

OSU

Continued from Page 1B

just 14 sacks to rank last in the Pac-12. OSU must do a better job pressuring quarterbacks to give the secondary a chance in a pass-oriented conference.

Junior end Jeromy Reichner, a transfer from Los Angeles Valley College, could develop into the edge pass rusher OSU desperately needs.

3. Will Crawford and Williams return to form?

Junior cornerback Xavier Crawford (shoulder), a freshman All-American in 2016, and senior corner Dwayne Williams (knee) both missed more than half the 2017 season after opening the year as starters.

If Crawford and Williams return to

form, combined with safeties David Morris and Jalen Moore, who tied for second in tackles last season with 75 apiece, OSU could have the makings of a solid secondary.

4. Can the offense stretch the field?

The downfield passing game, so prevalent during the Derek Anderson and Sean Mannion eras, has been missing in recent years. That needs to change.

Luton has the ability to make teams pay if they load the box.

Wide receiver Trevon Bradford averaged 18.5 yards per catch last season and tight end Noah Togia is another player to watch in the mid-range passing game.

OSU quarterbacks were only sacked 18 times last season and with four starters returning on the offensive line, pass

protection should be excellent.

5. Can the Beavers regain confidence

OSU opens at perennial power Ohio State, which isn't exactly an ideal opponent for a program in rebuilding mode that has lost 19 consecutive road games. But if the Beavers are competitive, it would go a long way in building confidence.

Last season former coach Gary Andersen abandoned ship at mid-season, which was a blow to team morale.

The 2018 Beavers have a leader in Smith who has strong ties to Beaver Nation and will stay the course.

Oregon State football

Coach: Jonathan Smith

2017 record: 1-11, 0-9 Pac-12 (last in North Division)

Starters returning: Seven on offense, six on defense, one kicker

Preseason practice: Opens Aug. 3

Season opener: 9 a.m. Sept. 1 at Ohio State (ABC)

Quote: "That's nothing that any of the guys on this team are gonna shy away from. We're going in there, we're gonna put our best effort on the field and come out with a win."

- OSU quarterback Jake Luton on opening at Ohio State

Returning statistical leaders

Passing: Jake Luton, 83-154 (61.5 percent), 853 yards, four TDs, four interceptions

Rushing: Artavis Pierce, 68 rushes, 323 yards (4.8 yards per carry), one TD

Receiving: Noah Togia, 34 receptions, 461 yards, two TDs

Tackles: David Morris and Jalen Moore, 75 apiece

Sacks: Jonathan Willis, three

Heisman

Continued from Page 1B

playmakers for the Ducks this season who could step up and help Herbert win college football's most prestigious award:

5 key teammates for QB Justin Herbert

1. Dillon Mitchell (junior, WR) — As a sophomore last season, Mitchell took a big step forward and led the team with 42 catches and 517 yards, and he was second on the team with four touchdowns. His numbers would have been better had Herbert not missed five starts — the passing game was nonexistent

with Braxton Burmeister at quarterback. Although Mitchell had a decent season, it feels like he has so much more potential to become a consistent stretch-the-field receiver.

2. Tony Brooks-James (senior, RB) — With Freeman now with the Denver Broncos, Brooks-James will be the lead back for the Ducks. Brooks-James led all Oregon running backs last season with 15 catches, and he trailed only Freeman among running backs with 144 receiving yards. Not only does he have the potential to be valuable catching the ball out of the backfield, but it will be important for the Ducks' running game to be as potent as in the past to open up opportunities downfield for Herbert in the passing game. Oregon likely will use more of a rotation at running back than in the past, but they'll need Brooks-James to be a dynamic starter at the position.

3. Jacob Breeland (junior, TE) — Last season, Breeland became a favorite target for Herbert, catching 18 passes for 320 yards and a team-high five touchdowns. He's like a security blanket for Herbert, a trustworthy go-to option, especially near or in the red zone. With a full season of a healthy Herbert, we could see Breeland have a big year.

4. Tabari Hines (senior transfer, WR) — Hines is a graduate transfer from Wake Forest who is expected to play right away for the Ducks. Last season, he was tied for the team lead with 53 catches, and was second on the Demon Deacons with 683 yards. He also caught seven touchdowns. Hines should be a legit stretch-the-field receiver for Herbert, and he could very quickly become an impact player for Oregon.

5. Jake Hanson (junior, OL) — With Tyrell Crosby now with the Detroit Lions, Hanson is the leader of the offensive



Oregon Ducks tight end Jacob Breeland (27) catches a pass for a touchdown in the second quarter against the Arizona Wildcats at Autzen Stadium on Nov. 18. SCOTT OLMOS-USA TODAY SPORTS

Frederick "Fred" Stephen Maurer

BEND - Frederick "Fred" Stephen Maurer passed away at his home on July 16, 2018, with his wife by his side. He was born on September 2, 1952. He is survived by his wife Betsy Maurer (Ownbey), of Bend; son Shawn Maurer, also of Bend; and sister Darlene Maurer of Beaverton, Oregon. A Memorial Mass will be held at the St. Francis of Assisi Church, located at 2450 NE 27th Street in Bend, Oregon, 97701. The service will begin at 10 AM on Friday July 27, 2018, with a Rosary being held beforehand at 9:45 AM. In lieu of flowers please donate to your favorite charity in Fred's memory; alternatively, please donate to Partners in Care Hospice of Bend, Oregon. Baird Funeral Home of Bend in charge of arrangements, www.bairdfh.com, 541-382-0903.



Wake Forest wide receiver Tabari Hines (1) catches a pass for a touchdown last season. Hines will play this season for Oregon as a graduate transfer. JEREMY BREVARD-USA TODAY SPORTS

line. As an incoming junior, Hanson has started in 25 consecutive games

for the Ducks. He handles the ball on every play, and he's responsible for call-

ing out blocking schemes. Oregon needs to keep Herbert healthy,

and Hanson will play a significant role in that.

Halibut

Continued from Page 1B

"That was a big boat, great for fishing," Frank said, adding, "I really miss him. He was a great guy."

There's a lot of that going around.

Ever the journalist, Frank still writes a column for quarterly newsletter of the Lincoln City Senior Center where he occasionally goes to shoot pool. And he goes to swim almost daily at the community pool.

"I'm not doing much fishing," Frank said. "I go and do my swimming in the morning, come back and practice my piano a little bit, then I'm pretty wiped out."

Staying active has kept Frank's mind tack-sharp. His pedigree helps.

"My grandpa was a saddle- and harness-maker, and he ended up his career as a contract harness-maker at Santa Anita and Hollywood Park (Southern California horse-racing tracks, the latter defunct). He was fixing tack and jockey's boots and that sort of thing.

"He ended up doing that until he was about 90 years old. My grandpa died when he was 98, just short of his 99th birthday."

Frank grinned.

"So I got the genes."

The passion for radios that he picked up in the service never has waned.

Frank's roof sports a massive ham radio antenna that looks like an outsized wire clothesline. And he's got another long-wire antenna that spans 120 feet off of his house.

He has made replica World War II-era Paraset "spy" radios that were used by the resistance in occupied Europe.

And Frank checks in nightly with the Oregon Emergency Network and serves with the Lincoln County Auxiliary Communications Service, the last best means of communication during disasters such as storm-caused power outages.

Frank is among the most amazing and amusing people who I know.

"I'm really grateful. I've had a good run, you know," he said as I was getting ready to leave because Frank had an appointment. "Life's good."

"I'm really happy, Henry. I've got a good family, and a lot of friends down here and everything."

Yes, you do.

Henry Miller is a retired Statesman Journal outdoor columnist and writer. He can be reached via email at Henry-MillerSJ@gmail.com.



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