

# OREGON PROFILE



Ken Warner

## Warner hopes college is a snap

The past few weeks it has been hard to get Ken Warner enthusiastic about anything that wasn't wearing a halter top. Sure, the Barlow grad had fun in the Shrine all-star game, but the two weeks of practice before that . . . well, let's face it, two-a-days in 107 degree weather can sour a person real fast.

And Warner's summer job before the Shrine commitment wasn't exactly a piece of cake. He shoveled concrete. You can take that kind of job and shovel it.

And before Warner's summer job was the spring of his senior year and his last season competing in track, one he describes, more or less, as Pitsville. That is all right if you are a pit user, e.g., a pole vaulter or long jumper, but no fun if your specialty is the javelin.

Warner won the Wilco League javelin championship but disappeared at the state meet. Pitsville.

In retrospect, the highlights of Warner's high school years came not in football, but in track, he says. But last spring was still the pits. "My junior year of track (when he was third in the javelin at state) was pretty exciting. All of my years were pretty exciting — except the last one."

But things are looking up, these days. Right now he is toiling away in fall football drills at the University of Oregon. That's no day at the beach, either. But now Warner has a goal. And that makes all the difference in the world.

"I'd like to work my butt off and make the specialty team or the traveling squad," he says. "They wanted me to try long snapping so I've been working on that, too."

Warner gained considerable notoriety last fall as a defensive tackle, earning all-league honors for his exploits. But at 6-5½ and 220 pounds he has the build of the prototypical defensive end. "It's a little change from tackle," Warner says, acknowledging the fact he is grateful just for the chance to make it.

Warner garnered a scholarship from Oregon by the skin of his teeth. It wasn't that he wasn't wanted; it's just that Duck coach Rich Brooks had given out the last of his rides by the time he discovered Warner.

"Coach Brooks told me he had promised all his scholarships," Warner says. "He wanted me to walk on and pay for my tuition my first term, than I could get a scholarship after that. But he said if he lost anybody at all, he'd give me a call. Well, I didn't really know how honest he was. I wasn't sure he'd call back. I figured if he did it would be about a month later. About a week later he calls from California and says 'You've got the scholarship if you want it.' That proved to me he was a pretty honest guy."

Then it should make Warner feel pretty good when Brooks says, "I think Warner is a fine prospect. He's going to have to gain a little weight and strength, but I think his future is bright."

Warner could get his chance sooner than he might think. As experienced as the Ducks are elsewhere, they are a little thin on the defensive line. A productive fall camp could put Warner right in the thick of things.

And that's something to get enthusiastic about.

DICK BALTUS

**'I think Warner is a fine prospect.  
I think his future is bright.'**

**— Rich Brooks**

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