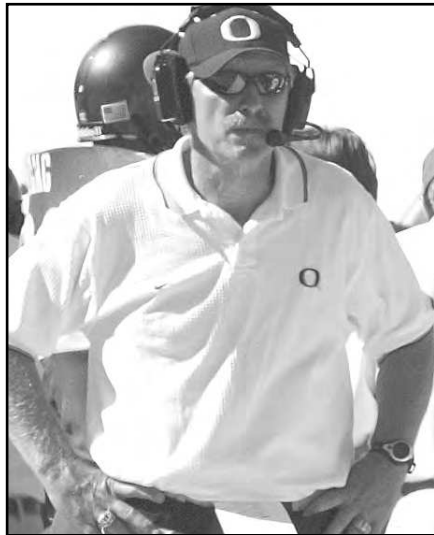


Coach's Corner

AN INTERVIEW WITH OREGON FOOTBALL COACH MIKE BELLOTTI



Brian Schapper, BODOGSPORTS.COM

THIS IS YOUR PLACE TO ASK THE COACH YOUR QUESTIONS EACH WEEK. Call or e-mail us at Ducks Illustrated after every game up till 10 am Monday and we'll choose what we think are the best questions each week for the coach. Email to: jettwin@yahoo.com or call 342-3720 and leave your question and name.

Q: Do you have any thoughts about your players' response to the Paris Warren story and his negative comments about Oregon?

A: No, I haven't heard anything and I don't know if they've seen his

comments. It's a shame. Paris is a good receiver, we recruited him here and he chose to leave. That was his choice not ours, so I feel bad about it. He had no reason to leave. We gave him a lot of breaks and took good care of him.

Q: How's the short week with a Friday game going to affect things?

A: I don't think any coach ever likes a short week of preparation. I would like the full week but it's nice to get back on the field as soon as possible. I think Utah is a quality football team that presents a lot of problems for us. In that regard I'd rather play somebody else. Because what they do offensively being a non-traditional unconventional offense it is difficult to prepare for in a regular week, let alone a short week.

Q: How much will the return of Quinn Dorsey help?

A: I think he'll help the team, no question. I think he's a proven commodity, was a starter and sack leader for us. So, it's exciting to have him back, another healthy body and a guy with speed coming off the edge and I'm sure we'll factor him into the game plan. I think he's healthy and very ready to go.

Q: What do you think of Utah's running back Brandon Warfield?

A: He's scary. One because of his ability. He's a tremendous running back. He's

got speed, he's got shiftiness, he's got power. But because they spread you out more than any team we've played with a great running back, those are huge concerns because he catches the ball, runs on the option, on reverses, on fly sweeps, and just basic running plays, but all the other things that occur when you are spread out and with more territory to cover. I think he may be the most dangerous running back we've seen thus far. Cal did a pretty good job for three quarters of keeping him under control until the 4th quarter when he took off on them.

Q: How's the team attitude?

A: I think the attitude is pretty good. They're excited to get back on the field. Young people are much more resilient than old people!

Q: Have the injuries at tight end forced you to alter some of your plans?

A: Absolutely. We don't have the depth there and certainly neither the size nor the experience that we've had in the past and that's a factor and obviously we want to keep those guys healthy. We've got to come up with an alternative method of getting the ball to a 3rd and 4th receiver.

Q: Does the one loss change your goals?

A: It changed one. We didn't want to lose a game so we have to move on from there. I think any time you lose you want to make sure you understand

why it happened so that you can profit from a loss in some manner with a greater resolve and greater attention to detail, but you have to move on.

Q: What did you learn from watching the WSU game film?

A: It was very simple. It was a game that got away from us early due to our own mistakes and inability to protect the football. The difficult thing was trying to figure how to strategize to be able to come back.

Q: Will there be any adjustments with the quarterbacks with all the tips?

A: We'll try to do some things to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Q: What's your reaction to John Mackovic's firing?

A: I don't think it's a positive day when anybody gets fired at any point in time. And I also think it was interesting that the A.D. said up until last week that he was going to evaluate at the end of the season and that he had never fired anybody mid-season in 19 years and then he changes his mind all of a sudden. Obviously there's some trust issues around the nation right now both ways. I just think it's unfortunate. I respect John Mackovic as a person and as a coach just in my dealings with him, but I just think anytime anybody is let go in midseason it's the wrong message to send to everybody. **O**



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DUCKS ILLUSTRATED

Conclusion Jumpers Anonymous

Is it me, or does every game warrant a complete re-evaluation of where the Ducks stand, whether it be the rankings, the mind of the fans, media or the national picture. Walking out of Autzen after Michigan it was on top of the mountain, but this past Saturday it was through the Valley of Death. Just check out the calendar, they don't give out October trophies. I won't take the time researching, but I'm guessing the number of teams in Pac-10 history who have coughed up the rock 9 times and won is a really small number. I must quote that brilliant philosopher, Bugs Bunny to describe the segment of the Wazzou loss when things got out of hand. It was a "revoltin' development"! The trilogy of horror was the dropped TD pass by Samie Parker, the dumb penalty and the pick for a score on the next play. Instead of 17-8 with a shot to get two and get within one score, it was 24-2. The wheels were wobbly and about to come off. I really did not enjoy that first half.

I'm thinking we need to get legislation

passed incorporating this nightmare. Duck fans convicted of certain crimes must be subject to repeated viewing of Washington State 55, Oregon 16. The key is taking a page out of the movie "A Clockwork Orange". The defendant must be strapped into a really uncomfortable chair with toothpicks keeping their eyes open.

I noticed a lot of people not pleased with the Cougar fans chanting "Over-rated"! Get over it! Stand up folks know when you dish it out, you have to eat it. Let's give Bill Doba and his people credit. They utilized their speed on defense to keep the Ducks way off balance in the early going. The plan to have linemen play hands up lead to a bunch of batted balls. They did not go into a shell with a big lead but went for the jugular. If not for that atrocious quarter against Notre Dame, they'd be locked into the top 10 dreaming national title. Considering Cal beat USC, you've got to think they've got as good a shot as anyone.

For the record, my wife and I stayed for every snap. I have no explanation, as our seats are in the second row immediately behind the Oregon bench on the 50-yard line directly in the sun. It must have hit triple digits and we baked. By the time we came out of delirium the final gun had sounded. My lovely bride had the line of the day. She says a whole generation of young fans will think the final two words to our National Anthem is "Go Ducks"! You know not much happening is good when this is a personal highlight.

A couple of Eugene high schools were well represented on the sidelines. In green you have Sol & Caleb Rexius of Churchill

with Sheldon's Mike Proulx and Luke Bellotti. For the Cougs, Irish linebacker Chris Baltzer got on the field and dirtied his #56 while record holding QB Alex Brink, 3rd on the depth charts, sends in plays.

Now it's a trip to Utah for a rare Friday night match-up. If I ran planet earth, college football would be played on Saturday afternoon, period! The Utes are riding high after the upset of Colorado State. Their stud cornerback Arnold Parker took a fumble 80 yards for the clincher with a minute and a half left to win it 28-21. They will force feed the run. The top gun is Brandon Warfield who ran for 181 at Texas A & M. They came up just two points short against

the Aggies in College Station. Utah beat California 2 weeks ago! The Ute quarterback is now Alex Smith. The sophomore took over when starter Brett Elliot busted his wrist in game 2. Aside from the A&M game their pass defense has been suspect. This is another big test for Oregon. They must shelve the Washington State debacle and rebound in a tough place. In last week's piece I listed my top 5 all time games attended. I won't follow up with my new bottom 5. It's a journey down memory lane I'll pass on. **O**

Steve hosts **SportsTalk** on KPNW Radio AM1120, Eugene, Monday-Friday, 4-6 p.m.



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