

Oregon’s Carrington, Forde benched after positive drug tests

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

DALLAS — Oregon was forced to bench two players because of failed drug tests days before the team competes in the first College Football Playoff title game, the latest hit to a roster already depleted by injuries.

Wide receiver Darren Carrington and running back Ayele Forde did not travel with Oregon for today’s national championship game against Ohio State after each failed NCAA-mandated drug test. Carrington tested positive for marijuana; the results of Forde’s test weren’t disclosed.

Oregon coach Mark Helfrich insisted Saturday that the team remained focused.

“Unfortunately, we’ve been tested in the realm of guys not being available for whatever reason all season long,” Helfrich said. “And our guys have stepped up.”

The loss of Carrington is particularly difficult for the Ducks, who are already short at receiver for Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Marcus Mariota.

The players were tested before the team’s Rose Bowl appearance, a person with direct knowledge of the tests told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of student privacy rules.

The NCAA conducts random drug testing for championship events and bowl games. Those tests can be done before or after an event and the school is given no notice about how many players will be tested.

A failed test for recreational drugs results in the NCAA requiring the school to declare the player ineligible. The penalty for a failed test is 50 percent of a season, which means Carrington could miss up to five games next year. The national championship would have been Forde’s last game.

Oregon can appeal the NCAA ruling. But on Saturday, Oregon coaches and players said they were moving forward without Carrington and Forde.

“I think anytime you put something in your body that doesn’t belong there it’s a bad



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota throws against Florida State in the Rose Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal in Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 1.

decision,” Oregon offensive coordinator Scott Frost said.

Not having Carrington leaves the Ducks down two key wide receivers against Ohio State. Carrington, a 6-foot-2, 191-pound redshirt freshman, had seven catches for 166 yards and two touchdowns in Oregon’s Rose Bowl victory over Florida State.

Mariota said the team was disappointed and that he hadn’t

talked to Carrington.

“I think a lot of guys feel guilty like they should have helped, including myself,” Mariota said. “It’s tough.”

Last week, Oregon lost redshirt freshman receiver Devon Allen on the opening kickoff with a knee injury. Allen had 41 catches for 684 yards and seven touchdowns.

The Ducks have also been playing for the last four games

without star tight end Pharoah Brown, who went down with a season-ending leg injury against Utah.

And before the season started, junior receiver Bralon Addison tore a ligament in his left knee. Although Addison said Saturday at the team’s media availability in Dallas that he could play in the championship game, Oregon’s coaches don’t want to burn his redshirt year.



AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi

Oregon wide receiver Darren Carrington scores against Florida State during the Rose Bowl. Carrington will not play in today’s national championship because he was suspended after a positive drug test.

IF YOU WATCH

Game: Oregon plays against Ohio State for the national title
When: Today at 5:30 p.m.
What channel: ESPN

The Ducks weren’t only hit by injuries to receivers. They also were able to overcome a spate of injuries to their offensive line.

“We have a bunch of highly skilled guys that are very confident in what they’re doing,” Helfrich said. “Marcus is confident in those guys and we’re confident in those guys.”

Carrington’s absence leaves Oregon, which regularly uses three- and four-receiver formations, with Byron Marshall (66 catches for 834 yards), Dwayne Stafford (39 for 578), Keanon Lowe (25 for 359) and freshman Charles Nelson (11 for 101) to rely on.

“We all know as receivers that we’re going to have to step up. It’s the last game of the season. We’re going to have to make plays and play basically our best game ever,” Nelson said.

Helfrich confirmed that Forde was not with the team because of an NCAA policy matter. A team spokesman said it was for the same reason as Carrington’s absence.

Forde, a senior running back who is a contributor on special teams, played in all 14 games

this season, with three carries for 17 yards. He had a carry for five yards in the Pac-12 championship against Arizona.

It is not the first time a player at Oregon have faced allegations of marijuana use. Back in 2012, a report in ESPN The Magazine estimated that between 40 and 60 percent of Oregon players used marijuana — which was blasted by then-coach Chip Kelly as inaccurate.

The state approved a measure last fall that legalizes certain amounts of the drug for recreational use. However, that law does not take effect until July 1, and Oregon maintains an aggressive drug policy for its student athletes, which includes random testing. The program has not indicated that would change with legalization.

“I think the biggest thing, from our standpoint, is there’s no study from a student athlete-type perspective that (marijuana) is a positive in any way,” Helfrich said at a news conference the day the measure passed.

Though legalization efforts also have succeeded in Washington state and Colorado, the NCAA maintains its policy against positive tests for drugs, including marijuana, at championship events. Schools in those states have also maintained drug policies for athletes.

Associated Press College Football Writer Ralph D. Russo and AP Sports Writer Stephen Hawkins contributed to this report.

Oregon’s college sports history includes Astoria connection

DALLAS — If any player can appreciate Oregon’s shared history with Ohio State, it’s Johnathan Loyd.

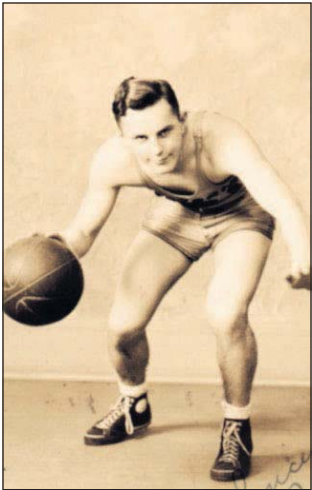
He’s been around a while, but no, Loyd isn’t old enough to remember the Oregon Webfoots’ victory over Ohio State in the first NCAA basketball tournament. He’s heard the stories, though, and the former point guard recognizes the symmetry of the Ducks playing Ohio State in the inaugural College Football Playoff.

If Loyd plays a snap tonight, he’ll become the first player in school history to appear in an NCAA Tournament and a football national championship game. Fittingly, the opponent is Ohio State, the team defeated by Oregon’s Tall Firs in 1939.

“It’s kind of fate,” said Loyd, a wide receiver who has four receptions and a touchdown after joining the football team last spring. “First in this one, first in that one. It’s cool to be a part of this.”

Oregon’s victory against the Buckeyes 75 years ago is one of several milestone matchups between the two schools. Here are four memorable games between the Ducks and Bucks, leading up to today’s national championship.

1939 NCAA Basketball Championship
Oregon 46, Ohio State 33
The first NCAA Tourna-



Courtesy of Clatsop County Historical Society

Bobby Anet

ment hardly resembled the March Madness phenomenon of today. Looking for an event to rival the new National Invitation Tournament, a group of coaches led by Ohio State’s Harold Olsen and Kansas’ Phog Allen formed an eight-team tournament that would draw 5,500 fans for its championship game at Northwestern’s Patten Gymnasium.

The Webfoots, champions of the Pacific Coast Conference, were known as the Tall Firs because of their imposing front line of 6-foot-8 center Slim Wintermute and 6-4 forwards Laddie Gale and John Dick. Most of the team was

from Astoria, including Bobby Anet. Victories against Texas and Oklahoma propelled them to the championship game, where Dick’s 13 points led all scorers.

The NCAA famously paid the National Association of Basketball Coaches \$2,531 to cover financial losses for the fledgling tournament, which achieved little national recognition. Oregon fans gave their team a hero’s welcome, though, waiting at train stations throughout the state to greet the Webfoots.

The Buckeyes were hampered by an injury to All-American Jimmy Hull and the defense of Oregon guard Bobby Anet, who, according to an anecdote captured in Sports Illustrated, crashed into the scorer’s table and broke the first championship trophy.

1958 Rose Bowl
Ohio State 10, Oregon 7

Bidding for their second national title in four years under coach Woody Hayes, the Buckeyes were heavy favorites against an Oregon team making its first Rose Bowl appearance in 38 years.

The Ducks, picked seventh in the PCC, finished in a tie for first despite losing to Oregon State in the Civil War. Since the Beavers had played in the Rose

Bowl the previous season, Len Casanova’s team earned the right to face the Buckeyes in Pasadena.

Ohio State scored a touchdown on its first drive but didn’t find the end zone again. Ron Sutherin’s field goal put the Buckeyes in front in the fourth quarter, and a fourth-down pass from Oregon’s Jack Crabtree — one of two players to earn Rose Bowl MVP honors for a losing team — fell incomplete with 47 seconds remaining.

1967 Autzen Stadium
Ohio State 30, Oregon 0

According to Mike Ritchey, the son of former Oregon athletic director Norv Ritchey, the 1967 meeting was the product of a handshake agreement between the Ducks and Buckeyes at the 1958 Rose Bowl.

Oregon hoped to build a new stadium, and the Buckeyes agreed to visit for the dedication ceremony. It took almost 10 years, but on Oct. 7, 1967, Ohio State came to Eugene for the christening of Autzen Stadium.

2010 Rose Bowl
Ohio State 26, Oregon 17

Chip Kelly’s first season at Oregon culminated in a trip to Pasadena, where the Ducks were favored against Terrelle Pryor and the Buckeyes. Ohio State’s defense dominated,

though, holding Oregon to 260 yards.

Quarterback Jeremiah Masoli completed 9 of 20 passes for just 81 yards, with Ohio State possessing the ball for more than 41 minutes.

“Definitely the whole night we were just a little bit off,”

Masoli said. “We didn’t really open up the playbook regarding the air attack. I don’t know why. I wasn’t calling the plays.”

With that victory, Ohio State improved to 8-0 all-time against Oregon. In historic championship games, though, the Ducks have history on their side.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY
Girls Basketball — Molalla at Astoria, 7 p.m.; Seaside at Estacada, 5:30 p.m.; Rainier at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Vernonia at Knappa, 6 p.m.; C.S. Lewis at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.; North Beach at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.
Boys Basketball — Astoria at Molalla, 7 p.m.; Seaside at Estacada, 7:15 p.m.; Rainier at Warrenton, 7:45 p.m.; Vernonia at Knappa, 7:45 p.m.; C.S. Lewis at Jewell, 7 p.m.
Swimming — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 4 p.m.
Wrestling — Seaside at Nestucca, 4 p.m.; Ilwaco at Toledo, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Wrestling — Astoria/Banks at Seaside, 5:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL

HIGH SCHOOLS
Weekend results
Boys
North Marion 60, Astoria 51
AST (51): Morgan Friuhit 17, Jarrett 15, Palek 9, Fremstad 4, Strange 4, Johnson 2, Scroup, Keating.
NM (60): Josh Umbenhower 23, Scanlon 15, Ramon, Torian 8, Verastegui 3, Barrow 2.
Delphian 52, Knappa 47
KNA (47): Tyson Burnard 20, Severson 12, Takalo 7, Weirup 6, Dragoo 2, Rusinovich 2, J.Miller, Rubus, Goodman.
DEL (52): Tom Chiang 19, Tomak 12, Rivera 10, Gonzalez 8, Chou 2.
Knappa 16 11 5 10 5—47
Delphian 9 9 10 14 10—52

Willamette VC 41, Jewell 30
JWL (30): Trystan Silva 10, Berg 9, Murry 2, Ritchie, Munk, Stahly, Meehan.
Willamette VC 15 12 7 7—41
Jewell 6 8 9 7—30
Ilwaco 62, Tacoma Baptist 56
TB (56): Dayton Pascua 27, McGeehe 7, Peterson 6, Jensen 5, Talen 5, Leaman 4, Kliever 2.
ILW (62): Ethan Bannister 14, Nick Griffith 14, Sheldon 12, Tapio 10, Mendoza 10, Schenk 2.
T.Baptist 12 13 12 19—56
Ilwaco 17 15 14 16—62
Girls
North Marion 46, Astoria 32
AST (32): Taylor Mickle 7, Hunt 6, DiBartolomeo 6, Abrahams 5, DeMander 5, Mitchell 2, Israel 1, Wallace.

NM (46): Kiley Florez 20, Henry 10, Rodriguez 10, Umbenhower 3, Kinniburgh 2, Morgan 1.
Astoria 9 6 10 7—32
North Marion 9 15 11 11—46
Willamette VC 31, Jewell 23
JWL (23): Gabi Morales 8, H.Littlepage 7, Stahly 4, A.Littlepage 4, Thurston, Guillen.
Willamette VC 8 10 7 6—31
Jewell 5 9 8 6—23
Ilwaco 75, Tacoma Baptist 37
TB (37): Jennifer Brooks 12, Rachael VanLiew 12, Pascua 6, A.Brooks 3, Stokes 2, Crone 2.
ILW (75): Madeline Jacobson 18, Kaech 17, McMillan 12, Ellsworth 10, Coffin 6, Bentley 5, Bannister 4, Lindstrom 2, Tapio.
T.Baptist 10 6 11 10—37
Ilwaco 12 22 18 23—70

‘The Way to Wellville’ THE JOURNEY BEGINS

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT A KICKOFF EVENT

TUESDAY, JAN. 13
SEASIDE HIGH SCHOOL
1901 North Holladay Dr

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14
WARRENTON HIGH SCHOOL
1700 SW Main St

5:30 - 7p.m. IN THE LIBRARY
**ENJOY DOOR PRIZES
AND REFRESHMENTS**

After a nationwide application and selection process, Clatsop County was chosen as one of five communities in the U.S. invited to participate in the five-year ‘The Way to Wellville’ challenge to improve the health of our community. We will be joined at the kickoff by a representative of challenge’s sponsor, Health Initiative Coordinating Council (HICcup), as well as invitees from the local agencies and organizations working together on this challenge.

colpachealth.org