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Lubick brings family values to the field



Wide receivers coach Matt Lubick attributes his success to following the guidance and training of his father, Sonny Lubick.

“On the field, he’s all business, but off the field, he can be a kind of father figure to us where he cares about our lives and not just football.”

RECEIVER BRALON ADDISON on coach Lubick.

Matt Lubick has been a hitchhiker throughout his coaching career, changing addresses just as often as he’s been ignored. That lack of attention would frustrate anyone else, but none of it seems to bother Lubick. Even if he’s traveling clear across the country for yet another coaching gig, he’s always had a warm home thanks to his father, Sonny.

“He would always make time for his family,” Lubick said of his father. “The more I’m in this profession, the more I really appreciate that. He’d come home after a 15-hour day and still find time to play catch and take me on road trips. Those are some of the best memories I have.”

Lubick’s father was the winningest coach in Colorado State history, and Lubick got to coach under Sonny for four years (2001-04). Now, Lubick is coaching wide receivers for Oregon, the seventh program in his 18-year career. While the first-year Ducks coach does wish he stayed put more often, he said there were positives from each experience. Lubick, as he does with many things, thanked his father for shaping that mindset.

Sonny has also helped his son as a coach, making it easier for Lubick to deal with difficult players. Lubick said he hasn’t encountered any such players in the Oregon receiving corps, though. In fact, he said, they might be the best group he’s ever coached.

For the receivers, the warm feeling is mutual. “We love him,” sophomore receiver Bralon Addison said.

Junior wideouts Keanon Lowe and Eric Dungy shared similar sentiments and they, like Addison, had permanent smiles on their faces when they discussed Lubick. They couldn’t help but laugh when talking about Lubick’s singing performance at a pre-season team barbeque or the odd-looking back stretches he’ll do in practice.

“He’s always hunched over doing his little back stretches,” Lowe said. “We don’t know how it stretches his back, but I guess it works for him.”

The receivers said they constantly tease Lubick, whether it’s for his stretches, his voice or his ties with Duke – he coached receivers there from 2010-12. Dungy said one of the main reasons they make fun of Lubick is to let him feel part of the team, part of the family.

“If we joke around with you and make fun of you, that means we like you and care about you,” Dungy said. “You’re one of us.”

The wideouts all said Lubick is a student of the game and a focused competitor. But Addison doesn’t view Lubick solely as his coach.

“On the field, he’s all business,” Addison said, “but off the field, he can be a kind of father figure to us to where he cares about our lives and not just football.”

Lubick said the same thing about his father. Sonny, Lubick said, would treat every assistant coach and player as if they were brothers or sons. So when Lubick claimed he doesn’t get bothered by his relative anonymity or his nomadic career, he pointed directly to his father’s caring nature as proof. In Lubick eye’s, he has to do a lot more hitchhiking if he wants to reach Sonny’s level.

“If I can be half the person he is, or half the coach he is,” Lubick said, “I’ll consider myself a success.”

BY VICTOR FLORES. @ VFLORES415

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GAMEDAY

WHAT TO WATCH DURING BYE WEEK



Last week Oregon fans gathered to watch the filming of ESPN's College GameDay on campus.

Last Saturday in Eugene was a busy one. Hundreds of fans gathered on campus to attend ESPN's College GameDay during the wee hours of the morning and made the walk to Autzen a few hours later to witness the Ducks defeat UCLA 42-14.

With the Ducks on a bye this week, Saturday should be spent recovering after consecutive nights of Halloween shenanigans.

Here's how to spend your perfect Saturday.

MORNING

Sleep in and make a greasy breakfast. Nothing tastes better after a night of bobbing for apples and trick-or-treating ('cause that's what kids do now-a-days, right?) than a heaping portion of hash browns, eggs, sausage and toast accompanied by a glass of orange juice. There's not much to watch as far as college football is concerned until 12:30 when in-state rivals Michigan and Michigan State face off in East Lansing. If sports aren't your thing, cuddle up and watch a movie. It's supposed to rain all day, so pile up the blankets and turn on a classic. Maybe "The Breakfast Club," or "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" if you have the proper accompaniment.

AFTERNOON

No. 18 Oklahoma State and No. 15 Texas Tech face off at 4 p.m. That game's a perfect time filler until 5 p.m., when the college game of the week between No. 7 Miami and No. 3 Florida State kicks off. The Florida showdown is huge for the Seminoles and could temporarily

vault them to second in the BCS standings with Oregon idle. In the spirit of Halloween, halftime would be an appropriate hour to kick off the festivities of the night. Perhaps a nice autumn seasonal brew to get things going, like New Belgium's Pumpkick pumpkin ale.

EVENING

If your plan is to continue acting ghoulish, eat a big dinner before it's too late. Splitting a pizza with friends always does the trick, but if you're on a budget, whip up some pasta and a salad with French bread on the side. The college football night will be wrapped up by then, but basketball is here. The Trail Blazers and Spurs open Portland's home season at the Moda Center at 7 p.m. With the game playing in the background, it's time to get dressed up in whatever costume idea you have left. Bring your flashlights and pumpkin baskets and bundle up. It's gonna be a chilly one.

NIGHT

Find a Halloween party and enjoy the night with friends, family and anyone else. Enter a costume contest, eat some candy, consume alcoholic beverages (responsibly) and have a great end to Halloween weekend. If the first two nights of scariness tired you out, watch a Halloween movie and gorge yourself with sweets. Whether you spend the day relaxing or celebrating, have a fun, spooky and safe, perfect Saturday.

BY MADISON GUERNSEY, @GUERNSEYMD



Former Oregon QB Bryan Bennett is enjoying a successful career as a starting QB at SLU.

BENNETT THRIVES IN LOUISIANA

A year ago, Bryan Bennett took the ball from Oregon starting quarterback Marcus Mariota and excelled in the second half against a lowly Colorado Buffaloes squad. Bennett accounted for three touchdowns and guided the then-No. 4 Ducks to a 70-14 victory at Autzen Stadium.

Fast forward 364 days and only the name on the back of the jersey remains the same for the quarterback from Granada Hills, Calif.

Bennett still wears green and yellow but for an entirely different school on the other side of the country. Now, he's the starting quarterback for the Southeastern Louisiana Lions, a concept that a year ago seemed unfathomable.

Following Oregon's 35-17 victory over Kansas State in the 2013 Fiesta Bowl, Bennett took time to reassess his current situation. Though the material things, like the facilities and flashy jerseys, were nice, Bennett came to the conclusion that he wanted to be a team's starting quarterback.

After spending the past two summers in Louisiana, Bennett came into contact with the coaching staff at Southeastern Louisiana University. With the idea of possibly transferring in his mind, Bennett decided to take a risk and travel to Hammond, La.

"I was going back and forth after the Fiesta Bowl and I decided to go out on a limb and check it out here and see if it was something I was ready to do," Bennett told the Emerald in a phone interview this past Tuesday. "Even when I was out here I wasn't sure if I was going to stay or come back to Eugene."

Bennett never came back to Eugene, and on Jan. 22, just three weeks after the conclusion of Oregon's season, he announced

that he would transfer to Southeastern Louisiana.

"I decided I was going to take this shot, transfer and make the best of it," Bennett said. "It was a really hard decision."

A change of this magnitude is in no sense an easy thing to accomplish. For the first time in his life, Bennett had to adjust to living in unfamiliar territory.

"It's a different culture down here and for the first time I was on my own," Bennett said. "That was a big change. It took some time to get used to, but I feel comfortable. I got to know the people and I got to know the city more and more."

Through the 2,624-mile journey from the University of Oregon to Hammond, football has remained constant for Bennett. While transferring from a comfortable situation to a place with a laundry list of uncertainties provided much fear, Bennett believes his most recent performance for the Lions validated his decision to pick up his things and leave Eugene.

Last Saturday, almost a full year after his game against Colorado, Bennett led the Lions to a 56-34 win over Southland Conference rival Lamar University with two touchdowns and 332 total yards. The win improves the Lions to 6-2 on the season, eclipsing their five-win total from last season.

"That was something that made me feel like it was the right decision to give myself an opportunity to go play," Bennett said. "Along with my fellow players and coaches, I feel like a big part in changing how things have been around here. It's kind of cool to be a part of a change for a positive manner."

BY JOSEPH HOYT, @JHOYT42

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FILM

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For more information email: bfreeman@uoregon.edu

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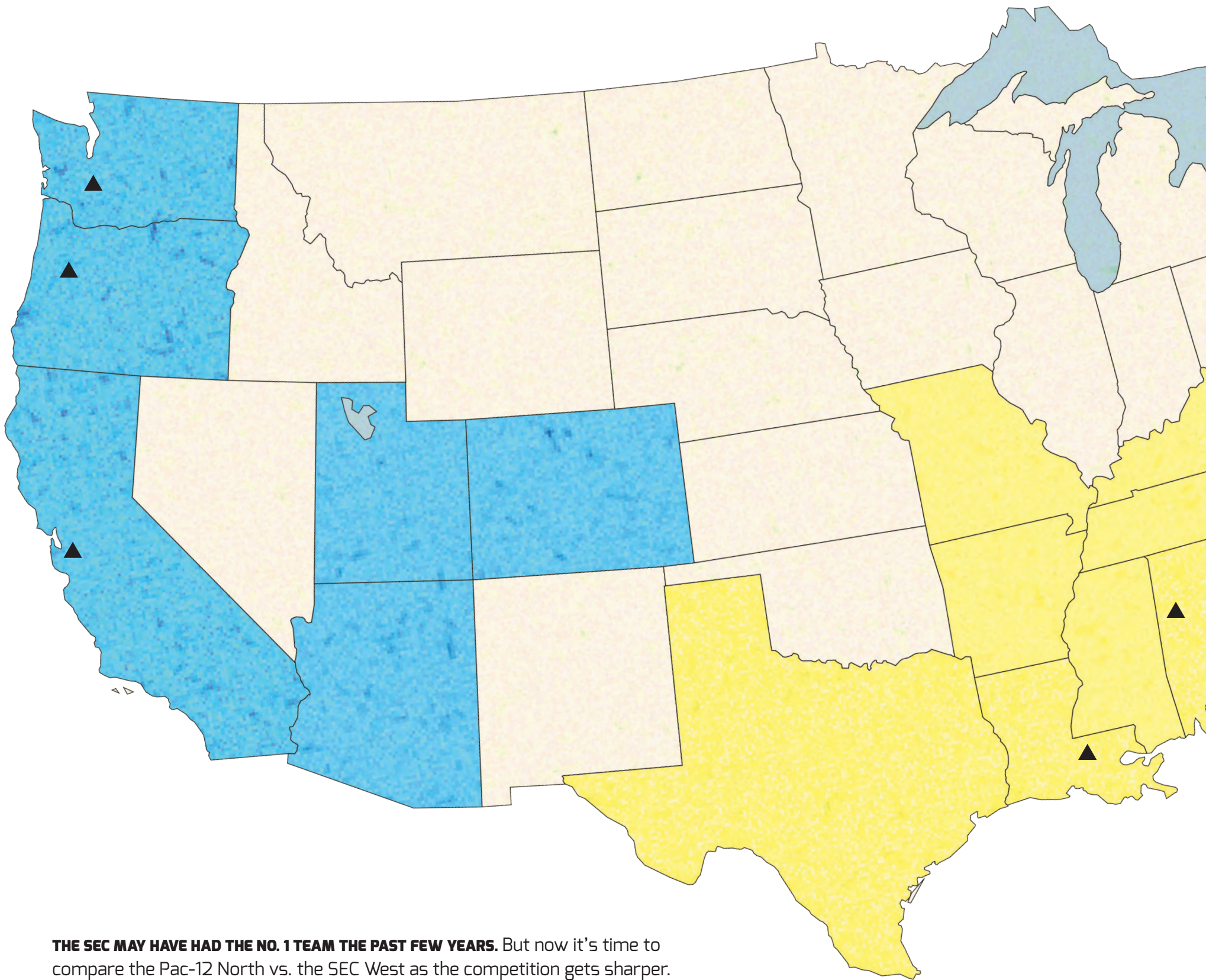
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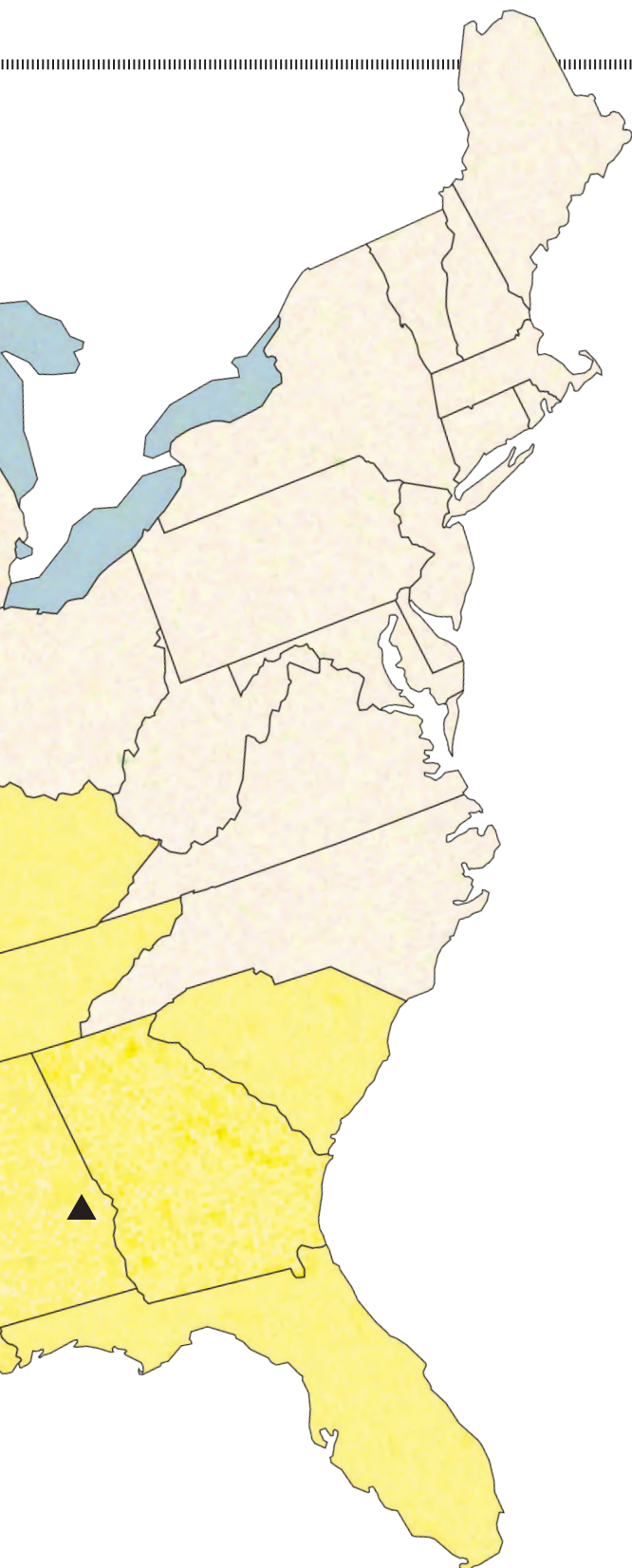
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THE SEC MAY HAVE HAD THE NO. 1 TEAM THE PAST FEW YEARS. But now it's time to compare the Pac-12 North vs. the SEC West as the competition gets sharper.

COMPETITION CLOSES IN: SEC VS. PAC-12



SEC STATES

PAC-12 STATES

TOP TEAMS

There has always been that one friend with that one stubborn opinion, saying the SEC is the best division in college football. OK, yes, the conference has been the best for a number of years. But college football is not the sport to talk like Yankee fans worldwide. It's not all about the rings, at least not this year. Pac-12 schools have made and continue to make a statement. This year it's becoming an elite conference, if not *the* elite conference, in college football. With such a strong conference, it's time to break down the Pac-12 and SEC.

Although both divisions have "bottom feeder" type teams, all of the focus is on the top teams. Because of this phenomenon, it only seems right to take the three best teams from the top division in the SEC and the Pac-12 and compare them.

In talking about the three best teams from each division, for the SEC West, it's Alabama, LSU and Auburn. For the Pac-12 North, it's Oregon, Stanford and Washington. Let the debate begin.

The latest BCS standings has five of the six teams ranked in the top 15 – Washington the lone team unranked – and three of the six in the top five. Looking at the schedules of each team, one would immediately recognize that Washington has already played its hardest part of the season while Alabama still has LSU and Auburn to play and LSU also has Texas A&M.

With five weeks left in the season and the BCS polls not yet in full force, Emerald sports reporter Andrew Bantly breaks down who wins the position battles within each conference.

QUARTERBACKS: PAC-12 NORTH

Led by Heisman front-runner Marcus Mariota of Oregon, the Pac-12 North gets the advantage. Along with Mariota, Stanford's Kevin Hogan and Washington's Keith Price put up a higher average EPA (total clutch-weighted expected points added, 38.77) and average adjusted QBR (79.1) than the quarterbacks of the SEC West teams. AJ McCarron of Alabama and LSU's Zach Mettenberger are both ranked in the top 10 of adjusted QBR, but Auburn's Nick Marshall hurts the division in this category with just a 18.3 total EPA and 64.9 adjusted QBR.

The Pac-12 quarterbacks have also run for 12 touchdowns compared to the SEC quarterbacks, who only have five rushing touchdowns, all of which are by Auburn's Nick Marshall.

RUNNING BACKS: PAC-12 NORTH

To compare running backs, the qualifying backs needed to have at least 60 touches. The SEC West backs average 6.7 yards per carry and have scored 43 touchdowns. The Pac-12 North backs average 6.0 yards per carry and have run it in the end zone 44 times. Now the Pac-12 North only has four qualifying backs, whereas the SEC West has five. The current starting backs for each of the three Pac-12 North teams – Bishop Sankey, Byron Marshall and Tyler Gaffney – are all tied for the nation's lead in rushing touchdown scores with 12. LSU's Jeremy Hill is also part of this nation-leading group.

Even further, star running back De'Anthony Thomas was not included in the numbers due to his mere 52 carries.

WIDE RECEIVERS: PAC-12 NORTH

Just as it was for determining the running backs,

the receivers between each division are very close in production this year. In picking the two receivers from each team with the most receptions, SEC West receivers average 16.4 yards per reception, and the Pac-12 North receivers average 15.9. Not only have the Pac-12 North receivers scored 29 times this year compared to the SEC West's 26, but the Pac-12 North receivers score more frequently on average. They average a touchdown every 7.3 completions.

OFFENSIVE LINE: SEC WEST

The Alabama, LSU and Auburn offensive lines in terms of sacks per passing attempt have been very effective this season. These teams' offensive fronts allow a sack per 21.5 passing attempts, compared to the Pac-12 North offensive lines, which give up one sack per 16.6 attempts.

DEFENSIVE LINE: PAC-12 NORTH

The SEC West teams allow only 130.4 rushing yards per game and 3.78 yards per rush. Also they give up, on average, just one rushing touchdown per game. Though the Pac-12 North schools fight at the line well themselves, allowing just 137.1 yards per game, 3.72 yards per rush and 26 rushing touchdowns in 24 games.

What separates the two divisions in terms of sack totals? The SEC West schools, through their 25 games, have just 51 sacks. On the other hand, the Pac-12 North schools have 75 sacks this season through 24 games, averaging over three sacks per game, a whole sack greater than the SEC West.

DEFENSIVE SECONDARY: SEC WEST

The Pac-12 North schools have picked off 30 passes this season compared to the SEC West's 23, not to mention the fact that SEC West schools have played an extra game. But the SEC West schools have allowed eight fewer touchdowns. They also allow just 215.9 passing yards per game compared to the Pac-12 North's 231 yards allowed per game.

SPECIAL TEAMS: SEC WEST

Both sets of schools have a combined two kickoff return touchdowns and two punt return touchdowns, respectively. But special teams is more than just the return game. When looking at field goal completion, the SEC West is better. In taking more attempts (34) than the Pac-12 North (28), SEC West kickers have also converted at a higher rate. The SEC West has made 82 percent of its attempts compared to the Pac-12 North's 78 percent, even with Washington being a perfect eight-for-eight in field goals.

HEAD COACHES: SEC WEST

With the names Nick Saban and Les Miles, it is hard not to understand why the SEC West teams have the advantage. Even Auburn offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn has an impressive track record in just his first year at the helm for the Tigers. Though the Pac-12 North has great coaches, too, in David Shaw, Steve Sarkisian and first-year Oregon head coach Mark Helfrich, they don't have the track record to compete with Saban or Miles, who have a combined record of 259-78-1.

BY ANDREW BANTLY, @ABANT3

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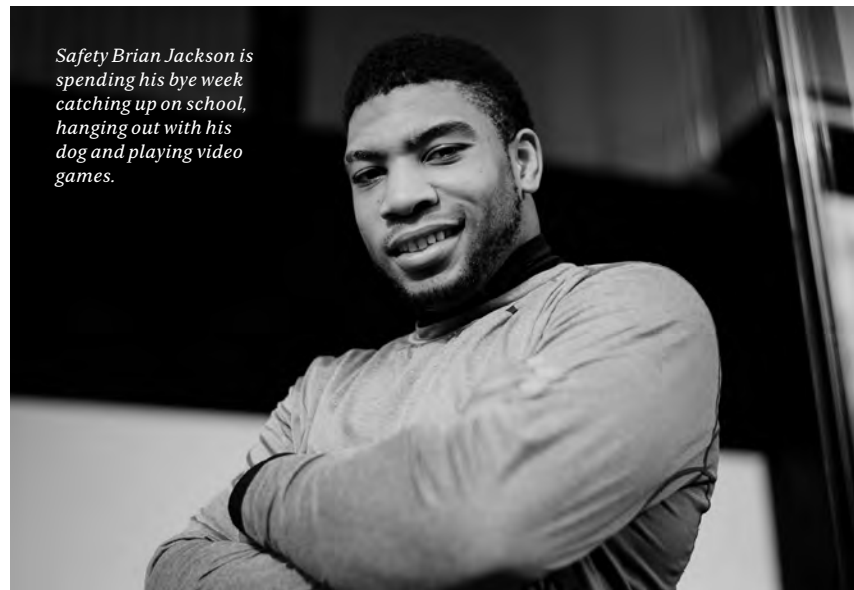
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Brian Jackson talks down-time

Safety Brian Jackson is spending his bye week catching up on school, hanging out with his dog and playing video games.



BY HAYDEN KIM, @HAYDAYKIM

The No. 2 Ducks are currently in their second bye week of the year. For strong safety Brian Jackson, this came as great news – after all, it’s midterms week. Jackson has had extra time to study for tests, play with his dog and fit in a couple games of “NBA 2K14” and “Call of Duty.” Bye weeks offer the few days of the season where football players can rest and, fortunately for the Ducks, they can still make their Halloween plans – something Jackson fully plans to take part in tonight.

HOW’S THE BYE WEEK BEEN GOING SO FAR?

“It’s cool, just getting ready to get these midterms and stuff over with. I got a lot of stuff in school and it just so happens to be the perfect week for it, so it’s really helped me out a lot being able to stay up a little bit later and study because we get a little extra during the day.”

HOW HAVE THE MIDTERMS BEEN GOING?

“I’m not going to lie, it’s hard keeping up with school and play football at the same time. You just got so many things on your mind all the time and just being able to scale back a little bit. And during the week, I think that it’s the most important for school right now. That’s what I’m getting the most out of it.”

THE NBA SEASON STARTED LAST NIGHT. ARE YOU AN NBA FAN AND DID YOU WATCH SOME BASKETBALL LAST NIGHT?

“I didn’t watch any basketball. I don’t watch very much of it. I more or less just play ‘2K’ on my Xbox.”

ASIDE FROM “NBA 2K14,” WHAT ELSE DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR OFF TIME?

“I really like to play with my dog and I like to take him to the dog park. It’s pretty cool, just to see him run around and have fun. When I’m not doing that, I guess just play video games. Main one I do play, though, is ‘Call of Duty.’ I’m pretty nasty at that. I can’t wait for this next one that’s coming out next week.”

ARE YOU GOING TO UPGRADE TO THE PS4 OR XBOX ONE?

“Yeah, I’m going to get an Xbox One first and then get a PS4. But I definitely have to stick with my Xbox right now.”

✦ RYAN KOSTECKA

Don't let a few bad fans spoil the fun.

The life of a college football athlete is unlike any other experience. Apart from being a full-time student, you are required to sacrifice your blood, sweat and tears for a common goal.

While you do all the hard work, put in long hours and dedicate four years of your life to one thing, the rewards are shared by tens of thousands of people all across the world.

You don't just play for yourself. You play for your teammates, your coaches, your school and all of the people who call themselves fans.

As a former two-sport athlete (football and baseball) at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, I can understand and relate to the sacrifices one makes on a daily basis as a college football player. Granted, I was not as big-time as Oregon, but I still did the same stuff the Ducks do to the same degree, just against a lower level of competition.

In a letter written to Oregonian sports reporter John Canzano, a former Duck football player (part of the team within the last four years) was so disgusted with Oregon fans when he attended the Ducks game against UCLA that he wrote a letter complaining about the Oregon faithful and ended it with, "I will always love the Ducks: my coaches, my teammates, my brothers and family. The rest... Go (expletive) yourselves."

He was so irritated with how the fans were calling out players such as Marcus Mariota and De'Anthony Thomas and the coaches for "not knowing (expletive)" about the game of football and being "ignorant people" that he vowed to never go to another Ducks game again.

My response to him is to shut up and grow up.

Before anyone gets mad, hear

me out first.

Here's a former Division I college athlete for a top-tier program and he's upset because a few fans started cussing and were unhappy with how Oregon was playing? I'm sure he's heard worse throughout his career. Heck, he should come on down to California and check out my hometown. I guarantee you he'll find someone there who will hurt his feelings about football and that's at the high school level.

He compared himself and his teammates to the characters of Spartacus claiming he was paid enough to "eat, live and train" only. I wonder about the degree I hope he got, or all the free clothes he got or the top of the line treatment and facilities he was allowed to use? Yeah, sounds like a slave to me ...

He speaks of how ignorant Duck fans are when in reality, it was a few fans he had the displeasure of meeting. There are bad fans at every college stadium and I'm sorry he had the unfortunate luck of sitting next to them, but to tell all fans to "Go (expletive) yourselves" is sending a terrible message.

What about the five-year-old kid who waited all day just to see any Duck player in person? What about the 90-year-old woman who has loved everything Oregon since she was 10? Never did he think about them. All he did was group every Duck fan together, call them ignorant and well, told them to you-know-what.

All I'm saying is that I've been on both sides field and I know what it's like. There are terrible fans everywhere you go and they don't belong in the world of sports, but it doesn't mean everyone is just as bad. Show pride for your favorite team, just like the little kid standing out in the rain all day waiting for an autograph.



Ryan KostECKA is an Emerald sports reporter. Follow him on Twitter: @Ryan_KostECKA

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PRETENDERS VS. CONTENDERS: WEEK 10 PAC-12 RANKINGS

PICK THE PAC



De'Anthony Thomas attempts to block a field goal during last year's Oregon-Stanford game.

*The Emerald sports staff picks Week 10's slate of college football games. *Rankings based on AP poll*

Oregon and Stanford dominate the Pac-12 as expected, but a few other teams have displayed why the Pac-12 has become dominant. Oregon and Stanford's game holds the key to the North division while the UCLA-Arizona State matchup will most likely decide the South.

BCS CONTENDERS

1. Oregon ➔ Not a single opponent has been able to match the Ducks' combination of offensive firepower and defensive onslaught for four quarters this year. The Ducks' average points per game (55.6) ranks second in the nation and only one team has come within 21 points.

2. Stanford ➔ The Cardinal could make a strong case for being at the top of the list, but due to their road loss to Utah and struggles against Oregon State, Stanford has showed more and more hiccups. The No. 6 team possesses physicality unmatched in this conference, and Tyler Gaffney has rushed for 886 yards behind a stout offensive line. They also have the home advantage on Nov. 7.

KINGS OF THE SOUTH

3. UCLA ➔ The Bruins found themselves up against two heavyweight prizefighters in back-to-back weeks. In both games, UCLA hung tough while dealing with injuries. Against Stanford they were down by a touchdown with less than five minutes to go and headed into halftime tied with Oregon on Saturday.

4. Arizona State ➔ Currently the leader of the Pac-12 South, Arizona State has crushed both Washington and USC while only losing to Stanford. Averaging 332 yards of passing a game, Taylor Kelly and the Sun Devil offense has scored more than 50 points four times this year.

MIDDLE TIER

5. Oregon State ➔ Oregon State continues to look like a formidable opponent after a shocking loss to Eastern Washington in the season opener. The Beavers' average of 420.8 passing yards a game ranks first in the country and the team will be able to display whether it's a contender in its final three games.

6. Washington ➔ After suffering back-to-back blows from Stanford and Oregon, Washington was embarrassed by Arizona State the following week, losing 53-24. The Huskies bounced back last week against conference doormat Cal, and the offense still has talent across the board. It just needs to show it against a formidable foe.

REST OF THE PAC

7. USC ➔ Do not sleep on USC anymore. This resurgent team with interim head coach Ed Orgeron has won two of its last three games and is in position to reach a bowl game. The Trojans' defense is one of the most sustainable in the conference, only allowing 19.3 points per game on average.

8. Arizona ➔ At 2-2, Arizona is actually tied for second in the Pac-12 South

and still has games remaining against UCLA and Arizona State. What has been essential to this Wildcat offense is the efficiency of its rushing attack, led by Ka'Deem Carey, who is averaging 132 rushing yards per game.

9. Utah ➔ The Utes looked to be emerging as a dark horse team this season after their upset win over an undefeated Stanford team. But that assessment has quickly been scratched after consecutive losses to Arizona and USC. Utah is now 1-4 in the conference and in danger of not making it to a bowl game.

10. Washington State ➔ With four games to go, the Cougars' schedule looks favorable for a bowl bid. With an air raid-type offense, the Cougars have displayed ability to effectively score on every team they have faced.

THE BASEMENT

11. Colorado ➔ Its best bet at winning a conference game this season will come on Nov. 16 against Cal.

12. California ➔ With their only win coming against Portland State, the Bears have lost six straight games. First year head coach Sonny Dykes is hoping that this season is only the beginning of a progressive air raid-type offense.

Beth Maiman,
sports editor

No. 25 Arizona State @ Washington State
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BY JUSTIN WISE, @JWISE25

SHOULD MARIOTA HEAD TO THE NFL NOW?

BY MADISON GUERNSEY,
@GUERNSEYMD

It's the question everybody's asking: Will Marcus Mariota leave Oregon for the NFL draft after this season? As expected, nobody's getting any answers.

The redshirt sophomore has catapulted himself beyond elite QB status and into the conversation of best collegiate signal caller. He's progressed in every aspect of the game and never seems to be rattled. He embodies everything NFL scouts look for in a professional quarterback. He's racked up 2,281 passing yards on just 225 attempts with 20 touchdowns through eight games this season – all of them wins by at least three possessions. The most impressive stat for the Hawaii native is represented by an empty zero, which in this case is the best number possible. Mariota hasn't thrown an interception this season, a number only two other qualified quarterbacks match, and they've attempted 129 passes combined.

With Mariota playing his best for perhaps the best Oregon team in school history, there are pros and cons to him entering the 2014 NFL Draft.

PROS:

High draft stock:

Mariota is currently listed as the second-best draft prospect according to CBS Sports and will likely leapfrog Louisville's Teddy Bridgewater if he wins the Heisman trophy, or better yet, a national championship. Mariota has a legitimate shot at achieving both feats and would likely be selected early in the first round regardless. There's always that other factor – he would get paid.

NFL quarterback deficiency:

There are at least six NFL teams with losing records that need to draft a quarterback. Mariota would have a chance to step in and help a team right away as the starter, continuing his progression without missing a beat. With teams like the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Minnesota Vikings near the bottom of the standings and in desperate need of a quarterback, Mariota would have a good chance at being selected with a top-five pick.



Mariota leads the No. 2 Ducks and boasts zero interceptions for the year.

PRO/CON:

Uncertain entrants:

Each of CBS Sports' top-four quarterback prospects have at least another year of eligibility and are anything but a lock to forego the rest of their collegiate careers and go pro. If all four of them leave college, it could change Mariota's draft position. But it also may not.

CONS:

Potential for growth:

Although it may not seem like it, Mariota can get even better. He could set records, collect accolades, win championships and be a no-doubt number-one pick. He says he doesn't care about individual achievements, but who wouldn't want to be known as one of the best college quarterbacks of all time?

Future unknown:

Injuries are always part of the game, and next season could derail Mariota's pursuit of a professional career if he were to get hurt. There are plenty of other things that can happen, too. Mark Helfrich and Scott Frost could both get better job offers and split, potentially changing the offensive layout entirely. The offensive line could have injury issues and deplete itself, leaving Mariota less protected and susceptible to turnovers and injuries. He could sell autographs to Johnny Manziel and get suspended indefinitely by the NCAA. Not likely, but hey, stranger things have happened.

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