

College Football

Oregon State ready for start of fall practices

By NICK DASCHEL
Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Construction is moving at a feverish pace at the west end of Reser Stadium, where Oregon State is putting the finishing touches on a \$42 million remodel prior to the start of the football season.

The school is attempting to continue its advancement of the football program. As for the Beavers? They're trying to keep from returning to their past struggles, where they once had a streak of 28 consecutive losing seasons.

Oregon State kicks off fall practices Friday at Summit High School in Bend, trying to end a slide of two consecutive losing seasons. The most recent time the Beavers posted three straight losing seasons was 1996 to 98.

Achieving a winning season in 2016 is expected to be a steep climb, as the Beavers are coming off a 2-10 season, their worst since

1995. Oregon State was picked to finish last in the Pac-12 North in the preseason media poll.

Oregon State returns 11 starters, including seven on offense. Among the newcomers looking to make an impact this season is quarterback Darrel Garretson, a junior transfer from Utah State who won the starting job during the spring.

Because of the stadium construction, Oregon State is moving the start of fall practice off campus for the first time ever to Bend, located about 125 miles southeast of Corvallis in Central Oregon. The Beavers will hold practice for the first six days in Bend, before returning to OSU's campus Aug. 11.

Oregon State's second-year coach Gary Andersen hopes to increase the team's unity and chemistry during the week away from Corvallis.

"I want them to get to know some different people. We'll be doing some very different bonding

2016 Schedule

9/1	@ Minnesota	6 p.m.
9/17	vs. Idaho State	2 p.m.
9/24	vs. Boise State	TBD
10/1	@ Colorado	TBD
10/8	vs. California	TBD
10/15	vs. Utah	TBD
10/22	@ Washington	TBD
10/29	vs. Wash. State	TBD
11/5	@ Stanford	TBD
11/12	@ UCLA	TBD
11/19	vs. Arizona	TBD
11/26	vs. Oregon	TBD

situations in Bend that are a little bit different than what we've done in the past. Does it win you games? No. Do I believe it helps? Yes," Andersen said.

Sophomore receiver Seth Collins said players are looking forward to starting fall camp in Bend.

"It's going to be a fun thing, but I think it's going to be physical. It just adds to the overall camaraderie," Collins said.

This season marks a change for Collins, as he was Oregon State's starting quarterback coming out of fall camp last season. Collins started seven games, then after an injury, played at wide receiver during OSU's season finale against Oregon, scoring three rushing touchdowns.

"I'm not really sure what my role will be, but when I touch the ball, I plan on making things happen," Collins said.

In Collins' place at quarterback is Garretson, who passed for 2,586 yards and 18 touchdowns in two seasons at Utah State prior to transferring to Oregon State in June 2015.

"The redshirt year was hard, but I got to work on a lot of stuff, got to work on certain things you normally wouldn't be able to work on during the season. The year off was beneficial, for sure," said the 6-foot, 210-pound Garretson, whose uncle Ron is an NBA referee.

Competition figures to be intense during the four weeks of preseason practice. There are at least half the starting jobs up for grabs, and new coordinators to impress in defensive coordinator Kevin Clune and co-offensive coordinators Kevin McGiven and T.J. Woods.

Andersen's expectations are simple heading into fall camp.

"My expectations of them is to be a much improved football team. Our goals should be that. Anything past there is flapping your lips," Andersen said.

"I expect them to carry themselves with belief and a little bit of swagger. It's not deserved swagger at this point, but you have to feel good about your team and where you're headed."

The Beavers open the season on the road, playing at Minnesota on Sept. 1. Oregon State has seven home games on its schedule, including the Civil War against Oregon on Nov. 26.

THOMPSON: Thankful for two years as coach at Irrigon

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Thompson is a 'great addition' to the staff and that they are excited to work with and mentor him for the next season.

"Mitch has a great work ethic, is very energetic, and an extremely hard worker who will most definitely give that extra effort it takes to help this program be successful," Rupp told the East Oregonian on Monday. "Mitch brings invaluable experience gained from working for other outstanding programs and coaches plus having been a highly successful coach in Oregon High School basketball the past two seasons."

"He is widely respected and known as a quality person and an excellent mentor and role model."

In his position, Thompson will be the Beavers' full-time film coordinator, he'll be able to assist in day-to-day operations and team practices, and he'll be on the bench for each game the Beavers play for the upcoming season. It also gives him plenty of financial assistance, as Oregon State pays for his classes as he pursues a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies.

"I'm very lucky,"

Thompson reiterates.

The game of basketball has been Thompson's passion for as long as he can remember, but it became his obsession in high school. He played for three out of his four years as a student at Hermiston High School before sitting out his senior season with a knee injury. That injury was a blessing in disguise for Thompson, as it opened the first door for his coaching career.

With the help of then-Hermiston boys basketball coach Larry Usher, Thompson landed a coaching position at Sandstone Middle School as a high school senior in 2010 and then parlayed that into a freshman coach position during his time at Blue Mountain Community College. Being around Usher and that Hermiston staff only solidified Thompson's desire to make a career in coaching basketball.

"(Larry) Usher was a big influence on me and he's been instrumental for me on learning how to be a coach," Thompson said.

Following Thompson's transfer to Oregon State University a few years later, he got involved with the Beavers' men's basketball



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

In this Mar. 25, 2015 file photo, Irrigon head coach Mitch Thompson leads a huddle during a timeout in the Knights' 67-36 win against Heppner in Pendleton.

program for the first time as a student manager under then-head coach Craig Robinson. After one year as a manager there, Robinson and his staff were fired and Thompson headed back home to Eastern Oregon to take over as head coach for the Irrigon Knights varsity boys basketball team while he took online classes towards his bachelor's degree.

"I knew some of the boys from the area and from coaching AAU out here and I thought it'd be a good opportunity to come back and coach some good kids," Thompson said, "and

it worked out."

That it did.

In his two seasons as head coach of the Knights, Thompson compiled a 44-9 overall record and a 17-3 record in the Columbia Basin Conference, highlighted by a Class 2A state championship during the 2014-2015 season. Thompson best describes his two-year tenure as a tremendous learning opportunity.

"It was fun being in the gym every day with those kids and that (coaching staff)," he said. "I think we did things the right way and if you know anybody who was close to us, we loved

the kids and academics were a big part of what we were about and now we have guys playing in college, and it's great to know we helped."

Thompson's road back to Corvallis began its construction at the end of his tenure as a student manager at Oregon State. He had the opportunity to meet current Beavers coach Wayne Tinkle and some of his coaching staff following his hire in May of 2014.

"I was kind of a part of (Tinkle) and his staff's transition in from Montana and when I took the job at Irrigon and I kept in contact with Coach and the staff throughout the whole process," Thompson said. "Then I was a regular at Corvallis over the past few years and a regular in the offices just to talk and learn and we built a trust."

That trust continued to build until Tinkle and his staff offered Thompson the GA position over the winter, one that he accepted quickly.

However, that didn't make it easy for him to leave his Irrigon Knights behind.

"I think the biggest thing was leaving the kids," Thompson said. "I loved working with the type of

kids they have in Irrigon, so that was tough. But in terms of my career, it was a no-brainer."

Thompson said his transition onto Tinkle's staff has been as smooth as he could have ever imagined.

"It's a blue-collar atmosphere, all about effort and attitude which is what we were about at Irrigon, too," Thompson said. "Coach Tinkle does a great job of making us feel like family and he's a great mentor."

As far as dreams go, Thompson doesn't really know where he hopes to end up yet, but says he's not too worried about that at this point.

"Taking it one step at a time, I think that's what I've always been about," Thompson said, "but obviously you always have dreams and it'd be awesome to coach at a high level. But if not, coaching back in Morrow County will work for me."

"A good mentor once told me it's not where you coach it's why you coach."

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SEAHAWKS: Britt learning third position in three seasons

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of what could be Seattle's starting offensive line.

"The (offensive) line, there will always be a focus for us there," Carroll said.

For the first week of training camp, the Seahawks have gone with the same five linemen taking the first snap with the starting offense during team drills.

If Seattle sticks with those five for the regular-season opener on Sept. 11 against Miami, it will go into the regular season with a unit playing in completely different positions than a season ago.

Garry Gilliam was Seattle's starting right tackle last year, but is being flipped to the left and will be responsible for protecting Russell Wilson's blindside. J'Marcus Webb is on his fourth team in five seasons and is being slated as Seattle's right tackle.

Justin Britt is on his third position in three seasons being moved to center, while second-year Mark Glowinski and rookie Germain Ifedi are the projected starting guards.

It's a unit that Seattle believes has potential to be really good. But they have no experience playing together to back up the Seahawks optimism that they can be a successful offense behind such an unproven unit.

"I know coach (Tom Cable) will put the best five out there and I just want to be one of them," Britt said.

The questions about the offensive line followed Seattle for most of last season. It started with a training camp shuffle where Britt was moved from right tackle to left guard

and converted defensive lineman Drew Nowak was placed at center.

That experiment lasted about half the season and often was the crux behind Seattle's offensive struggles early in the season. By midseason, Nowak was out at center, replaced by Patrick Lewis, and the Seahawks offense took off.

The offseason departures of guard J.R. Sweezy and tackle Russell Okung in free agency prompted the next waves of change. But the moves failed to bring comfort to fans who would like to see a more experienced group for protecting Wilson, who was sacked a career-high 45 times last season.

As Schneider pointed out just before the start of training camp, it's impossible to pay top dollar at every position in a salary cap system. And offensive line is where the Seahawks have sacrificed.

"The issue then is once you're able to reward what you view as the best football players on your team, then how do you get people to compete at different positions," Schneider said.

Cable said the real assessment of the continuity of the projected starters shouldn't be made until after the first couple of preseason games. The Seahawks would like to avoid making the major changes they did last year during training camp.

"I think the fairness of that question is after you've played a couple of preseason games do they look like they are on the same page, particularly communication wise," Cable said. "Then you'll find the answer to that."

MARINERS: Roach pitches two innings for win

Continued from 1B

hitter Seth Smith. Abad came in and tried to get a curveball past Cano, who hit it 394 feet for a one-run lead.

Donn Roach (2-0) pitched two innings for the win.

David Ortiz doubled and had two RBIs. The 40-year-old has the most doubles (36) in a season ever for a player 40 or older, eclipsing Sam Rice, who had 35 in 1930.

He also has 62 extra-base hits, tying Dave Winfield (1992) for most in a season for a 40-or-older player.

Hanley Ramirez crushed a 454-foot home run off Wade LeBlanc in the third. Aaron Hill had an RBI

single in the same inning, scoring Jackie Bradley Jr. from second.

ROTATION ADDITIONS

The Mariners will add two starters to the rotation this next turn. LHP Ariel Miranda, a Cuban defector acquired in a trade with Baltimore on Sunday, will make his debut Thursday against Boston. RHP Taijuan Walker, on the DL with a right ankle strain, will likely return this weekend. He threw 69 pitches over 4 1/3 innings Monday for Triple-A Tacoma in a rehab start.

UP NEXT
Red Sox: RHP Rick Porcello (14-2, 3.47) is riding a six-game winning streak and is 7-0 with a



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Seattle Mariners' Robinson Cano hits a three-run home run against the Boston Red Sox during the eighth inning of Tuesday's game in Seattle.

2.73 ERA over his past nine starts.

Mariners: RHP Hisashi Iwakuma (11-7, 4.21) is

coming off his shortest outing of the season, just three innings, in a 12-1 loss to the Cubs last Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	60	45	.571	—
Toronto	60	47	.561	1
Boston	58	47	.552	2
New York	53	53	.500	7½
Tampa Bay	42	63	.400	18
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	60	44	.577	—
Detroit	58	48	.547	3
Kansas City	51	55	.481	10
Chicago	51	55	.481	10
Minnesota	42	64	.396	19
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	62	45	.579	—
Houston	56	50	.528	5½
Seattle	53	52	.505	8
Los Angeles	48	58	.453	13½
Oakland	47	59	.443	14½
Tuesday's Games				
Baltimore 5, Texas 1				
Detroit 11, Chicago White Sox 5				
Minnesota 10, Cleveland 6				
Kansas City 3, Tampa Bay 2				
N.Y. Mets 7, N.Y. Yankees 1				
Toronto 2, Houston 1				
L.A. Angels 5, Oakland 4				
Seattle 5, Boston 4				
Wednesday's Games				
N.Y. Mets (Matz 8-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Green 1-2), 4:05 p.m.				
Texas (Hamels 12-2) at Baltimore (Gausman 2-8), 4:05 p.m.				
Chicago White Sox (Sale 14-4) at Detroit (Fulmer 9-2), 4:10 p.m.				
Kansas City (Volquez 8-9) at Tampa Bay (Odriziz 5-5), 4:10 p.m.				
Minnesota (Duffey 5-8) at Cleveland (Bauer 7-4), 4:10 p.m.				
Toronto (Estrada 6-4) at Houston				

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	63	44	.589	—
Miami	57	50	.533	6
New York	55	51	.519	7½
Philadelphia	49	59	.454	14½
Atlanta	37	69	.349	25½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	65	41	.613	—
St. Louis	56	50	.528	9
Pittsburgh	53	51	.510	11
Milwaukee	47	57	.452	17
Cincinnati	43	62	.410	21½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	61	45	.575	—
Los Angeles	59	47	.557	2
Colorado	53	53	.500	8
San Diego	46	61	.430	15½
Arizona	43	64	.402	18½
Tuesday's Games				
Philadelphia 13, San Francisco 8				
Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 5				
N.Y. Mets 7, N.Y. Yankees 1				
Pittsburgh 5, Atlanta 3				
Chicago Cubs 3, Miami 2				
Colorado 7, L.A. Dodgers 3				
Washington 10, Arizona 4				
Milwaukee 3, San Diego 2				
Wednesday's Games				
Miami (Koeher 8-8) at Chicago Cubs (Lackey 8-7), 11:20 a.m.				
Milwaukee (Guerra 7-2) at San Diego (Jackson 1-2), 12:40 p.m.				
Washington (Scherzer 11-6) at Arizona (Godley 3-1), 12:40 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Matz 8-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Green 1-2), 4:05 p.m.				
San Francisco (Cueto 13-3) at Philadel-				

MLS						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
NYC FC	10	7	6	36	40	40
New York	9	9	5	32	38	30
Toronto FC	8	7	6	30	28	23
Philadelphia	8	8	6	30	36	35
Montreal	7	5	9	30	36	31
New England	6	8	8	26	28	36
Orlando City	5	11	26	35	36	36
D.C. United	5	8	8	23	20	26
Columbus	3	10	19	26	35	36
Chicago	4	10	6	18	19	27
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
FC Dallas	13	6	5	44	37	31
Colorado	10	3	8	38	24	19
Los Angeles	9	3	9	36	35	20
Sporting K.C.	10	4	3	28	25	25
Real Salt Lake	6	7	34	32	32	32
Vancouver	8	9	6	30	33	37
Portland	7	8	8	29	33	34
San Jose	6	6	9	27	24	24
Seattle	6	12	3	21	21	28
Houston	4	9	8	20	24	27
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.						
Today's Game						
Real Salt Lake at Toronto FC, 4 p.m.						
Friday's Game						
New York City FC at San Jose, 8 p.m.						

NASCAR Sprint Cup				
Points Standings				
	Through	Aug. 1	Aug. 1	Aug. 1
1. Kevin Harvick	709	709	709	709
2. Brad Keselowski	687	687	687	687
3. Kurt Busch	658	658	658	658
4. Kyle Busch	634	634	634	634
5. Carl Edwards	626	626	626	626
6. Joey Logano	612	612	612	612
7. Jimmie Johnson	577	577	577	577
8. Martin Truex Jr.	577	577	577	577
9. Denny Hamlin	576	576	576	576
10. Matt Kenseth	569	569	569	569
11. Austin Dillon	549	549	549	549
12. Ryan Newman	537	537	537	537
13. Chase Elliott	533	533	533	533