

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor



The Oregon Ducks made it seven consecutive wins as they registered a 7-6 victory over OSU before 36,000 fans at Parker stadium.

Some may say that this was not a pretty game, that it was one marred by mistakes and a lack of offensive punch by either team.

But it was one of high emotion. After all the winners would have bragging rights for the State of Oregon if nothing else. Sure neither team had much to boast about. Both teams entered the contest with identical records (1-8-1).

Oregon defeated a good Arizona team 13-6, while OSU was defeating Montana of the Big Sky Conference 30-10.

Sure there is no comparison between Arizona and Montana, but a win is a win and OSU celebrated their victory over the Grizzlies just as much as the Ducks rejoiced over their victory over the Wildcats. OSU's Joe Avezzano would say after the 7-6 loss to the Ducks that "this team has certainly come a long ways. And anybody that can't see that just doesn't know football." The Beavers are certainly improved, but like the Ducks, both teams still have a long way to travel.

What coach Avezzano should do now is stop telling us what his football team can do, but to start showing it on the field. Avezzano has a record of 2 wins, 30 losses and one tie in his three years at OSU.

That's hardly a record to be proud of.

But despite his poor record, Avezzano is as well liked in Corvallis as Vic Atiyeh is in the State of Oregon.

The OSU program is so bad that when the Beavers come close to victory, not win mind you, they celebrate as if they've just captured the Trojan horse from USC. How long will the Beaver alumni allow themselves to be charmed by the smooth talking country singing Avezzano is the foremost question brought to mind.

Coach Avezzano must now prove whether he can coach football or not. The time is now!

Battle of champions

With Sugar Ray Leonard no longer in the boxing scenario, the Wilfred Benitez vs. Thomas Hearns World Boxing Council super welterweight championship Friday, December 3, in the New Orleans Superdome takes on added significance.

This Benitez-Hearns battle is a must for boxing fans. It will loom right up there with the Hearns-Leonard and Holmes-Cooney spectacles.

So, now that the stage is set just who will emerge as the winner? Will it be the boxer-sluggish Hearns, or

the slick, master boxer Benitez? The big factor is that the winner will get a shot at Marvelous Marvin Hagler. And that fight will command big bucks for whoever is involved. If the winner is Benitez, it will mean that he will have the opportunity to win four world championships. Benitez is the former junior welterweight and welterweight king. If the winner is Hearns, then he will have the opportunity to become a two-time champion; Hearns is the former World Boxing Association welterweight champ.

"I would love to fight Hagler," says Benitez, who at age 17 became the youngest person ever to win a world championship. "But first I must beat Hearns, and that is not easy. It will be a rough, tough fight, but I will win."

And if you believe in Sugar Ray Leonard, then you must also believe that Wilfred Benitez will whip Tommy Hearns. The belief here is that Leonard and Benitez are of almost equal ability and anyone that Leonard can defeat, Benitez also can beat.

As for Hearns, he says, "I'm not looking past Benitez to Hagler. After Benitez I'll concern myself with Hagler. I'm strong and hit too hard for Benitez, and people forget that I can box, too. I also have a height and reach advantage over Benitez."

Wasn't the same thing true for Leonard. And didn't Leonard toss that height and reach advantage to the wind. And wasn't it Leonard who proved to be the stronger and hit the hardest in the end. While it may be true that Benitez does not punch as hard as either Hearns or Leonard, he is probably a better boxer than either one.

It will be a rough, tough fight and Benitez will win on superior skills and better condition. Hearns does have a tendency to tire in the latter rounds and Benitez will pick Tommy apart if this happens.

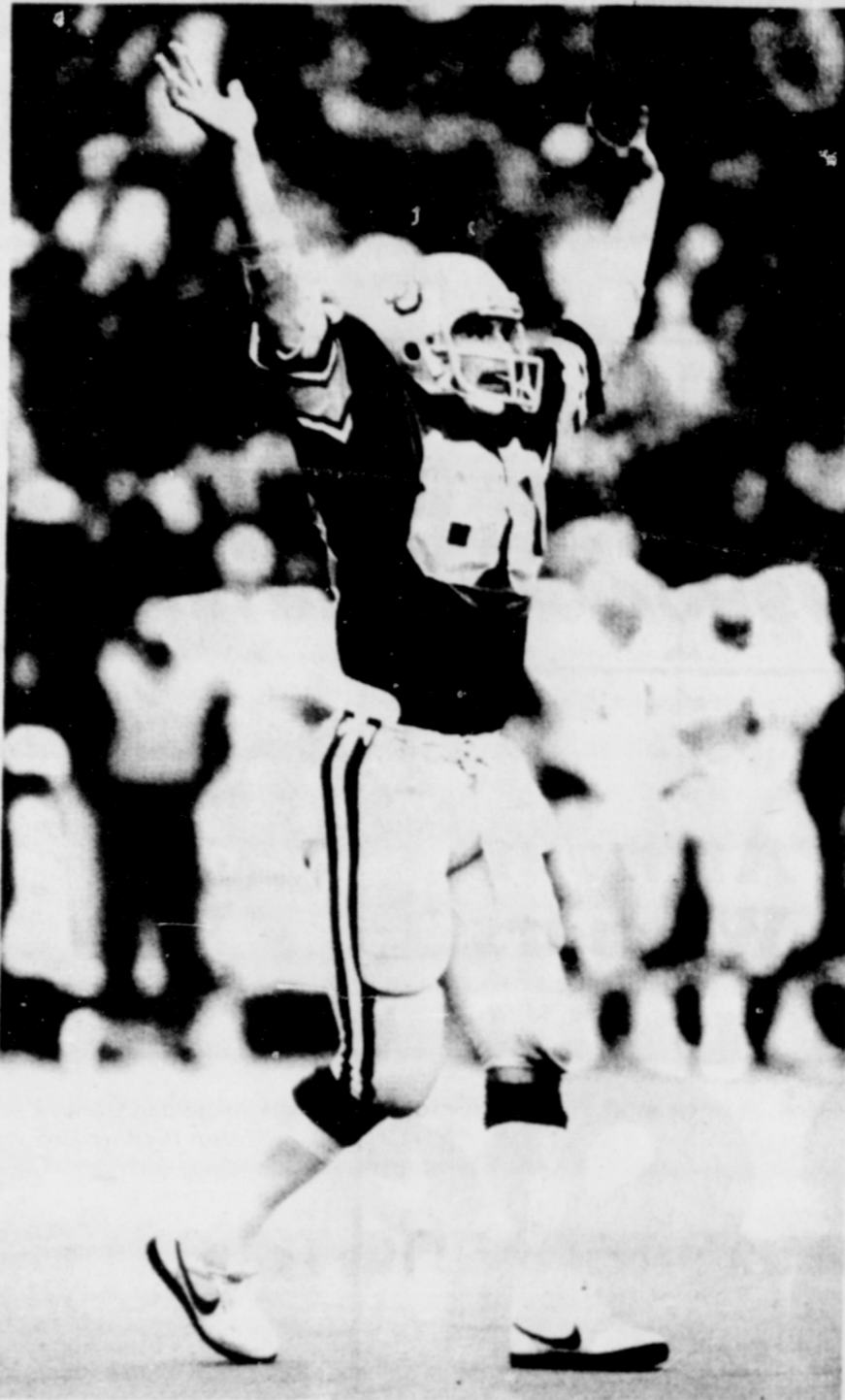
The strategy in the Hearns coup will be for Tommy to come out smokin' hoping to catch the slick Benitez early. This will not happen because the crafty Wilfred is too smart to fall for such a play.

We see Benitez winning a majority decision.

Who will replace Moser?

Not blessed with blazing speed, nor exceptional leaping ability but an uncanny sense of timing, Greg Moser of the Oregon Ducks has long been recognized as one of the Pac-10's premier wide receivers. Most fans still remember his sensational performances in his last two years on the Oregon varsity.

Moser, a walk on from Hood River, eventually played his way into the starting lineup and onto the



GREG MOSER

(U. of O. Photo)

scholarship roles. Although Greg was injured in the Washington game, the third game of the season, he still finished as the number three receiver on the team behind Freshman Kwante Hampton's 10 receptions. Moser finished the season as Oregon's third all-time leading receiver with a total of 54.

Greg's most memorable catch was undoubtedly that spectacular one that enabled the Ducks to tie USC in 1980. After the 1980 season Moser was chosen as the recipient of the Clark Trophy, an award given annually by the coaches for the team's most improved player. Before being injured Moser was on his way toward another fine season. He had 10 receptions for a total of 156 yards. His 47-yarder was the team's longest pass play of this season.

Whenever the Ducks were in a clutch situation it was the sure

hands of Moser that the quarterback looked for first.

So the question now is who will replace Greg Moser? Try Freshman Kwante Hampton, who has emerged as a fine receiver. The 6-1, 170 lb. wide receiver made a spectacular diving catch to give Oregon a first down deep in Oregon State territory.

It was third and 26 when the fleet freshman went out on a curl pattern and made the catch on the OSU 24 yard line with time rapidly running out on the Ducks.

Hampton came to Oregon with good credentials. The young man from Van Nuys, California, was chosen All-East Valley, All-California and honorable mention on the Addidas All-America team.

He also played in the Los Angeles Shrine all-star game with teammate Dana Hill.

Walker, Dickerson lead All-American team

NEW YORK—Quarterback John Elway of Stanford, and running backs Herschel Walker of Georgia and Eric Dickerson of Southern Methodist head the 1982 All-American Football Team announced Tuesday.

Walker, in his junior year with the top-ranked Bulldogs, was named for the third straight time to the 24-member team that is chosen by the American Football Coaches Association.

It was the first selection for Elway, who holds numerous Pac-10 Conference and NCAA career passing records, and for Dickerson, who broke Earl Campbell's Southwest Conference career rushing record Saturday in the Mustangs' 17-17 tie with Arkansas. Both are seniors.

The offensive line is anchored by two-time Outland Trophy winner Dave Rimington of Nebraska, who at 6-3 and 290 pounds is the heaviest all-American. He and wide receiver Anthony Carter of Michigan were the only repeaters on the line.

Other members of the offensive unit include tight-end Gordon Hudson of Brigham Young; tackle Jimbo Covert of Pittsburgh; guard Bruce Matthews and tackle Don Mosebar of Southern California; Rimington's Nebraska teammate, running back Mike Rozier; and place kicker Chuck Nelson of Washington.

The only repeater on defense was Arkansas lineman Billy Ray Smith. He is joined by defensive back Mike Richardson and lineman Vernon Maxwell of Arizona State; defensive back Jeremiah Castille and lineman Mike Pitts of Alabama; linebackers Darryl Talley of West Virginia, Marcus Marek of Ohio State and Ricky Hunley of Arizona; lineman Gabriel Rivera of Texas Tech and defensive backs Terry Hoage of Georgia and Terry Kinard of Clemson.

Walker, who two years ago became the first player ever selected to the team as a freshman, stands a good chance next year to become

the first four-time all-American ever.

He, Elway and Dickerson are the top three candidates for the Hiesman Trophy and the two seniors may go number one and two in the 1983 NFL draft, although Elway, who played for the New York Yankees' Oneonta, N.Y. farm team last summer, may forego an NFL career to play pro baseball.

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In the picture for the Heisman—Stanford quarterback John Elway focuses his camera on fellow all-American Eric Dickerson of Southern Methodist at a press reception in New York City Tuesday. Elway, who also plays baseball in the New York Yankees' farm system, and Dickerson, who broke Earl Campbell's Southwest Conference career rushing record last week, were among the leading vote-getters on the team chosen by the American Football Coaches Association.