



Sport Talk by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

If the United States Football League gets off to a successful start, the NFL may have some genuine competition. The new league has already forced the established NFL to start its player draft in January instead of the customary June date. The University of Georgia's Herschel Walker, the most celebrated collegian in the land, and rightfully so, says: "If they start talking to me, I owe it to myself to listen seriously." And that folks is probably why Commissioner Pete Roselle of the NFL decided to move up the draft. Because when Herschel Walker talks, everybody listens. Walker, who is only a junior, could give the USFL instant respectability. The same kind of respectability one Joe Namath gave to the then fledgling AFL. Walker has said repeatedly that the NFL doesn't hold any particular glamour edge in his world. Walker has said in the past that he considers himself a football player and if the USFL thinks enough of him to talk, than he will certainly listen. Although Walker admits that he hasn't yet been approached the guess here is that it won't be long before some USFL representative comes knocking at Mr. Walker's door.

And how about Frank Robinson's San Francisco Giants? Robinson has his team only one game behind the league-leading Los Angeles Dodgers after sweeping a three game series from the world champions and all this in the Dodgers' own back yard. Wouldn't it be nice to see a man of color directing a team fighting it out before millions of world series fans?

And while we're on the subject of men of color it was particularly nice to see Jackie Robinson commemorated on a stamp by the U.S. government. It was some 35 years ago that Jackie brought the walls of discrimination down by becoming the first black player ever to play in the major leagues.

Jackie retired from the game 26 years ago and died ten years ago, but he will never be dead in the eyes of most black Americans. Jackie was a hero of tremendous magnitude.

How do you spell relief? Well, TV has shown us one way, but for the University of Oregon Ducks it's spelled O-F-F-E-N-S-E.

After going three games without a single TD by the offensive unit they finally accomplished the same against the Washington Huskies.

Not only did they score their first touchdown but went on to score three.

It has always been a great rivalry between these two teams. Sure the Huskies, under Don James, have dominated the Northwest for the derdogs. And for sure they were ready on this cool, rainy September day. To see how ready these Ducks were yours truly left his warm comfortable seat in the press box to go visit the Duck bench. What I observed was this: The mood of all the players was intense.

Senior quarterback Kevin Lusk, from Seattle's Tyee High School, was the announced starter. But as the warm up drills took place it was Sophomore Mike Jorgenson, from Ontario, working with the first unit. Jorgy appeared nervous but ready as he barked instructions to his unit. His passes were on target and his spirals were as tight as a rope. In fact, as he worked out my mind kept going back two years ago seeing Reggie Ogburn going through the same drills, and I thought could this happen again. And Jorgy, on this day, did remind one of the ex-Duck QB, Ogburn, who was a master at running the option.

Across the field a roar was heard as the flamboyant Husky pep band was getting their student body ready for the Oregon Ducks. Now, if you haven't seen the Husky pep band then you've certainly missed a treat. And if the football team is rated number one in the nation, then their band can't be too far behind.

People laughed when Coach James talked of being worried about the Ducks.

After all everyone knew that the boys from Eugene had no offense. Everyone knew about the lack of offensive imagination the Ducks were afflicted with. And didn't we all know that this Husky defensive team had only given up one touchdown in three games. And, for sure, they all kind of smiled when James spoke seriously of being worried. That smirk lasted about as long as it took the Oregon offense to move 80 yards with the opening kick-off to score on a 20-yard halfback pass from Harry Billups to flanker Osborne Thomas. Thomas made a brilliant leaping catch in the Husky end zone that touched off a near riot on the Oregon bench.

It was celebration time, right on. This was a different Oregon team. The imagination that the offense lacked in the previous three losses was now back.

This looked like the days of old when the Ducks could move the ball against anyone. On second and three Jorgenson shot off a shovel pass to Latoria Johnson that gained a good 11 yards. Deja-vu. Aha! Brooks was going at them, pulling all the stops.

By halftime the Huskies had stretched out a 10-7 lead, but remembering what happened two years ago, when the Ducks trailed 10-6 at halftime, kept the normally boisterous Husky fans a little quiet. They, too, had to be thinking deja vu.

The Husky team has stated repeatedly that they pay little attention to their lofty ranking, number one by AP and number three by UPI, but that doesn't hold true with their fans. After Oregon took a 21-17 lead into the fourth quarter the grumbling began. "If this team [the Huskies] is number one I'll eat my hat," one disgruntled fan cried. Everyone within earshot seemingly voiced the same opinion of their Huskies. "If we play Oregon like this," shouted on fan, "I hate to see what'll happen when we take on UCLA."

The Ducks were up for this game. They opened up their offense and

were delightful to watch. Lusk, replacing the injured Jorgenson, went deep to the dependable split-end Greg Moser, and Moser responded by making a near impossible grab between two Husky defenders. In fact Moser was so good on this day that Don James had to switch strong safety Roger Tarver over to the right corner in place of Bill Stapleton, who was being man-handled by Moser. Except for those 52 seconds in the fourth quarter where the Huskies capitalized on two Lusk interceptions and one fumble that resulted in three quick Washington scores, the 0-4 Ducks looked like a 4-0 team.

This game, for sure, was much closer than the 37-21 score would indicate.

And who knows what would have happened had Mike Jorgenson not gone down in the second quarter. The way the 6-0, 185 pound Ontarian ran the team on this day was magnificent. Perhaps Brooks just may have found the man he's been searching for. Oregon fans had a lot to cheer about and when the Ducks took their brief 21-17 lead in the third quarter, suddenly lemon and green could be seen and heard throughout sections 26-30, where most loyal Ducks were seated. Just

as Oregon may have found a quarterback... Coach Don James possibly has found a tailback.

With the celebrated Jacque Robinson bothered by injuries and Freshman sensation Mike Vindivich nursing a pinched nerve, the 5-11, 190 pound Sophomore Sterling Hinds came on to do a job. Hinds,

from Mississauga, Ontario, gained 103 yards on 20 carries. And the young man can play.

Perhaps this Husky team didn't look like number one on this particular afternoon, but they are loaded and hurt. And when they are healthy they will be good. Believe one thing and that is they are deep.

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