

Taggart weighs in on Duck season *Continued from A1*

cus Arroyo (with Cristobal), was the offensive coordinator for the NTampa Bay Buccaneers in 2014 and 2015 and wide receiver coach Michael Johnson has had 10 years of NFL experience with the Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers.

Taggart exudes enthusiasm and preaches three main tenets: "blame no one, make no excuses and do something." The Ducks began spring drills on Wednesday, April 5 after offseason workouts.

"We're really fired up," Taggart told the media last Wednesday. "Our football team has done

an outstanding job this offseason. I'm really impressed with the way they've been working. I'm really impressed with how they've worked in the classroom. I'm really excited to see how all that translates onto the football field now, because our guys are doing the things we asked them to do and they're competing and doing it the way we want them to."

Taggart says a big key to turning the Ducks around from the dismal 4-8 record last season will be how the players bond and play for each other.

"I think the key is for our play-

ers to play for each other," said Taggart. "The teams that win championships are having fun. You can tell they enjoy playing with each other and being around each other. Watching the film from last year, I didn't see that... a team that cared and played for each other. Need to continue to build some depth and that camaraderie."

Taggart also thought last year's team lacked some toughness. "We are a weak football team just looking at the numbers in the weight room ... not as developed as I'd like us to be, but we're

getting there.. We were a mentally weak football team, when things got tough we took the easy way out. We're trying to change that culture. We want to put our guys in tough situations so they can learn to fight through tough times."

The cupboards for the Ducks are far from bare, especially on offense. Oregon returns four starters on the offensive line, plus got a big bonus when Taggart talked star senior running back Royce Freeman into returning instead of going to the NFL. Senior wide receiver Darren Carrington and

tackle Tyrell Crosby also decided to comeback. And then there is quarterback Justin Herbert. As a true freshman, the pride of Sheldon H.S. passed for 1936 yards with 19 touchdowns and only four interceptions. Behind him is the talented Terry Wilson, Travis Jonsen and last season's Parade All-American Braxton Burmeister.

Taggart said his immediate goal for the Ducks is: "... to be able to say we're good at something, offensively, defensively

and special teams and then build on that. I want to make sure we have a technically and fundamentally sound football team in everything we do. We are going to harp on that this spring."

One good sign is that last winter term the team had the highest GPA for one quarter in 17 years. If that performance can be duplicated on the football field, the Ducks will very likely return to one of the more elite teams in the Pac-12.

Lions Expected to Contend again for Sky-Em Title



Senior Brett Ollivant pitched a two-hit shutout at Junction City last week.

GARY BREEDLOVE

BY JERRY THOMPSON FOR THE SENTINEL

Can the Cottage Grove Lions varsity baseball do an encore after last season when they won the Sky-Em Championship? The Lions lost a lot of key players, but head coach Dan Geiszler, now in his 14th year as Cottage Grove's skipper thinks his squad has as good as shot as any other Sky-Em team.

"There are some good teams in the league, and we should be one of them for sure," said Geiszler. "We have the potential to be a top one or two team in our league, but we're going to have to play really well."

The Lions have played eight games since starting the season on Friday, March 17.

The Lions are currently 1-0 in the Sky-Em after drubbing Junction City 11-0 last week in the league opener. The Grovers were 4-3 in the non-league season with wins over Douglas, Pleasant Hill, North Valley and Cascade Christian and losses to Cascade, Hidden Valley and North Bend.

On Tuesday, April 4 the CGHS baseball team travelled to Junction City and tamed the Tigers with great hitting and superb pitching. Brett Ollivant struck out four Tigers and allowed just two hits on his way to the five-inning shutout. Jaydin Osban and Emry Foster both had two hits to lead the Lions.

Pitching is always a big part of success

in baseball and the Lions return senior Brett Ollivant, who was pitcher of the league last year as a junior. T.J. Bellamy, Hunter Gibson, Wyatt Sayles and Jaydin Osban round out the staff. Osban was also hitting over .400 going into Thursday's non-league contest with North Bend.

This week, weather permitting, the Grovers will be tested as they take on Elmira in a Monday (April 10) doubleheader at Kelly Field, travel to Sweet Home on Tuesday and play a Friday double-header at Sisters.

"We have the players who can do it again, but our league is pretty tough. Sisters, Sweet Home, Junction City and Elmira are all pretty tough," said Geiszler."

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COTTAGE GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

Softball

4/14 @ Sisters Double Header 3pm

Baseball

4/14 @ Sweet Home Double Header 3pm

Boys Golf

4/12 Cottage Grove Invitational 11am
(Tokatee Golf Course)

Girls Golf

4/24 Cottage Grove Invitational TBA
(Tokatee Golf Course)

NORTH DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

Baseball

4/15 @ Reedsport Double Header 11am

4/17 vs. Yoncalla/Elkton 4:30pm

4/19 @ Lowell 4:30pm

Softball

4/14 vs. Mohawk 4:30pm

4/15 @ Reedsport Double Header 11am

4/17 @ Yoncalla/Elkton 4:30pm

4/19 @ Lowell 4:30pm

Track & Field

4/12 Mountain Valley League Meet 4pm
(Glide)

4/15 Prefontaine Rotary Invitational 10am
(Marshfield)

YONCALLA HIGH SCHOOL

Softball

4/17 vs. North Douglas 4:30pm

4/19 @ Oakland 4:30pm

Baseball

4/14 vs. Crow Double Header 2pm

4/17 @ North Douglas 4:30pm

4/19 vs. Oakland 4:30pm

Track & Field

4/12 Mountain Valley League Meet 4pm
(Glide)

4/15 Prefontaine Rotary Invitational 10am
(Marshfield)

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