

■ Duck football

Defense dominates in first full-contact practice

BY JON ROETMAN
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

Haloti Ngata and Palauni Ma Sun lined up across from each other during Oregon's third spring practice Tuesday.

The 6-foot-5, 338-pound defensive tackle and the 6-foot-5, 365-pound guard collided during the lineman drill, creating a noise similar to a small automobile accident.

Ahh, the sounds of football.

The Ducks donned full pads for the first time this spring, leading to a general growth in tempo, intensity and defensive performance.

But while the pace of practice increased, a new offensive system and several young players learning new positions kept things from moving as quickly as head coach Mike Bellotti would have hoped.

"I thought the tempo was OK," Bellotti said. "There was a lot of learning on both sides of the ball, and that creates some indecision at times. I don't think our tempo was very crisp. I thought guys were attempting to hus-

tle, but a lot of times guys were uncertain (about their assignments).

"Typically in the spring there's a lot of ebb and flow about who has the advantage one day and who gets prepared to make up for it the next day."

Tuesday's most noticeable difference was the defense. After two days of soft play without pads, defenders were able to play with more aggression and passion during drills.

"The first two days the offense had us on our heels a little bit," rising senior cornerback Justin Phinisee said. "We couldn't hit them coming across the middle. (Receivers) do a lot of zig-zags and crossing. Putting on the pads, we were able to level them out coming across the middle, and it was key for us to eliminate routes."

The defense outplayed the offense during an 11-on-11 team drill at the end of practice, creating at least three turnovers and leading to conditioning for the offense after practice.

"I think it's the mentality of our defense," Phinisee said. "The history

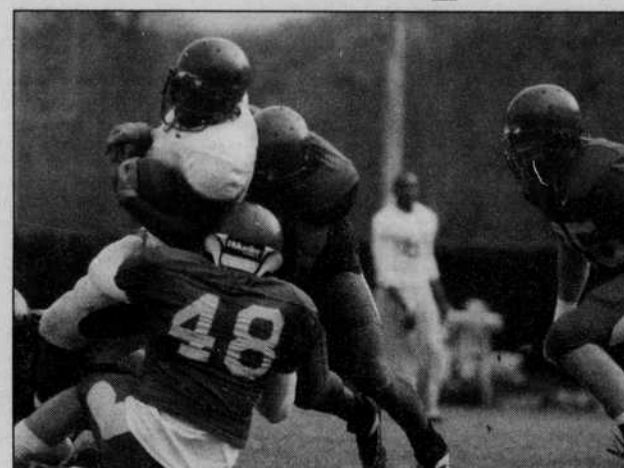
of Oregon defense is that we're going to dominate the offense. I don't care what they run, how they run it or who they're running it with, we're going to dominate."

One of those turnovers came when sophomore Cameron Colvin caught a pass near the left sideline and turned up field. Senior defensive back Demetrius Spates came up and hit the receiver, stripping the ball. Spates elicited cheers from his fellow defenders when he jumped on the fumble.

The loudest hit of the drill came when sophomore quarterback Brady Leaf's lobbed pass proved too high for freshman running back T.R. Smith in the left flat. Freshman cornerback Sharrod Davis stepped up and made solid contact with Smith. The two exchanged a few competitive shoves before returning to their respective sides.

Injuries

Senior defensive end Devan Long and senior cornerback Aaron Gipson sat out of drills for the sec-



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Oregon football team participated in its first practice in pads Tuesday. The defense outplayed the offense during the end of drills and forced a number of turnovers.

ond straight practice due to injury. Long tweaked a hamstring during the first day of spring drills and is considered day-to-day.

Gipson injured the sternoclavicular joint near his left shoulder on Saturday and has had his left arm in a sling during the last two practices.

He is also considered day-to-day. Bellotti said while there's a chance both players could practice later this week, each will likely sit out until next week.

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Giants get win without Bonds

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds accepted another shelf's worth of awards, then disappeared into the dugout and left it to his teammates to win without him.

Felipe Alou said throughout spring training that the Giants would find ways to be successful despite the absence of their injured star — and they showed it in their opener, against their rival and in front of a fervid sell-out crowd.

Ray Durham scored the go-ahead run on Jose Valentin's seventh-inning error at third, and Jason Schmidt struck out nine in seven strong innings to lead San Francisco over the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 on Tuesday.

And oh what a Giants debut for Omar Vizquel.

The nine-time Gold Glove shortstop, fighting nerves in the early innings, had a single, a double, a walk and a stolen base. He also combined with second baseman Durham to turn a crucial and difficult double play in the ninth inning — Durham scooped up a slow chopper by Milton Bradley and made an underhand toss to Vizquel, who then leapt over Jeff Kent and threw to first baseman J.T. Snow.

"I've been turning that double play for a while," said Vizquel, who spent the last 11 seasons with Cleveland. "I'm used to making that. No doubt we have a great defensive team."

What Vizquel considered a routine play was cause for celebration for San Francisco fans, who have been starved of great shortstop defense in recent years.

Edgardo Alfonzo, trimmer after a rigorous offseason routine, hit a tying two-run homer in the fourth for the Giants, favored to win the National League's West division.

"We have to come in every day and be positive," Alfonzo said. "We know we miss Barry, and everybody knows that. But we don't have to lay down."

Armando Benitez worked the ninth for his first save a Giant.