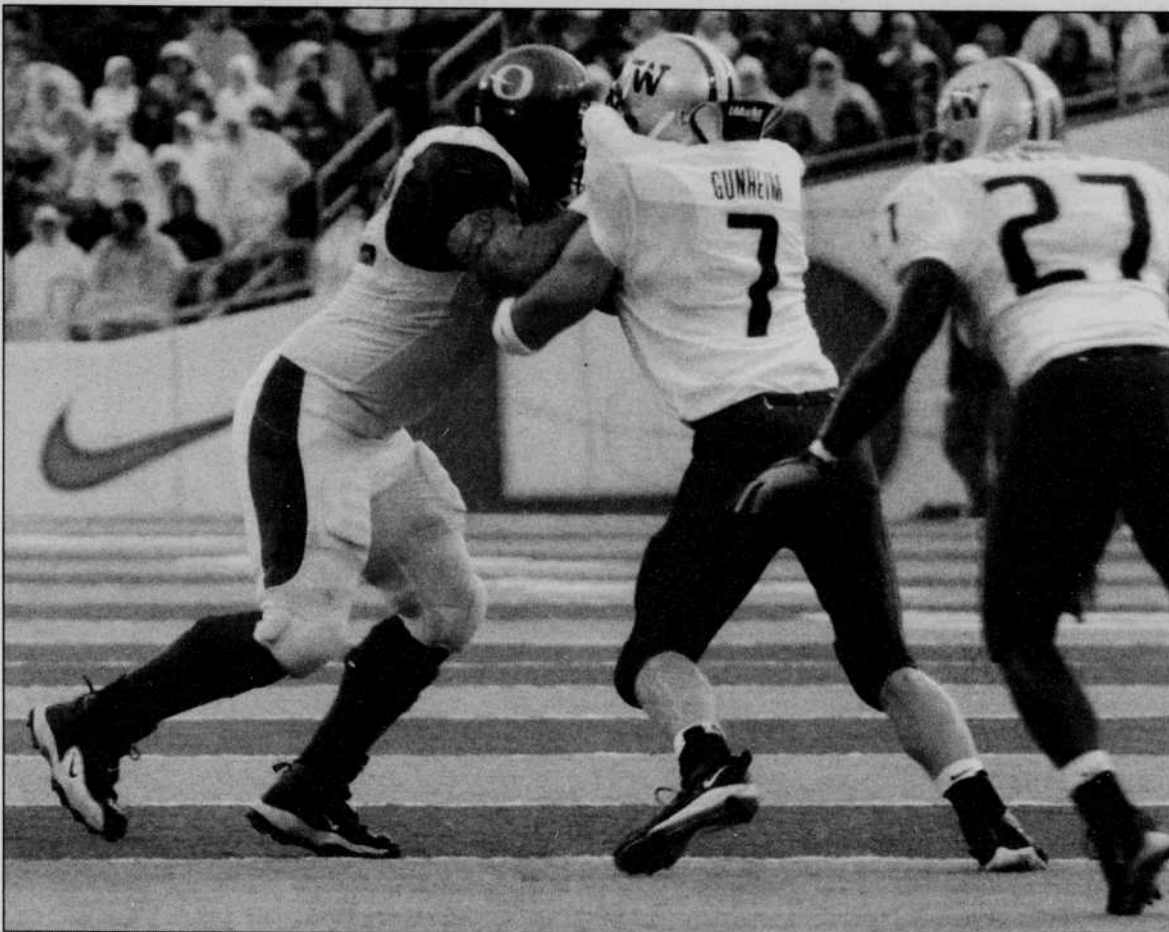




TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Adam Snyder, seen here earlier this season against Washington, has started 23 straight games going into Saturday's contest against Oregon State at Reser Stadium. The senior has started 34 games for the Ducks overall in his career.

Snyder takes 'no sugar' with his football

The senior offensive lineman has been a threat to opponents

BY CLAYTON JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

"No sugar."

That is the rallying cry that 25-year veteran offensive line coach Neal Zomboukos tells his offensive linemen about not getting or wanting the glory of the game.

Just do their job.

Not many have done it better for the Ducks than senior Adam Snyder.

"Me and him have been here a long time," fellow senior offensive lineman Nick Steitz said. "He has come out and proven himself since he came to Oregon."

Usually offensive linemen don't get the limelight, but this season has been a different experience for Snyder and some of the other linemen.

Snyder, along with Steitz and Robin Knebel, found himself on a billboard along Beltline Road.

"I don't know why they want to see our fat asses on the billboard," Snyder said. "They want to see guys like D. Will and Kellen. The showcase guys."

In the Oct. 21 issue of Sports Illustrated on Campus, Snyder found himself on the cover.

Once again the "no sugar" attitude set in.

"I hate being singled out," Snyder said. "I wish that could have been all five of us."

He also said Steitz doesn't let him forget that he was on the cover.

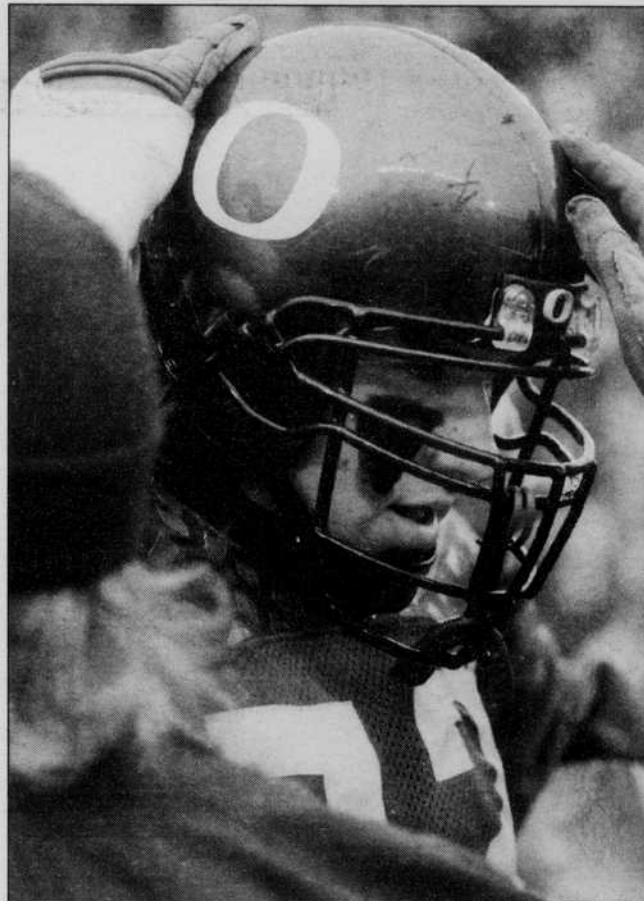
"I'll never hear the end of it from him," Snyder said.

But as much as he wants everyone to get the recognition, he has been an exceptional talent for the Ducks since the day he stepped on campus.

"He has such quick feet for a guy his size, and he will open up some holes," linebacker Jerry Matson said. "He is a great leader and a good role model for these guys."

Tough start leads to strong college career

Snyder's football journey started



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

in the fifth grade as an oversized elementary school kid. Unfortunately, his size forced him to play with kids much older than he.

"I was a fat kid growing up," Snyder said. "Since I was so big they made me play with eighth graders, and they beat on me pretty good."

Growing up in Whittier, Calif., Snyder would end up playing football at La Serna High School. He said it wasn't till his junior year that he realized he could really go places in football.

"I was about 250, 260 pounds, and my coach said I had a future in the game," Snyder said. "I was pretty small compared to the rest of our linemen."

Snyder said in his junior year of high school he was surrounded by 300-plus pound linemen.

"By my senior year, I got bigger and started getting attention (from colleges)," Snyder said.

Oregon's Adam Snyder became the first offensive lineman since 1995 to win Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Week when Oregon defeated Michigan at Autzen Stadium last season.

Schools started vying for Snyder, including Oregon, Arizona State, Southern California and Hawaii. He said he was impressed when the coaches from Oregon came down and talked to him and his family.

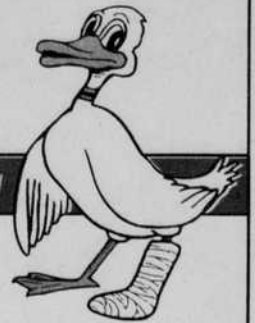
"I came (to Eugene) first and came home and told my parents that this is where I want to go," Snyder said. "They told me I needed to look at the other opportunities and not place my eggs all in one basket."

He then visited Arizona State and was told if he didn't commit, they weren't going to offer him a scholarship. He committed, but knew it was a mistake.

"I knew from the start I didn't want to go there," Snyder said. "I knew this (Oregon) was the place for me, so I called the guy from Arizona State that I changed my mind and

SNYDER, page 4B

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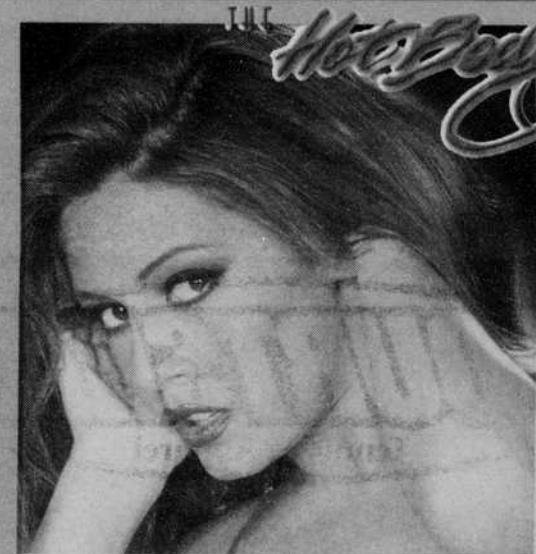
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