

Oregon Ducks best loser

by Bill Schaefer

Call it sad, call it funny, but it's better than even money that the University of Oregon is the best 1-7 college football team ever to don shoulder pads and helmets.

Before you accuse me of being sarcastic or even downright demeaning I rush to my own defense. Rather than putting the Ducks down, I am convinced that with any luck at all they could be 6-2 right now and, would you believe it, a contender for the Pacific 10 title and a shot at the Rose Bowl?

Don't laugh. I mean it. At least, hear me out.

There was no way the Ducks could have avoided being 0-2. Colorado zapped them in the opener 24-7, with Oregon being unable to score until the final two minutes. In game No. 2 they were thrashed by USC, 37-10, although they did get on the scoreboard first with a field goal.

Then the fun and games started in which an almost unbelievable series of misadventures struck.

Oregon had Texas Christian down, 10-0, in the fourth period and lost, 14-10. The following week the Ducks held a 19-7 lead over Wisconsin with seven minutes to play and lost, 22-19.

Homeowner, rental rebate due

Oregonians who have not yet received the Homeowner and Renter Refund Program (HARRP) check they expected should wait at least two weeks before contacting the Oregon Department of Revenue, announced director John J. Lobdell.

Against California, Oregon bolted into an 11-0 lead at the half, and led 18-14 with 85 seconds remaining. The Ducks lost, 21-18. And UO had Brigham Young down, 16-3, entering the last quarter but lost, 17-16.

So instead of being 4-2 the Ducks were 0-6. In those four incredible games, only BYO was able to score in the first half — the Cougars managed a field goal.

It is hard to dispel the argument that the Ducks "choked," that they went into a fourth quarter deep freeze and were unable to make the kind of plays they had been making earlier. But if you watched films of those games the evidence leading up to each disaster was physical, not psychological.

Punts bouncing off players when they were trying to avoid the ball. Punts that didn't get off. Onside kicks that should have been easily handled were mishandled.

And then there were the injuries. One after another, in steady, clock-like precision. Ken Page, the Ducks' leading receiver and punt returner last year, broke a lead in the TCU game. Bryan Hinkle, a sophomore linebacker who was the team's No. 3 man in tackles made, played an outstanding game against Wisconsin

before a torn cartilage benched him.

Steve Kleffner, the starting senior center, suffered a pinched nerve in his neck in the Cal game and now is out for the year. And starting quarterback Mike Kennedy left the BYU game with a shoulder separation and he'll probably be out for at least another week.

The Ducks took their 0-6 record into Seattle against the powerful Huskies of the University of Washington, promptly bolted into a 7-3 lead and wound up losing another game it might have won, this time 20-14.

So it was not surprising that the Ducks socked it to Washington State, 31-7, last weekend. They are a better team than WSU, quarterback Jack Thompson notwithstanding. UO coach Rich Brooks knew it all the time. He told me the Ducks would score at least four touchdowns to win it.

If Oregon had received just a piece of good luck against Washington and won that game, and had the Ducks been able to outlast Cal as they should have, UO would be 3-1 in the Pac 10 race and still very much in the running for the Rose Bowl.

And that is why the Ducks' 1-7 record should be ignored. They are better than that. A lot better.



REVEREND PERCY MANUEL

Manuel graduates

Reverend Percy N. Manuel, Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church was awarded the Diploma in Pastoral Ministries on October 23rd at the fall meeting of Interstate Baptist Association which operates Interstate Seminary Center — one of over 300 Centers under direction of Seminary Extension of Nashville, Tennessee which consolidates the Extension Teaching Ministry of six Seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Reverend Manuel began his study several years ago. He is still taking courses each Thursday night in classes open to all ministers. He hopes to earn a Diploma in Educational Ministries also. He announces that he can give information to other ministers and lay people who desire to improve themselves and their usefulness. The local Center is directed by Dr. Roy L. Johnson. Classes are held in the Education Building of Lincoln Street Baptist Church.

Reverend Manuel is the President of the Baptist Ministers Union which meets each Monday evening at Berean Baptist Church.

Both the department and the post office are working this week to match returned check with address changes on file.

Persons who have filed address changes are asked not to contact the department. Those who have moved

recently and have not filed address changes with the department should do so. The department has a state-wide toll-free telephone number, 1-800-452-2838 and local prefixes in Salem (378-3366), Eugene (686-7118) and Portland (229-5116).

Out of the more than 440,000 checks mailed October 16th, some 6,000 have been returned as undeliverable. That is a considerable drop from the 20,000 checks returned last fall. The department made an extra effort this year encouraging people to file address changes before the checks were mailed.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

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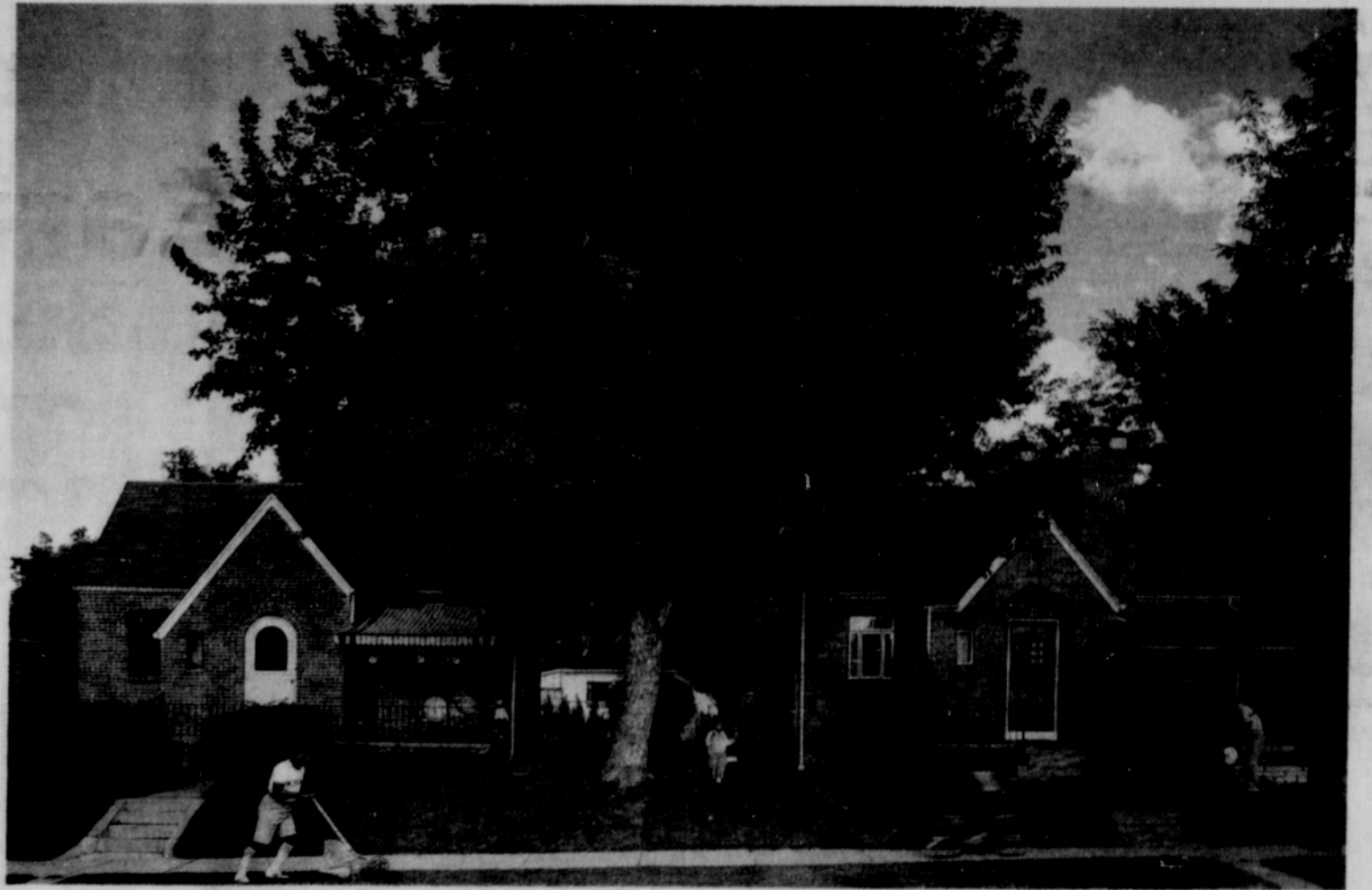
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