Football: Bye-week allows Ducks to get healthy again

one big explosion play to the house and it changes the shape of the game. (Lynch and Forsett) are both really quick guys and running really, really hard. They're both great backs overall.'

Despite their parting, Bellotti notices many similarities in Tedford's current scheme with those of Oregon's past.

"The defenses are probably a more common thread than the offenses," Bellotti said. "But certainly, I recognize a lot of things that they do. Jeff tends to repeat concepts, just package them differently. It's good offense, it's very successful.

Saturday's meeting will be the third time in four years that Bellotti and Tedford have squared off. Oregon won the first meeting in dramatic fashion with a 21-17 comeback win at Autzen Stadium

The Bears redeemed the loss last season, narrowly defeating the Ducks 28-27 in Berkeley to preserve their later unfounded Bowl Championship Series hopes.

Ducks soar after bye week

Under Bellotti, the Ducks are 8-1 in games following a bye week. The only loss was a 33-14 setback against Washington during the 1996 season. In 2004, Oregon was the last Division I team to begin the season and did not have a bye week. The timing of the Ducks' extra week may have come at the most opportune time. After the season-ending injury to senior quarterback Kellen Clemens, the bye week allowed backups Dennis Dixon and Brady Leaf to become acclimated to the system as well as a chance for the walking wounded to heal. According to Bellotti, reserve tight end Dan Kause (knee) is the only injured player on Oregon's roster.

"I think we're the healthiest we've been since fall camp," Bellotti said. "The second positive obviously was the opportunity to get two to three good days of practice for our young quarterbacks.

The bye week also occurred at a



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens will lead the Ducks from the sidelines for the rest of the season after an ankle injury at Arizona Oct. 22. Clemens underwent successful surgery Oct. 24.

crucial moment for California, a team fresh of a win against Washington State. California has had 23 players miss one or more games this season because of injuries.

Clemens to remain with Ducks

Bellotti noted that after successful ankle-surgery Clemens will remain with the Ducks as an "assistant coach" and will likely attend practice this week and the game on Saturday. Clemens had surgery on his left ankle after taking a hit from Arizona's Copeland Bryan in the Ducks' 28-21 victory.

"It will be good to have him around because he's a veteran, he's a leader, and he's experienced within the offense," Bellotti said. "He can help our quarterbacks in a lot of ways.

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New steroid policy proposed

BY HOWARD FENDRICH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aiming to spur baseball and other sports to adopt tougher steroids policies, senators Jim Bunning and John McCain are reintroducing legislation that would standardize drug testing and penalties for profession-

The new bill combines two already proposed separately by Bunning, a Kentucky Republican who was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame in 1996, and McCain, an Arizona Republican. Bunning, a former major league pitcher, said the new legislation would be introduced Tuesday or Wednesday.

"We have heard a lot of talk from professional sports leagues that they would do something to clean up this mess, but so far it has been just that: a lot of talk," Bunning said Tuesday during a conference call with reporters. "Hopefully Congress' action will light a fire under their feet to come to an agreement before we do it for them."

Like the earlier bills from Bunning and McCain, this one is based on the Olympic model, calling for a two-year suspension for an athlete who fails a steroids test for the first time and a lifetime ban for a second offense. Athletes would be tested at least five times per year, three during the season and two in the offseason. The proposal has a provision urging leagues to erase records achieved with the help of performance-enhancing drugs

Three House bills with similar testing minimums and punishments have been proposed, including one sponsored by Tom Davis, the Virginia Republican who chairs the Government Reform Committee. That panel held the March 17 hearing with Rafael Palmeiro, Mark McGwire and baseball officials.

"If pro sports leagues don't get a handle on this problem on their own, members of Congress will be more than willing to do it for them," Davis spokesman Dave Marin wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "No matter which bill ultimately moves forward, one thing is certain: In the absence of self-initiated progress, legislation becomes a matter of when, not if.'

During congressional hearings on steroids over the past eight months, the focus has been on baseball, and while Bunning's bill would also apply to the NFL, NBA and NHL, the timing of the reintroduction is tied to last week's end of the World Series.

Baseball currently suspends a player 10 days for a first offense. In April, commissioner Bud Selig called for a 50-game suspension after an initial positive test, a 100-game ban for second-time offenders and a lifetime ban for a third violation.

Under questioning from McCain at a Senate Commerce Committee hearing Sept. 28, baseball players union head Donald Fehr said he hoped a new steroids agreement could be reached by the end of the World Series.

Well, the World Series has come and gone, and they still have not come to an agreement, so we're going to move ahead in Congress," Bunning said. "It's my opinion that Major League Baseball and the players union will not come to an agreement that's satisfactory.'

Baseball executive vice president Rob Manfred issued a statement Tuesday reiterating Selig's stances: His proposed penalties would be appropriate, changes to the sport's policy should come through collective bargaining, and Selig would support legislation if baseball and the union can't reach agreement.

Fehr declined comment Tuesday, spokesman Greg Bouris said.

During the World Series, Selig and the union's chief operating officer, Gene Orza, said negotiations on a new steroids agreement were ongoing, but both refused to comment further. Last year, the union didn't go ahead with finalizing a new drug-testing agreement until after its annual executive board meeting in early December. This year's session is scheduled for Dec. 5-9 in Henderson, Nev.

AP Sports Writer Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

Crew: Early practices flush out uncommitted

worth of practices and meets under their belts.

"It's really nice for a West Coast team to go to the East Coast and show we can compete with them,"

The 28 members of the crew club can be found practicing most mornings from 6 to 8 a.m. on weekdays. The early time may seem harsh, but it's just par for the course for those who are serious about rowing.

"You weed out the people who don't want to be there," Fagan said.

The club is fortunate that it has found coaches who want to stay with the team. After being plagued by a high coaching turnover recently, Galen Mitterman and James Beasley look to steady the ship and provide direction for their crew.

"You have a sense of consistency, we trust them completely" Fagan said.

Consistency is important to Oregon rowers, a tightly knit group of people who strive to prove themselves against varsity teams with large budgets and travel arrangements more comfortable than the Ducks' 12-passenger vans.

"We're pretty much one family," Fagan said. "All of us take pride in that we're not given anything."

The members who persevered this year will fill six boats for competition - an eight, three fours and two double sculls. Scullers row with an oar in each hand, and the other types feature one oar to a rower. All of the boats will travel to Portland for the Portland Invitational Nov. 6-7 and take a trip to Seattle for the Head of the Lake Regatta the following week.

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Horoscope by Holiday Mathis

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 2). Your re-TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 2). Your relationships bring you many happy moments his year, and you'll be changing and growing because of them. Continue to hold yourself in the highest esteem. Next month, others reflect your attitude by paying you top dollar and basically giving you royal treatment. Travel in June. Invest in July. Love is intense with Leo or Virgo. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 53, 18, 45 and 26.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The stars favor any commerce you do, whether for yourself or on behalf of someone else. You know that in order to sell, you must speak to your customers' real needs. People don't buy matches -- they buy flames.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It would be wondefful to spend the day playing online poker. But alas, such exciting (and potentially cost-ly) pursuits are cheap thrills when compared to the business of taking one more step toward your goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you feel lost, leaders are around you. For instance, take the curious rise of a person in your social crowd. You might be inspired to ask a few questions -- like how can I follow in your foot-

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have a lavish smile, so generously share it throughout the day. Even when faced with strenuous complexities, you find a way to get through the situation with grace.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be doing busi-

exactly a communion of souls today, but you're working on it. Keep a positive thought for what tomorrow will bring. Also, you could get a window into the secret life of someone you thought you knew.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Irritating people seem to surround you. This is your chance to be compassionate. Though your desire to connect with others is strong, the skills needed to do so may not be so readily available. Do your best!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're feeling sassy. You'll probably ask for things you don't even want, just to see if you can get them. If you refuse to compromise, you can get your way. Financial speculations are right on the money — invest confidently.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-bec. 21). The myste-rious world engages you. What you need to know isn't easily figured out, but unraveiling a problem thread by thread is half the fun. Look for partners who are equally curious about the world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan, 19). Can you for-give someone without lowering this person either in your eyes or his? It's very difficult, but if anyone can do it, you can. The planets support outrageous acts of selflessness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though you believe the best in others, you should think carefully about doing so today. The more charming a person is, the more likely he or she is to be concealing something.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll wisely ness with a real stickler — don't forget to say please and thank you! What's really needed in your workplace is a creative solution. You can create rings around your competition.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your love life isn't

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The Other Coast





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