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## Hall of Fame Honors



### University of Oregon tribute to a former Jefferson standout

BY MINDY COOPER  
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Native north Portland resident Weldon Vance has been inducted into the Hall of Fame at the University of Oregon for his contributions on the Ducks track and field team that led to the school's gold medal at the national championships in 1970.

Before he attended Oregon, Vance graduated from Jefferson High School where he was the 1968 and 1969 state champion in both the mile relay and 440.

"I received a scholarship to go to the University of Oregon for track and field at the same time the great Steve Prefontaine had a scholarship," said Vance. "He was a hard working guy, and he led us to the national championship."

"Those were great days," said Vance. "I was growing up and having a good time."

Today, Vance said he is glad to see UO's sports programs are doing well, and he said he has especially enjoyed watching the Ducks track and field team continue the legacy of his time.

"I'm really proud of coach Vin Lananna. He is almost as tough as our coaches, Bill Bowerman and Bill Dellinger," said Vance with a chuckle.

Already proud to be alum of the University of Oregon, he said he is honored to have been selected for the Hall of Fame. "It feels really good," he said.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Weldon Vance of Portland visits Jefferson High School where he was a state champion in track and field in 1968 and 1969. Vance went on to the University of Oregon where he contributed to a national championship in track and field in 1970.



Army Sergeant 1st Class Brandon Mattern (left) and Sergeant 1st Class Eric Hielscher, present the 2012 U.S. Army All-American Bowl jersey to Central Catholic's Alex Balducci.

## Bound for the Army All-American Bowl

### Central Catholic lineman named to elite team

Alex Balducci of Central Catholic High School has been selected to play in the 2012 U.S. Army All-American Bowl, joining the nation's top 90 high school football players for their annual East vs. West match-up.

The televised game will be on Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

leadership and teamwork qualities have made him a standout at Central Catholic High School," said John Myers, U.S. Army accessions command. "Only the strongest wear the Army colors, and Alex possesses similar mental, emotional and physical strengths to

"Alex is a talented athlete whose

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