

*"I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game-winning shot... and I missed it. I have failed over and over again in my life. And that is precisely why I succeed."*  
NBA legend Michael Jordan on his success.

## ■ In my opinion



SCOTT J. ADAMS  
INTENTIONAL GROUNDING

## Duck fans don't have to settle for number two

A funny thing happened to me in the student section last week when I cheered in response to the announcement that Notre Dame was up by three against USC. My peers turned and looked at me as if I had just slapped their mothers, or yelled "Go Beavers," or "Four more years!"

Why are Duck fans cheering for the Trojans? The same team whose children we pledged to eat less than four weeks ago. Look, I know the stakes. We win out, they win out, we all win out. I'm all for rooting for a fellow Pacific-10 Conference team in its quest for a ticket to Pasadena this year, which would theoretically piggy-back Oregon into a better bowl game. But nothing is guaranteed these days in college football; just ask California fans. So what kind of man would dare dig his heels in and hope for the Trojans to lose this late in the season? You're looking at him.

My readers, if you are so hell-bent on backing a Pac-10 team toward going as far as they can, then I've got a team for you to root for — how about Oregon? The Ducks sit alone in third place in the conference standings, with the stiffest part of their schedule waving its fists at them in the rear-view mirror and only Cal, Oregon State and two .500 or worse teams to go before their to-be-determined bowl game. Meanwhile, No. 1 USC faces the Washington schools, the bay-area schools, Fresno State and UCLA. With this in mind, one of the two teams (UCLA or USC) coming ahead of Oregon is going to fall, leaving second place for Oregon's taking.

Don't get me wrong, a second-place finish would be an awesome feat for the Ducks in light of last season and it would be even nicer if Oregon's lone loss of the year came against the top-ranked Trojans. Still, no matter how many times you look at second place, it doesn't turn into first. For every Simon, there is a Garfunkel. Sadly enough, Oregon fans aren't even hoping for first, they're literally settling for second — it's like they're throwing in the towel. If being content as a runner-up could be put into words, I'd call it loser talk.

USC is one conference loss away from moving into a tie for first place with the Ducks and wouldn't you know it, if the Trojans lost last week to the Fighting Irish and somehow lose an upcoming game to a Pac-10 foe, Oregon is in the driver's seat.

Let me ask again, why are Duck fans cheering for the Trojans? Perhaps they feel that USC is simply not going to lose a game this season. If you look at their progress though, you'd see that the Trojans are getting closer and closer to being upset. With each game their opponents are getting more film to scout and are becoming less afraid of the Men of Troy. After their squeaker against Arkansas (70-17),

COLUMN, page 8

## ■ Club wushu



MARCUS LARSON | FOR THE EMERALD

University student Byron Chang practices his Wushu moves by performing a butterfly kick during a warm-up prior to a recent practice. Chang became interested in wushu after an extensive career in break dancing.

## Wushu builds bodies and minds

*The club, devoted to the practice of a 'performance type of kung fu,' meets three times a week and is free and open to all comers*

BY JACOB MAY  
FREELANCE REPORTER

Despite its popularity in mainstream movies such as "The Matrix" and "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon," it is doubtful that many students have any idea of what the sport of Wushu is or what it looks like.

Wushu in a general sense is considered to be a "performance type of kung-fu," according to club coordinator David Ng. The club's Web page describes the martial art as "the practice of keeping one's mind and body agile forever" and emphasizes "on posture, composure, self-control, spirit and lively movement."

From a historical perspective, Wushu was created as a way of combining offensive and defensive tactics that could be used in a time of war. The modern version of the sport still remains a combat type of exercise and it is currently the national sport of China.

In spite of its rich cultural history and cur-

rent popularity in the media, the club team practices with relative anonymity here at the University as the club consists of roughly a dozen members.

However, the club's small numbers are not relative to the competitiveness of the team. Last year, several members of the team placed in the top three of their respective divisions, which range from beginner to advanced.

Coach Phillip Dang also competes for the U.S. national team and won two events at an international meet in China last year. At the collegiate level, he is nearly unstoppable as a three-time Men's All-Around champion at the Collegiate Wushu Championships.

Ng realizes how lucky the team is to have a coach like Dang. "No matter how much they (the team members) know, they always learn from him," he said.

The team has two competitions every year, one in the winter and one in the spring. The team also practices and competes with

weapons such as the broadsword, straight sword, staff and spear.

The sport offers its participants "an intense physical training" that improves "speed, flexibility, coordination and strength." There are not only physical benefits, but mental ones as well. "Students of the art are encouraged to develop self-control and good character as well. Martial virtues include self-restraint, respect, persistence and perseverance," according to the club's Wushu Web site.

This year Ng said there are a quite a few new members, and his goal is to help bring them up to a competitive level. However, no one is required to compete. The club is free to join and open to anyone who is interested.

Ng also hopes to teach new members more about the sport in order for them to create a stronger interest and develop a passion for it.

If there ever was a way for an individual to come close to replicating Neo's moves from "The Matrix," Wushu is it. Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. and Fridays from 5-7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room 1, Room 41, at the Student Recreation Center.

## ■ Duck football

## Rejuvenated line helps propel Ducks

*Unprecedented pass protection has given Kellen Clemens more time to throw, which has played a part in the Ducks' No. 15 rank*

BY LUKE ANDREWS  
SPORTS REPORTER

In consecutive wins against Stanford, Arizona State and Washington, Oregon's new spread offense amassed 1,677 yards and 120 points.

Yet one of the most telling statistics may be the one — the number of sacks given up in the three games by the offensive line, which has proved to be a driving force behind the rebirth of an overwhelmingly powerful

Oregon offense.

"Our line has really gelled in the last few games," sophomore right tackle Geoff Schwartz said. "We're getting our calls down, our communication down and we're just making our blocks like we are supposed to do."

The offensive line entered the season under the microscope after surrendering a confer-

FOOTBALL, page 6