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ABOUT

E The Emerald is published by Emerald Media Group, Inc., the independent nonprofit news company at the University of Oregon. Formerly the Oregon Daily Emerald, the news organization was founded in 1900.

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GET IN TOUCH

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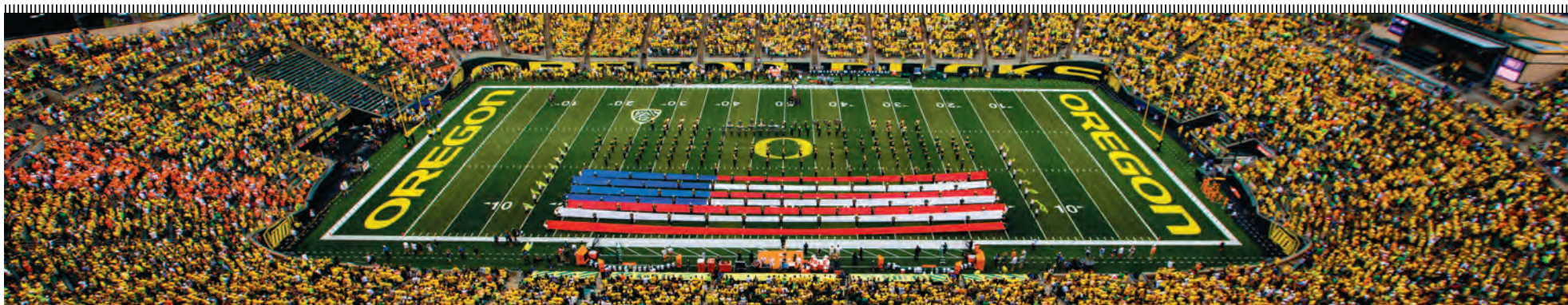
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THE PERFECT SATURDAY

BY RYAN KOSTECKA @RYAN_KOSTECKA

With college football in full swing now and week five approaching us this weekend, here is how to best have your Saturday go smoothly with another fun-filled day of college football. Here are the games worth watching and what to do in those moments between games.

MORNING

There isn't much luck for anyone trying to watch a morning football game. The 9-9:30 a.m. slot has three top 15 teams playing below-average conference teams, so the excitement won't be there. My best advice would be to spend the time sleeping in. If you're really motivated, head to the local store and pick up some beer for the afternoon excitement.

AFTERNOON

At 12:30, get ready for the nation's only game of the day featuring two top 10 teams in No. 6 LSU at No. 9 Georgia. This game will feature two of the SEC's top four quarterbacks – LSU's Zach Mettenberger and Georgia's Aaron Murray. This should be a hard-hitting contest with LSU's nasty defense taking on Murray and running back Todd Gurley's pounding offense. My prediction is Georgia's defense shows up ready to go, and the combination of Murray/Gurley provides too much offensive punch for LSU to take home a win.

☉ PREDICTED SCORE: GEORGIA (31) – LSU (27)

Once that game is over, you have about an hour to an hour and a half of down time. One option is going out to get some food, hitting the gym or spending quality time with your significant other. Whatever the case, make sure to be back on the couch for the evening slate. If none of those sound good, sit back, drink a beer and see how long it takes for No. 1 Alabama to be up 20 points on No. 21 Ole Miss.

EVENING

At 5 p.m., Wisconsin and Ohio State kick off in Columbus, Ohio. All eyes will be on Buckeye quarterback Braxton Miller to see whether or not he plays. Miller, who has sat out the last two weeks with a knee injury, was a Heisman favorite entering the season and might be a bit rusty coming back from so much down time. Wisconsin is still stinging from the controversial ending against Arizona State two weeks ago and the Badgers might still have some fury, even after their beat down of Purdue last week. This game will be as hard-hitting as they get with both lines being big and physical at the point of attack.

☉ SCORE PREDICTION: OHIO STATE (38) – WISCONSIN (24)

The game should get over around 8 p.m. so that leaves you with one of two options. You can either go out and enjoy the nightlife that Eugene has to offer, or if you didn't snatch a ticket to the game, you can catch the second half of Oregon's game against the Cal Bears. The best idea – do a combination of both and catch the rest of the game at a bar with some friends, preferably The Bridge or Side Bar for the best food in town.

Before heading over to Autzen Stadium on Saturday evening, there are plenty of ways to stay entertained.



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Ducks cornerback Ifo Ekpre-Olomu will be challenged by Cal's no-huddle offense on Saturday evening.

SPEED MEETS MORE SPEED

BY BETH MAIMAN, @BETHAMAIMAN

The No. 2 Ducks (3-0) will take on the California Golden Bears (1-2) for the first evening game of the season this Saturday at Autzen Stadium. With Cal's quick-paced offense under head coach Sonny Dykes and true-freshman quarterback Jared Goff throwing for 1,306 yards and seven touchdowns so far this season, this week's game marks the first true test for the Ducks' secondary.

Cal has faced some tough competition so far this season, playing ranked teams Northwestern and Ohio State. However, the Golden Bears' sole win of the season was against Portland State, where they only topped the Vikings by one touchdown.

Oregon has looked like a well-oiled machine so far this season, with three blowout wins and holding the No. 2 spot in the AP top 25. Both teams are coming off a bye week and should be well-rested heading into Saturday's game.

HERE'S HOW THE TEAMS STACK UP:

OFFENSE

OREGON: If Marcus Mariota can perform like he did in the Ducks' 59-17 win last season, where he threw for 377 yards and six touchdowns with no interceptions, Oregon should have no problem picking up their first Pac-12 win of the season in dominant fashion.

Last week against Tennessee, Mariota threw for a career-high 456 yards, along with four touchdowns, bringing his name into the Heisman talk more than ever. The redshirt sophomore should be able to put up big numbers against the secondary of Cal. With Cal's defense giving up 126 points so far this season, Oregon running backs De'Anthony Thomas and Byron Marshall could pick up big yards and the offense should have no trouble leaving the field with an impressive stat line.

CALIFORNIA: The most interesting matchup to watch in Saturday's game will be Cal's true-freshman quarterback Jared Goff against the talented secondary of Oregon. Goff has made a name for himself in his first season, especially in his first-ever game against Northwestern where he threw for 445 yards and two touchdowns.

However, Goff has four interceptions for the year, two of which were taken back for touchdowns. The Golden Bears have threats at the wide receiver position with Chris Harper and Bryce Treggs catching for a total of 641 yards combined.

DEFENSE

OREGON: The Oregon secondary should see more action on Saturday than it has so far this season. Cal's high-tempo offense should create some moments for cornerbacks Ifo Ekpre-Olomu and Avery Patterson to be challenged and make big plays. If airing the ball out doesn't work for the Golden Bears, Cal's running back Brendan Bigelow could pick up carries, and the Ducks' defensive line will have the spotlight.

CALIFORNIA: Cal's defense has struggled this season and has suffered six injuries to starters on defense. Cal is the nation's fourth-worst defense, giving up 556.3 yards per game. Facing the Ducks' dynamic offense, it could be a rough day for the Golden Bears on defense.

BY THE NUMBERS

The California Golden Bears have been prolific on offense in their first three games this season, but they've struggled in several other categories, including the win column.

4 - 11

Cal's record since the start of the 2012 season

4

Pac-12 road games against AP top 25 teams (No. 2 Oregon, No. 5 Stanford, No. 13 UCLA, No. 16 Washington)

438.7

Passing yards per game this season, second out of the 125 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS)

556.0

Total yards per game on offense this season, ninth in the FBS

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WHY CAL WILL BEAT OREGON

PICK THE PAC

The Emerald sports staff picks Week Five's slate of college football games.

BETH MAIMAN
 USC @ ASU
 No. 5 Stanford @ Washington State
 Colorado @ Oregon State
 Cal @ No. 2 Oregon
 No. 13 UCLA @ Utah
 Arizona @ No. 16 Washington

VICTOR FLORES
 USC @ ASU
 No. 5 Stanford @ Washington State
 Colorado @ Oregon State
 Cal @ No. 2 Oregon
 No. 13 UCLA @ Utah
 Arizona @ No. 16 Washington

HAYDEN KIM
 USC @ ASU
 No. 5 Stanford @ Washington State
 Colorado @ Oregon State
 Cal @ No. 2 Oregon
 No. 13 UCLA @ Utah
 Arizona @ No. 16 Washington

RYAN KOSTECKA
 USC @ ASU
 No. 5 Stanford @ Washington State
 Colorado @ Oregon State
 Cal @ No. 2 Oregon
 No. 13 UCLA @ Utah
 Arizona @ No. 16 Washington

MADISON GUERNSEY
 USC @ ASU
 No. 5 Stanford @ Washington State
 Colorado @ Oregon State
 Cal @ No. 2 Oregon
 No. 13 UCLA @ Utah
 Arizona @ No. 16 Washington

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each week during football season we will feature an essay from the opponent's student newspaper on why Oregon will lose. This week's edition is from Sean Wagner-McGough and Michael Rosen (@michaelrosen3), sports writer and editor, respectively, at The Daily Californian

You can't be completely certain of anything. Alright, that's the best we've got. Because Cal's defense sucks. Straight up, no way around it. They allowed 30 points to freakin' Portland State. The Portland State Vikings! All of the Bears' best players are hurt and a bunch of true freshman are starting. Our defensive coordinator's name is literally pronounced "Boo." Is there a worse omen than that? But you know what? Crazy shit happens. Remember when Stanford beat USC as 42-point underdogs? Against Oregon, Cal is only a 37-point underdog! Remember when Cal almost beat Oregon in 2010? That was fun, for like 30 minutes. And, you know, the offense doesn't completely suck. I mean, they scored 37 points against those mighty Vikings. True freshman quarterback Jared Goff has thrown 1,306 yards for the season. Super Bowl champion Trent Dilfer even called Goff "the best deep ball passer he'd ever seen at his age." And we all

know a quarterback's greatest dream is receiving praise from the OG game manager himself, Trent Dilfer. Okay, we're bored. Is this the part of the article where we start making fun of Oregon? Okay. I'll trade off barbs with my assistant, Sean, go. **Sean:** Ducks? Talk about the weakest mascot in the Pac-12. **Michael:** Everyone on the Oregon campus is smelly. **Sean:** Cal is the number one public school in the UNIVERSE. Has anyone ever ranked Oregon? **Michael:** I think we all know Oregon is butt-hurt about being a lesser version of Washington State. **Sean:** Ducks? Really?! **Michael:** Seriously, what's the point of Oregon if you're not living in Portland? Really, we're just distracting ourselves from the fact that there is no way the Cal offense will keep up with the Ducks. The defense couldn't stop a pee wee team, much less the fastest and most dynamic offense in the country. Dykes' Bear Raid is no joke, but the idea that it has a shot at Autzen on Saturday

is a pretty funny one. And, come on, Phil Knight is definitely paying your players. That has to be the worst-kept secret in college football. So, with that in my mind, here's our theory of how Cal wins this game: Prior to kickoff, Phil walks into Mark Helfrich's office. "Mark," he says. "The NCAA is on to you and me. They know about the infinite pairs of Nike socks. I'm out of here." And then Phil Knight scampers out of the locker room into his Nike™ bomb shelter, never to be seen again. Helfrich is so shell-shocked by his imminent demise that he turns catatonic. De'Anthony Thomas walks in and declares himself defensive coordinator and quarterback. The Ducks lose by 30, and we go get drunk at Pappy's. Wait, we're still 20 so that isn't happening. But we can dream, right? We have to admit, we were skeptical at first. But after writing this, we're starting to believe. And let's be honest, we go to Berkeley. We've already won.



Sophomore receiver Chris Harper works hard to improve both on the football field and in the classroom.

FOR CHRIS HARPER, CAL IS MORE THAN FOOTBALL

California's Chris Harper has been the leading receiver for one of the most prolific passing attacks this season. But throughout his career, the routes he's taken haven't always been so smooth.

I feel like I've been an underdog all my life," Harper said. "I've always had a chip on my shoulder."

Harper ended up accepting an offer from Southern Methodist University, but shortly after his commitment, he went to visit California, his dream college. The Golden Bears' coaches were so impressed with Harper, they immediately offered him a scholarship, which he eagerly accepted.

"It was one of the greatest feelings in the world," Harper said on the California scholarship.

Harper wasn't just impressed with California's football program, though. In fact, when Harper refers to the great feeling he had getting that scholarship,

he immediately references California's pristine academic reputation.

"If football ever doesn't work out for me," Harper said, "I just know that I have an education to fall back on. I have a back up plan."

So far, Harper's first plan has worked out pretty well. As a true freshman in 2012, he caught 41 passes for 544 yards and two touchdowns.

Oregon's Ifo Ekpre-Olomu remembers playing against Harper last year, and the Ducks cornerback says he'll be watching out for Harper when they square off on Saturday.

"He was a pretty good receiver last year when I went against him," Ekpre-Olomu said. "All-around,

I think he's a great athlete and he makes plays on the ball."

Harper says he's still not satisfied after his breakout first year. Even through his first three games of this season – he's caught 21 passes for 324 yards and three touchdowns – he's still looking forward. And the individual accolades are just a part of his overall goals.

"I'm always trying to get into the end zone and getting into the end zone will help the offense," he said. "Any goal I have personally always goes into a bigger picture in the offense."

Bears running back Brendan Bigelow says he loves being around Harper, even though Harper always beats him in video games. Bigelow also notes how

impressed he is with Harper on the field.

"He's a great player, a great wide receiver," Bigelow said. "Overall, he's just a good guy."

Harper might find it hard to complain about where he currently is. He's the leading receiver for one of the nation's best passing teams. When he's not on the field, he's walking around the campus of his dream school taking classes that will help provide another career option if the NFL – his ultimate dream destination – doesn't work out.

Wherever he ends up, Harper expresses total confidence in the route he's running.

BY VICTOR FLORES, @VFLORES415



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GAMEDAY



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As expected, Oregon bounced back from last week's humiliating defeat to Tennessee with a resounding 54-7 victory over California and its freshman quarterback Jared Goff.

Goff came into the game leading the nation in passing, but completed just 50 percent of his passes for 265 yards and a touchdown. He also threw three interceptions that were picked off by Boseko Lokombo, Ifo Ekpre-Olomu and Brian Jackson. Defensive tackles Wade Keliikipi and Taylor Hart disrupted the Bears' backfield all game long, combining for five tackles for a loss, including a sack each. Oregon was able to hold California to just 30 yards rushing as a team and 295 yards overall.

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota continued to make a strong push for the Ducks' first Heisman Trophy win by going 22-for-33 for 341 yards and four touchdowns. His primary targets were De'Anthony Thomas and Josh Huff. Thomas caught six balls for 83 yards while Huff caught five passes for 82 yards and added a touchdown. Daryle Hawkins, Keanon Lowe and Colt Lyerla all added a touchdown catch.

On the ground, Thomas added

159 yards rushing and three touchdowns with Mariota running for 57 and a touchdown.

As a team, Oregon racked up 599 yards of total offense and went 10-for-14 on third down including a perfect 3-for-3 on fourth down. Oregon struggled in the kicking game by missing one extra point and failing to convert a two-point conversion.

The Ducks jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead on a 10-yard scoring strike from Mariota to Lyerla. California responded with a touchdown of its own on its next drive, a two-yard pass by Goff.

The tie was short-lived as Oregon scored on its next possession, a four-yard run by Mariota, to take the 14-7 lead and never looked back.

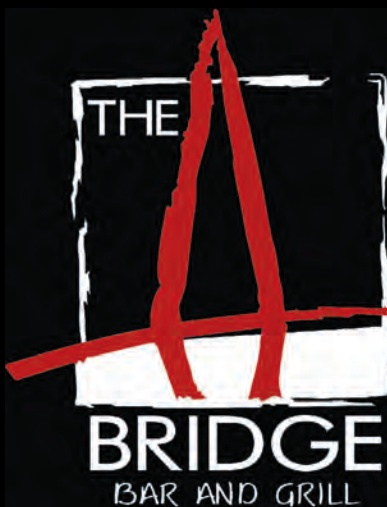
Consecutive touchdown runs by Thomas put Oregon ahead 27-7 at the end of the first half. Thomas ended the half with 113 yards rushing and his two touchdowns.

The second half began with Oregon scoring on its first two possessions, a 12-yard pass from Mariota to Lowe and a six-yard pass from Mariota to Huff to take the 40-7 lead. Mariota ended his day before the start of the fourth quarter with a 16-yard scoring strike to Hawkins that put the score at 47-7 after the missed two-point conversion.

Thomas Tyner added a 23-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter to complete the scoring.

Oregon returns to action next week when they travel to Colorado to face the Buffaloes.

BY RYAN KOSTECKA, @RYAN_KOSTECKA



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WHAT IS IT?

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WHAT COULD IT COST YOU?

Violators will be issued citations of up to \$1,000, and repeat offenders will also have to pay for police, fire, and emergency response, and repair costs for damage to public property.

Residents who host parties within the Eugene city limits would be subject to the ordinance if they are involved, present or not, in hosting or promoting parties that become unruly.

HOW TO STAY IN CONTROL

1. Verify the age of the guests
2. Control access to alcohol
3. Control the quantity of alcohol
4. Get to know your neighbors
Exchange phone numbers & communicate before you have a party
5. Be courteous - Keep the noise down
6. Refuse entrance to uninvited guests
7. Keep it small, don't post it on your wall - Avoid advertising parties on social media
8. The new ordinance includes an "affirmative defense" to those who ask for police help in shutting down a party - Ask for help, lower your chances of getting a fine

Call the Eugene Police for assistance with uninvited guests or if the party becomes unruly.
Non-emergency Phone Number: 541-682-5111



#83 JOHNNY MUNDT

Position: Tight End
Height: 6'4"
Weight: 232
Year: Freshman
Hometown: Modesto,
Calif.
High school: Central
Catholic High School

GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCE

WITH COLT LYERLA OUT WITH THE FLU, freshman Johnny Mundt proved he is worthy of playing time.

BY HAYDEN KIM, @HAYDAYKIM

“Mundt for Heisman” were the words tweeted out by Colt Lyerla when the freshman tight end exploded for 121 yards and two touchdowns against Tennessee. With Lyerla allegedly out with a stomach flu and Pharaoh Brown sidelined with an injury, Johnny Mundt’s number was called and he delivered.

Lyerla apologized for his comments following his reaction toward Mark Helfrich and the coach’s “circumstances” explanation. Brown confirmed he would be back in the lineup for the Pac-12 opener against California, and Mundt has remained focused and humble amidst the chaos as he presumably goes back to the No. 2 position on the depth chart.

The soft-spoken back-up tight end from the family walnut farm has since been named the John Mackey tight end of the week (week three) and has fled into the national spotlight, causing an unexpected stir in the depth chart.

During the Ducks’ bye week, the tight end position underwent some expected changes in regard to their

health and fed into what is turning out to be an intriguing battle for playing time.

“Wouldn’t bother me at all,” Mundt said on reverting back to the back-up tight end position behind Lyerla. “It’s up to the coaches, though. We’re both working in, taking reps, both trying to get better as a group and as a team.”

But after all that has transpired in the last week, one simply has to wonder: What will the tight end rotation look like moving forward?

In the short term, the answer will lie solely with how Lyerla responds in the coming Pac-12 games. Despite Mundt’s breakout performance, Lyerla is still the lock-in starter at the tight end position. One game hasn’t changed the immediate

future for Lyerla, but it has made things a bit more interesting as the national audience shifts its focus back onto the big one-five.

“Just trying to get back into the groove of things,” Lyerla said following his return to practice. “Obviously being sick for a whole week and kind of getting out of the eating and sleeping patterns you’re going to feel a bit off coming back, but that stuff can easily be worked through just by getting a full week of practice in.”

For the long term, Brown and Mundt will continue to gut it out for the second spot on the depth chart. The two will presumably see some time on the playing field either in a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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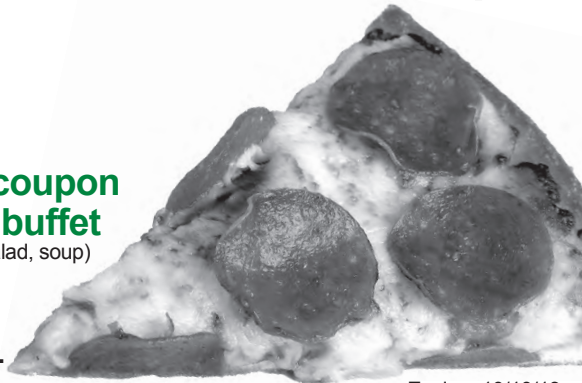
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GAMEDAY

"MUNDT FOR HEISMAN. YOU CAN'T ASK A FRESHMAN FOR ANY MORE THAN THAT AND I THINK HE'S DESERVING OF EVERY ACCOLADE HE HAS GOTTEN."

Colt Lyerla on Mundt's performance and attitude on the field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

two-tight end formation that Helfrich has openly discussed or at the back-up position, but nonetheless, they will be utilized.

"They've always said if they have enough tight ends to do it (two-tight end formation) they would open it up and if I've proved it to the coaches, it's up to them," Mundt said. "If not, I'm happy to be here."

But while Mundt and Lyerla have both showcased their abilities this season, one name has yet to be called. Heading into the season, Brown was as highly coveted as any other player on the team, but due to an early-season leg injury, those expectations were shelved for the time being. As Brown now returns to action in conference play, the Ducks will have one more big man to factor into the situation: a player who is ready to make up every inch that has been lost in the first three games.

"I just wanted to take the time and make sure I come back 100 percent," Brown said. "Not rush it and just build on the spring. I look at it like everything is meant to happen, so it's just like a minor set back and major comeback."

However, adding even more perspective to this situation is the recent list of NFL-bound players from Oregon at the tight end position. From Dante Rosario to David Paulson, the Ducks have had three of their tight ends reach the big leagues. With the rich history of players at that position, you'd think the ceiling had already been reached, but Lyerla just may top the list solely on talent and raw ability.

Lyerla is arguably the most gifted tight end that has ever donned the green and yellow and he's just a sophomore. And according to his past history, his only obstacle has been himself.

Every question that has been asked, every finger that has been pointed in his direction, has stemmed from his own mistakes and that is what is currently driving this competition to a place of uncertainty.

"The last thing I wanted was to be a distraction from the success that we're having right now," Lyerla said in reference to the recent controversy over his comments regarding Helfrich's "circumstances" comment. "I just want everyone to know I'm here 100 percent committed, I'm going to be here the whole season and do whatever I can to help this team win."

With the depth at the tight end position, Lyerla is going to be on a short leash, as Mundt and Brown stay prepared for any given situation. Both are very capable players with a lot of upside and they could very well take over the starting role if given the chance, a la Mundt.

"I mean, Mundt for Heisman," Lyerla said. "You can't ask a freshman for any more than that and I think he's deserving of every accolade he has gotten."

Mundt is the prime example of what can happen if Lyerla isn't focused. Lyerla has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reach the pinnacle of his position at Oregon and it can be taken away at a moment's notice. While an injury or sickness are things that cannot be controlled, neither is the guarantee of a starting spot.

The Pac-12 opener against California this weekend will be the first real opportunity for questions to be answered. If Lyerla responds with a performance resembling his usual self, things will likely stay the way they are. But if Lyerla repeats a performance like he had against Virginia, where he dropped a handful of catchable balls, the door of opportunity for Mundt and Brown will only creep open that much larger.

The Ducks have earned the luxury of three star tight ends. Many teams across the country would be grateful to have one viable tight end, while the Ducks are sweating over who to start on a given week.

Lyerla may be chanting "Mundt for Heisman" right now, but the bottom line is that there can only be one starter. Mundt and Brown will continue to compete for their opportunity to play and that alone leaves no room for error, even for a player like Lyerla.

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Ducks offensive line by the numbers

122
Games played by starting o-line in Oregon career

19
Sacks allowed on Marcus Mariota in Oregon career

2
Sacks allowed this season (tied for second nationally)

1,066
Rushing yards contributed this season (first in Pac-12)

30
Consecutive starts made by center Hroniss Grasu

Former Ducks offensive linemen currently in NFL:

KYLE LONG: #75, Chicago Bears. Oregon: 2012

GEOFF SCHWARTZ: #74, Kansas City Chiefs. Oregon: 2004-07

ADAM SNYDER: #68, San Francisco 49ers. Oregon: 2000-04

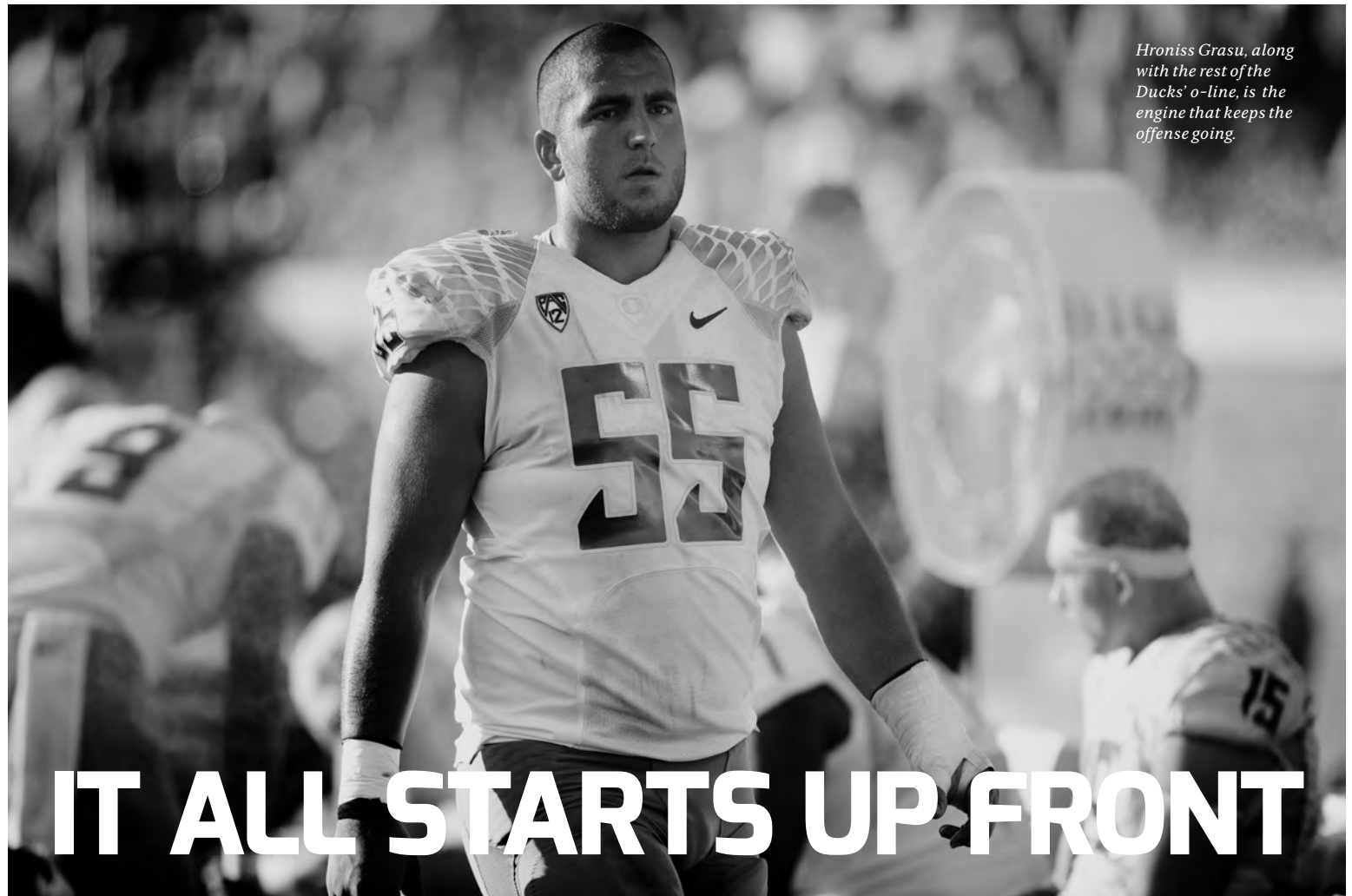
MAX UNGER: #60, Seattle Seahawks. Oregon: 2005-08

DARRION WEEMS: #75, Dallas Cowboys. Oregon: 2007-11

Ducks Hall of Fame linemen:

GARY ZIMMERMAN: Oregon 1980-83. NFL 1986-97

DAVE WILCOX: Oregon 1962-63. NFL 1964-74



Hroniss Grasu, along with the rest of the Ducks' o-line, is the engine that keeps the offense going.

IT ALL STARTS UP FRONT

You won't see them in the box score, on highlight reels or at the Heisman Trophy ceremony. Most are relatively unknown and don't get as much credit as they deserve. But the members of Oregon's offensive line have the ability to ultimately determine the success or failure of every given play.

The Ducks' front five have contributed to an offense that's finished each of the last three seasons ranked in the top five nationally in rushing yards, total yards and yards per game and either first or second in total points. Marcus Mariota has been sacked just twice through three games this season, tied for second in the country.

Returning starters Jake Fisher, Tyler Johnstone and Hroniss Grasu are joined by veterans Hamani Stevens and Mana Greig, who have all been integral parts of the o-line over the years, with Grasu starting all 30 games of his Oregon career. As the center and most experienced player, Grasu is naturally the group's leader, but offensive line coach Steve Greatwood says the rest of the starters have also stepped up as leaders.

"He's not the only one," Greatwood said on Grasu being the leader of the offensive line. "We've had a lot of great leadership emerge. Tyler Johnstone, Jake Fisher, Mana Greig, Hamani Stevens have all really stepped up their game – not only (technically) but in a leadership position. It's been a collective effort."

Johnstone echoed Greatwood, saying the unit has remained relaxed and comfortable with each other with the key being horizontal leadership and an open line of communication.

"Everyone kind of has their role," Johnstone said. "Hroniss is a great leader. He's not a very talkative guy, but he's a great leader. Everyone kind of just looks out for each other, we have a bunch of horizontal leadership along the offensive line. If I was running slow, maybe Jake Fisher will be like, 'Tyler, pick it up a little bit,' and I won't get upset at that because I'll do the same thing to Jake Fisher or Hroniss. Everybody can tell everybody anything. Nobody feels like they have to stay quiet because they're not necessarily the leader of the group."

While the fast-paced, high-octane Oregon offense is a more recent development, superb offensive linemen have a rich history at Oregon. Five former members of the Ducks' o-line are currently playing in the NFL, including Pro Bowl center Max Unger of the Seattle Seahawks. Ducks' offensive linemen are also represented twice in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Dave Wilcox played on both lines for Oregon in 1962 and 1963 and was elected to the Hall of Fame after an 11-year career with the San Francisco 49ers. Gary Zimmerman is widely considered one of the best tackles in NFL history and was enshrined into the hall in 2008.

Duck ball carriers have rushed for 1,066 yards on 126 carries so far this season – a national best 8.5 yards per rush. The team's 17 rushing touchdowns also leads college football, while their 355.3 yards per game is a close second. Running back Byron Marshall understands the importance of a superior offensive line to compliment a premiere running game.

"It helps a lot," Marshall said. "They just have a good chemistry, so you know the holes should be there when they're supposed to be. Just trust it, it's a process and I trust all five of them."

Marshall added that the group continually puts in overtime when it comes to practice.

"I think it's great really. You can just tell how much work they put in. They're always in there before practice starts and after practice ends, doing some extra work just getting everything down."

Johnstone and Greatwood also emphasized the importance of work ethic and the role it's played in the success of the line and the team.

"Work ethic," Greatwood said. "It's the mantra for the whole team each and every day. We gotta take one step to being better than our former selves. Thus far I've been very, very pleased with the guys taking that attitude and running with it."

BY MADISON GUERNSEY, @GUERNS_M_D



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Monument Valley, Utah, 2001. Bruce Dale. ©National Geographic

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	7		6		8	2		4
6		2	5				7	
	5			1	6			
4		3		2	9			8
		9		8			2	
	8				4	5		3
3		6	1		7		8	
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8	1	9	2	3	6	5	4	7
6	4	5	1	9	7	2	3	8
1	7	8	5	2	9	3	6	4
5	9	4	6	7	3	8	1	2
2	6	3	8	1	4	7	5	9
4	8	1	9	5	2	6	7	3
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ALEJANDRO MALDONADO

2013

- ⊕ 2-3 FG
- ⊕ 13-13 PAT
- ⊕ 43.29-yard punting average vs. last year's punter Jackson Rice 40.0-yard average

2012

- ⊕ 3-6 FG
- ⊕ 18-18 PAT
- ⊕ Missed 37-yard field goal against Stanford last year, resulting in no BCS berth for Oregon, which is the exact same distance of his only missed field goal of this year.



MATT WOGAN

2012

- ⊕ Made 58-yard field goal in 2011 semifinals of the North Carolina Class 4A football playoffs.

2013

- ⊕ 1-1 FG
- ⊕ 10-11 PAT

By Hayden Kim

Wogan vs. Maldonado: A game of inches

Mark Helfrich is late to the party.

It's been three games and the competition between Alejandro Maldonado and Matt Wogan has already dragged on too long. The Ducks may not have suffered in the kicking department thus far in the season, but they know as well as anyone that it only takes one kick to change the course of a season, especially when they are competing for a title.

For Helfrich, the kicking competition has boiled down to a game of inches. Both kickers have only combined for four total field goals this season and, according to Helfrich, the only difference between the two has been a switch off between who makes it and who doesn't.

"When you look at those field goals, one was good by about five inches and one missed by about five inches," Helfrich said.

But for kickers, there are two areas that should never be touched: confidence and consistency. These two go hand-in-hand in regard to a kicker's success and both areas have been tampered with by alternating Maldonado and Wogan.

This is not a question of picking your poison, but more about picking your guy for the year. Either the Ducks need to take their chances with Maldonado – who has already missed one from 37 yards – or go with Wogan who has been praised for his big leg.

Helfrich may be trying to give his older player one last chance to prove everyone wrong, but when your team has a legitimate chance to compete for a national championship, favors aren't a part of the equation.

Having said that, why not give the fresh legs a chance? Wogan may be an unproven freshman, but he's made his one field goal attempt on the year and has gone 10-11 on PAT's (one was blocked), which is all the Ducks need. If the Ducks truly wish to develop Wogan into a reliable kicker, they need to give him more reps.

Considering what Maldonado has gone through in his first two years, there are no guarantees what will happen when he is put into a situation similar to the Stanford game last season. The mental aspect of a kicker is very sensitive and somewhere along the line, Maldonado may have already lost it.

Making 60-yard field goals in practice is impressive, but the conversation immediately goes out the window when a kicker can't convert go-aheads in real game situations. This has been the reality for Maldonado.

Fair or not, Wogan has been the more consistent of the two this year and has shown to have a stronger leg, something the Ducks have been sorely lacking the past few years.

Whether the Ducks decide to go with Maldonado or Wogan, they will need to choose both wisely and quickly. The season – more often than not – comes down to a kick or two and they will need to make it happen when the time comes. This may be the year the Ducks get over the hump, but they will need a kicker on their side, like it or not.



Hayden Kim is a sports reporter for the Emerald. Follow him on Twitter @HayDayKim

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