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OREGON'S ON-AIR ATTACK

Joe Giansante and Jerry Allen, the voices of the Ducks, are Eugene icons

BY SHAWN MILLER
SPORTS EDITOR

One could argue that television should be left to beautiful people, while radio is filled with ... well, whatever you think of either media, I'm sure of one thing: The University of Oregon is represented beyond the normal realm of collegiate athletics.

Oregon graduate Joe Giansante and Jerry Allen have worked their way to the top of the Eugene media — Giansante by sight and Allen by sound.

Giansante has gone from stomping around as the Duck mascot to manning the Oregon Sports Network, guiding football and basketball broadcasts as well as three coaches' shows — bigger and better than any other university in the nation.

"We do more TV than any other college in the country," Giansante said. "We have more shows for Oregon sports than any other university in the nation. We are very proud of that. I think it is fun to be able to have a position where you are able to do that, because in a lot of places you aren't."

Allen has perhaps the most renowned sports call in the northwest.

"Kenny Wheaton's gonna score ... Kenny Wheaton's gonna score," Allen exclaimed during Oregon football's most famous play — a 1994 Kenny Wheaton interception to seal a Duck victory over rival Washington, which was ranked in the top 10.

Both Giansante and Allen play an intricate but different role in broadcasting Oregon football and men's basketball games and both have played their part in broadening the knowledge of Oregon athletics nationwide (and it doesn't have anything to do with the Ducks' uniforms).

Fighting the misperception

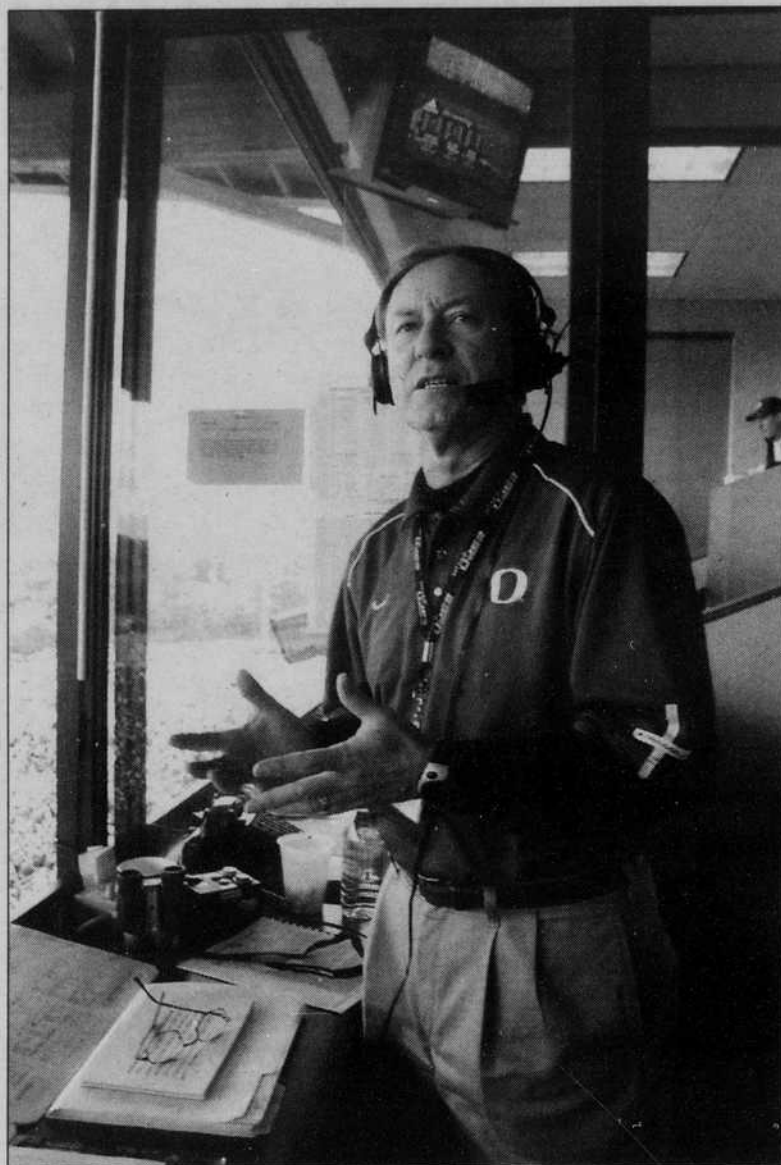
One of the biggest misperceptions that Giansante struggles with is that he can't separate his current job from his former job.

Giansante spent two years as the Duck mascot nearly two decades ago; however, that doesn't change many viewers' ideas that he is continuously biased toward Oregon.

"I think the biggest misperception about me is that I'm just a duck, and that no matter what I'm all-Duck," said Giansante, who is in his sixth year with OSN. "I actually spend more time studying the other team than I do studying Oregon. And I don't emotionally get attached, feel differently over a win or a loss."

That time is approximately 70 hours per week during football season and 50-55 during basketball and Giansante believes it pays off.

"It is a function of how much time



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Jerry Allen has been broadcasting Oregon football and men's basketball games over the radio since 1987. He also hosts a morning talk show on KUGN.

and effort and money somebody is willing to put into it," Giansante said. "If you have a company that is willing to spend the time, the money and the effort, then it will look good. That's one thing I am very pleased about is that our company has allowed us to have the resources to be able to do high-level programming."

Giansante produces and hosts seven separate shows, including coaches' shows for football and men's and women's basketball, as well as several other special topic shows relating to other Oregon sports. The coaches shows run each week during their season, while there is a separate football and basketball show that relate to the season.

"We work hard at our jobs, but I don't view it as work," Giansante said. "I view it as a chance to practice your passion, which is what is great about it. When I get up and go, I don't feel like I'm going to work."

And the best part of going to work is calling the game play-by-play, Giansante said.

"Of all the things, that is what you do this job for," he added. "It's like taking a test, really, I mean how

prepared are you when you sit down and take that test?"

Just a fan

Oregon's football games at Stanford and Arizona meant Duck fans unable to travel south had a chance to let their imagination combine with Allen's description to picture the games live. For fans wanting instant play-by-play of those two games, they had to tune into Allen's call since both games weren't on television.

Allen has what he calls the privilege of broadcasting for over 30 years, which began in an odd way.

"It was sort of a fluke because I really hadn't intended on getting into broadcasting," Allen said. "I was working in a soda shop across the street from a music shop and one of their (disc jockeys) came in one day and I was going through some music and he said, 'Hey, do you think you'd ever like to be on the radio?' I said, 'Yeah, I'd love to be a DJ. Who wouldn't?!'"

The then-junior at Grants Pass High School took the invitation to be

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