

# Media: Travel is toughest element of job

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the radio station's "gopher" and said he "just got hooked." His senior year he was able to get on the air part time and the first month out of high school he was hired as a full-time employee.

"I didn't go to school for it, I didn't study for it, I just fell into it," Allen said.

After working his way through several stations, Allen got the call in 1987 to work for the Ducks. He continues to work at KUGN 590 as the Oregon play-by-play broadcaster for both men's basketball and football. He also anchors news talk weekday mornings.

"I was hired by the University of Oregon, so I am a staff member there," Allen said. "When I was hired (Bill Burn) told me, 'Don't be afraid to be a fan. You work for the University of Oregon, 95 percent of the people who will be listening to the games are Duck fans, they don't mind if you are positive about the Ducks.' At the same time, I was aware that people early on would call me a homer because I sounded so positive for the Ducks."

That fine line is something that Allen hasn't worried about in a long time: See the call of the Wheaton play from over 11 years ago.

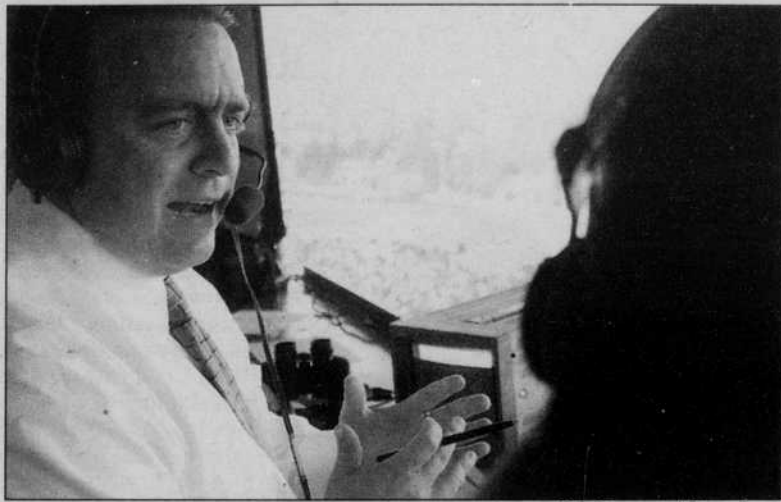
Known nationally for that call, Allen remembers that as the shining moment in his broadcasting career. It was a time that he went from announcer to fan and it didn't end up sounding bad.

"It was so automatic," Allen said of the call. "When that play began I was a professional announcer doing my job. By the time (Wheaton) is a third of the way down the field the professionalism sort of got lost and I became a fan. I got caught up in the moment."

"I get a lot of credit for a great play, when it was really Kenny Wheaton who made the great play. I was just saying what I was seeing."

## Flying away

Both Allen and Giansante agree that the extensive travel schedule is the toughest factor to deal with. Every home and away game for both broadcasters is another event they



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon graduate Joe Giansante, left, describes a recent home Oregon football game. Giansante works as the play-by-play broadcaster for the Oregon Sports Network.

have to be at, whether it is in the friendly confines of Autzen Stadium or a basketball road trip to Tennessee.

"The traveling is really tough," Allen said. "It's fun, there is an element of fun to it. You get to be with the team, in a small way you get to be a part of their family. But you also miss your family too."

"I've missed a lot of birthday parties, a lot of sporting events, a lot of school plays, and stuff like that. And that was hard."

While Allen's children are grown up, Giansante has two young daughters that are dealing with the process.

"Being away from my family and traveling is definitely the hardest part of the job," Giansante said.

## Kickoff or tipoff?

And what sport is the best to broadcast?

"There is nothing better than the spectacle of a Saturday," Giansante said referring to football. "Basketball I enjoy so much because there are fewer players ... you get to know them a little bit more on a personal basis, you become a little more connected to their successes and failures because you know them so well — you travel with them on the road, there is only 15 of them instead of 105. I think you get connected a little

bit more with basketball and live and die with their success more than you do with football."

Allen agrees that both sports bring a different excitement and energy.

"Each has its season," Allen said. "What I mean by that is when football starts, I am so anxious for football I just cannot wait for it to get going. Then, by the end of the season, traveling and working, you start to get a little tired — the season seems long. Then it's like, football has been fun, but it's nice for a change so you are anxious for basketball."

"By the end of basketball season, it has been a long season and the traveling gets to you ... you are starting to look for basketball to be over, then you can't wait for football to start the next year. It comes in cycles, you can't wait for it to get going, but then when it gets to the end of it you are ready for something else to come along."

The new cycle is in overdrive as basketball season is beginning and football is winding down. Now it is time for Giansante and Allen to put away the football slogans and dust off the basketball jargon, which shouldn't be a problem since both are just moving along in the next phase of their dream.

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