Spring game a chance to get a peak at new Oregon quarterbacks

By STEVE MIMS The Register-Guard

EUGENE — There will be a football game at Autzen Stadium on Saturday.

Unlike some schools that use their spring game as an open practice, Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said fans will be able to see the Ducks play against each other at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

'We're going to try to play a game," Helfrich said Monday. "We'll have the quote unquote draft (Monday). We have a lot of guys limited, so it will not be a full-length game by any stretch, there will be some modifications. But it will be recognized American football.

Oregon's injury list includes center Doug Brenner and wide receiver Devon Allen, who are recovering from ankle and knee injuries, respectively, suffered last season. Reserve defensive back Austin Daich was injured this month and starting linebacker Tyson Coleman is wearing a walking boot on his left leg.

"The coaches are going to figure out the teams and we will split up and play," quarterback Jeff Lockie said. "I think we should be pretty good for numbers and health on Saturday.

Offensive coordinator Scott Frost and defensive backs coach John Neal will coach one team with defensive coordinator Don Pellum and offensive line coach Steve Greatwood on the other side.

'It is more of divvying up equal halves of each unit and then flipping a coin," Helfrich said. "That's why it's not going to be a very exciting

Lockie has high hopes for the offensive unit.

'We want to score every time we have the ball," he said. "We want to take care of the ball No. 1 and score touchdowns.'

Helfrich said it will be good to see his team play a game in front of

"Get all the coaches out of their ear and compete," he said. "At this period, guys start to think too much. They are thinking about 79 things that might happen instead of the one thing that is happening. Just go out and play.'

Helfrich said any decisions about moving players to a different position will take place in the weeks following the spring game.

That includes the final call on Charles Nelson, who moved from receiver to cornerback this spring. Nelson had 23 catches for 327 yards and five touchdowns last year and rushed 11 times for 101 yards. "He's been really good and he's

still working into the nuances of that position as well with all the coverages and things that entails, Helfrich said. "He's had a great

Last week, Pellum said "I would love to keep Charles" and Helfrich joked the debate between offensive and defensive coaches over Nelson 'will be a wrestling match."

Oregon currently has five quarterbacks with Vernon Adams set to join the team in June after graduating from Eastern Washington. Helfrich said a QB could change positions as the Ducks have done in the past with former players like Daryle Hawkins.

'That's something we will revisit," Helfrich said. "We will have those discussions with everybody just as we will with a tight end that might move here or an outside linebacker that might move there. All those things will happen two weeks after spring.'

Oregon will be able to put its experience at linebacker up against any team in the country next season. The Ducks will have three returning starters and could start four seniors at that position.

Inside linebackers Hardrick and Joe Walker have started 28 and 10 games, respectively, while Coleman has started 18 games at outside linebacker. Senior Christian French is a top contender

1-2), 3:10 p.m.

to replace Tony Washington at the other outside spot.

"That's a big deal," Helfrich said. Rodney has had a great spring. He battled a bunch of stuff last year and has done a great job as a leader on defense. I think we are developing some depth on the defensive line which in turn helps those guys to be able to run maybe a little bit more

UO also returns experienced backups including juniors Johnny Ragin III and Torrodney Prevot and sophomores Danny Mattingly, Justin Hollins and Jimmie Swain.

"It is really fun right now with that group," Pellum said. "The difference between last year and this year is that we are really experienced with all those seniors and guys who have played. We have been able to advance the defense because of the knowledge and understanding and maturity of that linebacker group."

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BASEBALL

Friday Heppner at Pilot Rock, 11 a.m. Nyssa at Stanfield (DH), 1 p.m. Riverside at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m. Pendleton at Hermiston (DH) 4 p.m Saturday

Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 11 a.m. La Grande at Mac-Hi (DH), Noon

PREP SOFTBALL

Wednesday Mac-Hi at Wa-Hi (WA), 6 p.m.

Thursday
Weston-McEwen at Echo, 4:30 p.m

Friday Nyssa at Echo (DH), 1 p.m. Riverside at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m. Pendleton at Hermiston (DH), 3 p.m.

Culver at Weston-McEwen (DH), 11 a.m. Irrigon at Pilot Rock (DH), 11 a.m La Grande at Mac-Hi (DH), Noon

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Wednesday Hermiston, Irrigon, Helix at Hermiston

y (Hermiston), 4 p.m.

Friday
Heppner at Grant Union Invite (Grant Union), 10 a.m.

Hermiston at 2015 Strandberg, 9 a.m. Umatilla at Lake Washington Invite (Lake Washington), 9:30 a.m.

Pendleton, Mac-Hi at Heinz Invite (Ontar Riverside, Weston-McEwen, Pilot Rock at Jo-High Invite (Joseph), 1 p.m

PREP BOYSTENNIS Wednesday

Mac-Hi at Riverside, 4 p.m.

Thursday Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 4:30 p.m. Mac-Hi at Riverside, 4 p.m.

Hermiston at Bend Tournament, TBD Umatilla at Ione, Noon

Hermiston at Bend Tournament, TBD

Friday

Sherman County vs. Stanfield, 4:30 p.m

PREP GIRLS TENNIS Wednesday

Mac-Hi at Riverside, 4 p.m. Thursday Pendleton at Hermiston, 4 p.m. Mac-Hi at Riverside, 4 p.m. Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 4:30 p.m.

Friday Hermiston at Bend Tournament, TBD Umatilla at Ione, Noon Saturday

Hermiston at Bend Tournament, TBD Sherman County vs. Stanfield, 4:30 p.m

PREP BOYS GOLF

Heppner at Willow Creek (Heppner), 3 Friday

vii, Heppner, Echo at Buffalo Peak (Union), 11 a.m.

PREP GIRLS GOLF Wednesday Hermiston, Pendleton at Trysting Tree

Thursday

(Corvallis), 9 a.m. Thursday

Heppner at Willow Creek (Heppner), 3

Friday Nixyaawii, Heppner, Echo at Buffalo Peak (Union), 11 a.m.

PREP RUGBY

Sasquatch at Grecian Heights Park, 1 p.m PREP LACROSSE

Saturday Mt. View at Hermiston, 3 p.m. Sunday

Bend at Hermiston, 1 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL Saturday

COLLEGE SOFTBALL Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (DH),

Spokane at Blue Mountain (DH), 2 p.m

COLLEGETRACK AND FIELD

Eastern Oregon at Border Clash (Boise)

Basketball

NBA Playoffs FIRST ROUND

Tuesday, April 28

Houston 103, Dallas 94, Houston wins series 4-1 San Antonio 111, L.A. Clippers 107, San

Wednesday, April 29

Portland at Memphis, 6:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL Playoffs FIRST ROUND

Wednesday, April 29 Detroit at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m. SECOND ROUND

Thursday, April 30

Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 4:30 p.m. Calgary at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

Tampa Bay or Detroit at Montreal, 4 p.m. Minnesota at Chicago, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2 Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 9:30 a.m.

WHL Playoffs

THIRD ROUND (Best-of-7) Tuesday, Apr. 28 Calgary 2 Brandon 1 (OT) Portland 7 Kelowna 3 Wednesday, Apr. 29

Brandon at Calgary, 4 p.m.

Kelowna at Portland, 5 p.m Baseball

East Division			
	W	L Pct	GB
New York	13	8 .619	_
Boston	11	10 .524	2
Tampa Bay	11	10 .524	2
Toronto	10	11 .476	3
Baltimore	9	10 .474	3
Central Division			

L Pct GB Kansas City 6 .700 7 .667 ½ 9 .471 4½ Detroit Chicago Minnesota Cleveland 11 .450 13 .316 West Division

I Pct GB Houston 7 .650 4 4 11 .450 11 .450 Los Angeles 12 .429 Oakland 13 .350

Monday's Games Kansas City 6, Cleveland 2 Boston 6, Toronto 5 N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 1 Chicago White Sox at Baltimore, ppd. public safety

Seattle 3, Texas 1 Detroit 5, Minnesota 4 Houston 9, San Diego 4 Tuesday's Games
Kansas City 11, Cleveland 5

Toronto 11, Boston 8 N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 2 Chicago White Sox at Baltimore, ppd. public safety Seattle 2, Texas 1 Minnesota 3, Detroit 2

Oakland 6, L.A. Angels 2 Wednesday's Games Tampa Bay (Smyly 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Pineda 3-0), 10:05 a.m. Detroit (Greene 3-1) at Minnesota

(P.Hughes 0-4), 10:10 am. Chicago White Sox (Samardzija 1-1) at Baltimore (U.Jimenez 1-1), 11:05 a.m. Houston (Keuchel 2-0) at San Diego (Cashner 1-3), 12:40 a.m. Kansas City (Ventura 2-1) at Cleveland

Seattle (F.Hernandez 3-0) at Texas (W.Rodriguez 0-0), 5:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 2-1) at Oakland

Toronto (Dickey 0-2) at Boston (Porcello

(Hahn 1-1), 7:05 p.m Thursday's Games

L.A. Angels at Oakland, 12:35 p.m. Toronto at Cleveland, 4:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Minnesota, 5:10 Detroit at Kansas City, 5:10 p.m

Seattle at Houston, 5:10 p.m.

National League **East Division**

	w	L Pct	GB	
New York	15	6 .714	_	
Atlanta	10	10 .500	41/2	
Miami	9	12 .429	6	
Philadelphia	8	13 .381	7	
Washington	8	13 .381	7	
Central Division				
	141	1 D.4	00	

Pct GB 6 .684 7 .632 St. Louis Chicago Pittsburgh 10 .524 Cincinnati Milwaukee 10 .500 31/2 17 .190 West Division

L Pct GB 8 .600 — Los Angeles 9 .550 Colorado San Diego 11 .500 11 .450 Arizona San Francisco 12 .429 31/2

Monday's Games Cincinnati 9, Milwaukee 6 N.Y. Mets 3, Miami 1 Atlanta 8, Washington 4 Chicago Cubs 4, Pittsburgh 0 Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 1 Colorado 5, Arizona 4 Houston 9, San Diego 4

L.A. Dodgers 8, San Francisco 3 Tuesday's Games Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 2 Miami 4. N.Y. Mets 3 Washington 13, Atlanta 12 Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 2 St. Louis 11. Philadelphia 5

Houston 14, San Diego 3 San Francisco 2, L.A. Dodgers 1 Wednesday's Games Milwaukee (Garza 1-3) at Cincinnati

(Leake 0-1), 9:35 p.m. Houston (Keuchel 2-0) at San Diego (Cashner 1-3), 12:40 p.m. N.Y. Mets (B.Colon 4-0) at Miami (Latos

0-3), 4:10 p.m.
Washington (Zimmermann 1-2) at Atlanta (A.Wood 1-0), 4:10 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Cole 3-0) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 0-0), 5:05 p.m. Philadelphia (Harang 2-1) at St. Louis (C.Martinez 2-0), 5:15 p.m.

Colorado (Lyles 2-1) at Arizona (Collment er 1-3), 6:40 p.m. San Francisco (Vogelsong 0-1) at L.A

Dodaers (Greinke 3-0), 7:10 p.m. Thursday's Games
Philadelphia at St. Louis, 10:45 p.m.

Cincinnati at Atlanta, 4:10 p.m

Washington at N.Y. Mets, 4:10 p.m

Soccer

MLS

Friday's Games

Chicago 1, New York City FC 0 Colorado 1, FC Dallas 1, tie Saturday's Games New England 4, Real Salt Lake 0 Columbus 4, Philadelphia 1 Houston 4, Sporting Kansas City 4, tie D.C. United 2, Vancouver 1

Sunday's Games
New York 1, Los Angeles 1, tie
Toronto FC 2, Orlando City 0

Seattle 1, Portland 0
Wednesday, April 29 Colorado at New York, 4:30 p.m.

FC Dallas at Houston, 5 p.m. San Jose at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m Saturday, May 2 Toronto FC at Philadelphia, 1 p.m Columbus at D.C. United, 4 p.m. New York at New England, 4:30 p.m.

Vancouver at Portland, 7:30 p.m. Colorado at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m Sunday, May 3 Chicago at Sporting Kansas City, 2 p.m. Seattle at New York City FC, 4 p.m.

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