

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



VS.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

DAILYEMERALD.COM

GAME DAY

BRANDON BAIR: MAN ON A MISSION

PAGE 5



IVAR VONG | PHOTOGRAPHER

GAME PREVIEW

Cal and Oregon open their Pac-10 Conference schedules and are set to be each other's toughest test of the year so far

PAGE 3

OREGON NOTES

Oregon has yet to throw a touchdown pass, but coaches and players remain optimistic; Masoli says passing game 'looks sharper'

PAGE 5

CAL NOTES


All-Pac-10 running back Jahvid Best and the high-powered Golden Bear offense come to Eugene looking to run through the Oregon defense

PAGE 4

» FOLLOW THE GAME AND
CHAT WITH EMERALD
SPORTS WRITERS AT
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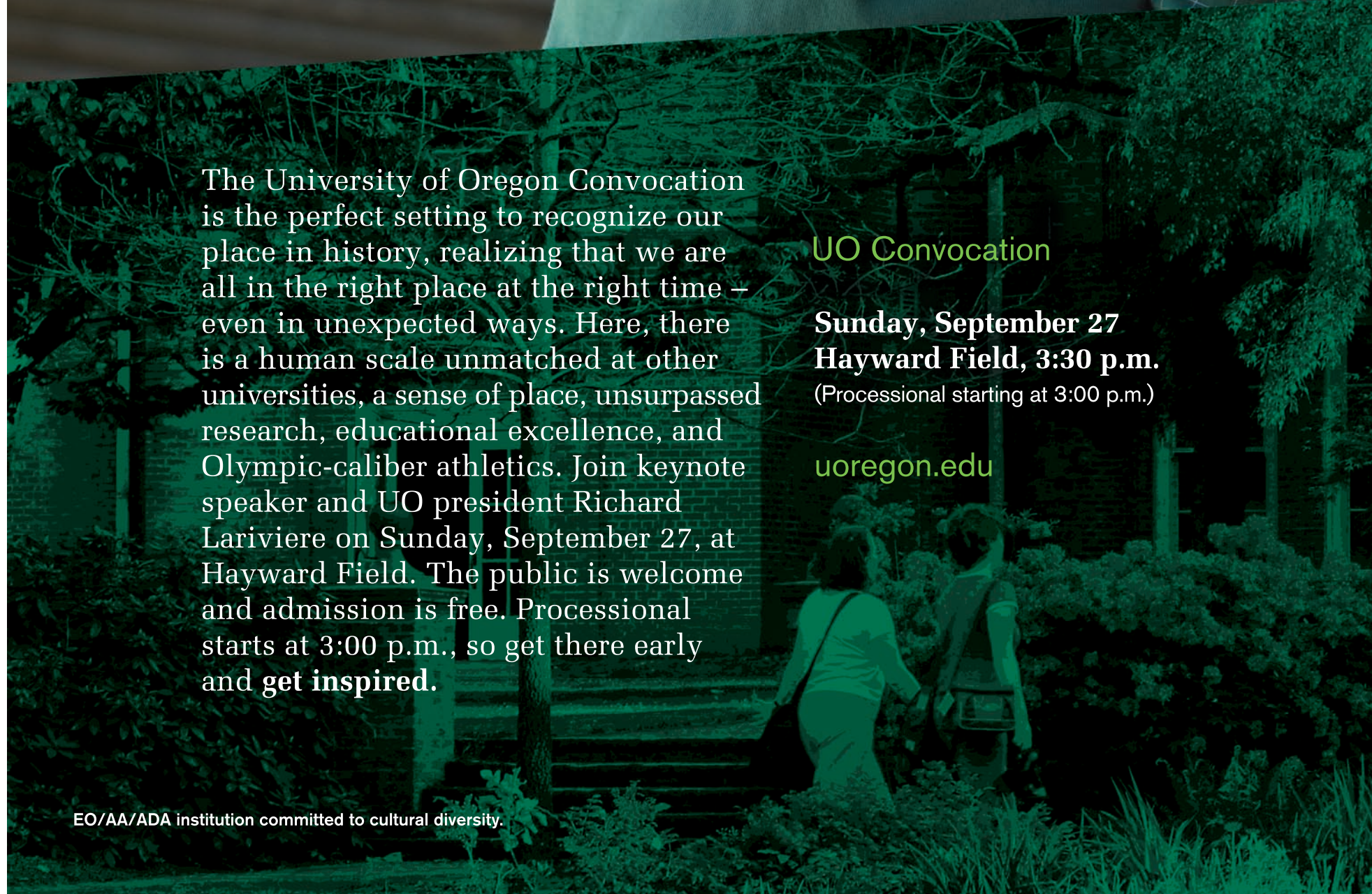


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Sunday, September 27
Hayward Field, 3:30 p.m.
(Processional starting at 3:00 p.m.)

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GAME PREVIEW

High-scoring Bears set to face Ducks' solid defense

Weak Oregon offense has yet to score a passing touchdown

LUCAS CLARK
SPORTS REPORTER

On paper, Saturday's game between the No. 6 California Golden Bears and the Oregon Ducks ought to be no contest.

Cal outranks the Ducks in every single offensive category and does so in dominant fashion. The Golden Bears are in the top 12 in the nation in three out of the four major offensive breakdowns with 488.7 total yards per game (11th), 250.3 rushing yards per game (10th), and 48.7 points per game (second). Oregon on the other hand, does not rank in the top 60 in any of the four major categories.

But when kickoff happens at 12:30 p.m., everything on paper goes out the window and the Autzen faithful will get to see just what this year's team is made of. Heading into Saturday's game against the nation's top running back in Jahvid Best, the Ducks have been able to keep their focus and leave the rankings and statistical banter out of site and out of mind.

Junior quarterback Jeremiah Masoli said focusing on the team has been key.

"We don't really worry about outside distractions and what people are saying about us," he said. "We just come here and work every day to get better."

Masoli, who has recorded four of Oregon's seven rushing touchdowns this season, will look to reach the end zone through the air for the first time



NATHAN YAN | THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN

Former Oregon offensive coordinator and current Cal head coach Jeff Tedford is 4-2 against the Ducks, with three of his four wins coming against ranked Duck teams. The Golden Bears are off to a 3-0 start this season, their fifth such opening stretch of wins since Tedford was hired in 2002.

this year after meeting with a frustrated receiving corps last Saturday.

"We all talked after the game last week and we just kind of told each other, it's time to step up

and shine," he said.

While the offense has been able to improve little by little over the first three games,

TURN TO PREVIEW | PAGE 11

GAME FORECAST



SUNNY
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AT A GLANCE

Who: No. 6 California at Oregon

When: 12:30 p.m., ABC

Where: Autzen Stadium

The No. 6 California Golden Bears will look to continue their rise to the top of the Pacific-10 Conference after Washington shocked USC last weekend in Seattle. But they will have to go through linebacker Casey Matthews (10.3 tackles per game in 2009) and the speedy Oregon defense to get there.

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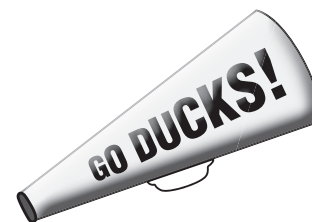
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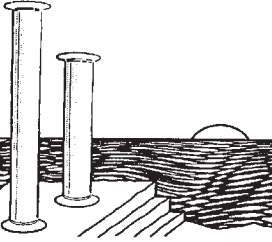
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CAL NOTES

Best's combination of size, speed has Oregon worried

Receivers Jones, Tucker take pressure off Heisman hopeful

LUCAS CLARK
SPORTS REPORTER

After the Washington Huskies knocked off powerhouse USC last week in Seattle, Wash., the No. 6 California Golden Bears moved in as the early season favorite to win the Pacific-10 Conference title and make their first trip to the Rose Bowl since 1959.

And with one of the nation's top contenders to win the Heisman Trophy this season — running back Jahvid Best — Cal will look to stretch its current six-game winning streak as it takes on the Oregon Ducks tomorrow in Autzen Stadium.

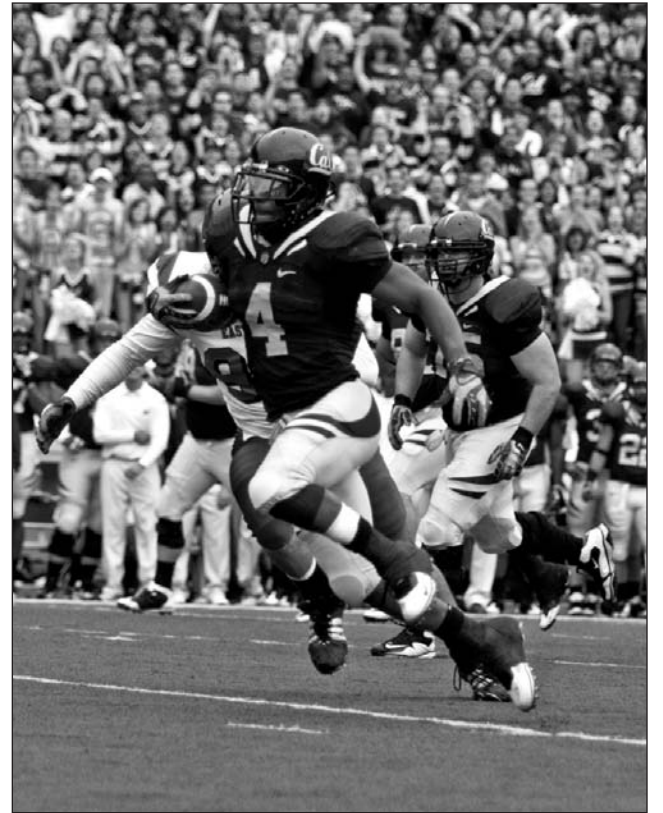
Oregon linebacker Eddie Pleasant said the team is gearing up to face Best on the field.

"We know we need to stop him and that's one of the things we've been working on," he said.

Best, now in his junior season, is leading the nation with nine touchdowns and ranks third in rushing with 412 yards through three games — only 29 yards less than the Oregon's 441-yard season total. Last week at Minnesota, Best set a school record with his five-touchdown performance, and it helped break a four-game road losing streak for the Bears.

"He's got tremendous speed and he's got good size," said Oregon head coach Chip Kelly. "A lot of times you've got a kid that can run, but he's not that big. (Best) can break tackles, he's got great vision."

While Cal head coach Jeff Tedford understands what a



NICK FRADKIN | THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN

The Web site HeismanPundit.com ranks Cal running back Jahvid Best No. 3 in its early poll to determine the most worthy player of college football's highest individual honor. Best is third in the Football Bowl Subdivision in rushing yards (137.3 per game) with eight rushing touchdowns on the season.

gifted player his running back is, he also commented that he and his squad — especially Best — are very team-oriented.

"It's team first, all the way, and everybody knows that," he said. "Jahvid understands that, Jahvid appreciates that and Jahvid appreciates the tandem of him and Shane (Vereen), of keeping him fresh and healthy."

Equally impressive for the Cal offense through the first three

games has been the play of junior quarterback Kevin Riley. The Beaverton High School graduate has thrown for 698 yards on 46 of 71 passing, while reaching the end zone five times and has yet to throw an interception.

"I like the way he plays," Kelly said of Riley. "He's a student of the game. He doesn't really try to force the issue, he really takes

TURN TO CAL NOTES | PAGE 6

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LESLIE MONTGOMERY | PHOTO EDITOR

Oregon quarterback Jeremiah Masoli has under increased scrutiny after completing just 25 percent of his passes (4-16) for 95 yards and an interception in the Ducks' 31-24 win against Utah. No receiver recorded more than one catch against the Utes.

Running, passing proving difficult for Duck offense

2009 Oregon offense not nearly as powerful or effective as many of its predecessors

BEN SCHORZMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Who would have guessed it? Oregon's vaunted rushing attack is ranked No. 64 in the nation. A year after burning up the field turf with two 1,000-yard rushers, the Ducks don't have a single running back projected to breach even 950 yards in 12 games. But that's not the story. Oregon looks positively stellar on the ground compared to what the team has done through the air.

Through three games the team has yet to throw a touchdown pass. It's one of four teams out of the 120 Football Bowl Subdivision teams that hasn't.

To add to it, the Ducks are ranked No. 116 in passing offense, and they're averaging 126 yards per game. However, Oregon is 2-1 despite throwing for 95 yards against No. 18 Utah

on Saturday.

It's an enigma for sure, but head coach Chip Kelly said he still has confidence in quarterback Jeremiah Masoli despite a few Duck fans calling for backup Nate Costa on the message boards.

"We're just practicing football," Kelly said. "We're not changing things. He's the same kid who has won 10 games for us."

Masoli said after the Utah game that he and the receivers needed to work on their timing and reads and coming into Friday, he feels confident they have done that. At the end of the practice clutch drill Wednesday, he connected with tight end David Paulson for a touchdown to win the game over the scout team.

"We definitely look sharper," Masoli said. "We are

just running simpler routes and basic stuff. We're running the same stuff, just not as complicated."

Wide receiver Jamere Holland said the first three games have been frustrating and he's looking forward to California. So far this season, Holland has caught seven passes for 105 yards.

"It has been kind of rough," Holland said. "As a receiving corps, we like to score touchdowns and catch balls and do all these great things and it just hasn't happened yet for us."

But wide receivers coach Scott Frost said if players are frustrated, it's the wrong mentality. He wants them to be a part of the solution and not feel sorry for themselves.


"I think if guys are frustrated I have a problem with that," Frost said. "We're never going to put ourselves in front of the team. Guys at the wide receiver

TURN TO UO NOTES | PAGE 13

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LESLIE MONTGOMERY | PHOTO EDITOR

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IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 25

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CATCHING UP WITH » JAMERE HOLLAND

This week the Daily Emerald caught up with junior wide receiver Jamere Holland after practice to ask him a few questions about life, football and anything in between. Here's what he had to say.

OREGON DAILY EMERALD: What's your major?

JAMERE HOLLAND: Sociology. Minor in art.

ODE: What do you want to do with that?

JH: I haven't decided, I just want to get it. They say life's better with a degree. I'm going to get it and see what I can do with it.

ODE: Are you going to graduate this year?

JH: I dunno. Probably next year.

ODE: If you weren't playing football what sport would you be playing?

JH: I would probably be running track.

ODE: What did you run? 100 meters?

JH: Yeah. 100 meters, 200 meters. State champ. But that's nothing, you know (laughs).

ODE: How fast were you?

JH: Umm. Pretty fast. That was a long time ago to go back.

ODE: What do you run your 40-yard dash in?

JH: My last 40 I ran was a 4.21 actually. But that was a year ago.

ODE: What is your favorite thing to do when you're not at practice?

JH: Chilling with the girls. Or, you know, some homework or something or reading some books. My main one is chilling with girls.

ODE: Favorite movie?

JH: I dunno. There's so many good movies out there today that it's too hard to pick just one.

ODE: Take me through your routine on game day.

JH: I listen to my music — Jay-Z. I just try and stay as focused as I can and get ready for the game.

ODE: When you run out that tunnel, what's it like?

JH: It feels good actually. The fans are out there for the team and when you run out there you think, "All this for us?" It's a good feeling. I'm more mellow. I like to be at the front of the tunnel. I don't know why but the front is nice. I try to stay as level as I can.

ODE: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

JH: Two brothers and a sister.

ODE: Are your brothers faster than you?

JH: Almost. My older brother was a little faster than me back in the day but we haven't raced in a long time.

ODE: Are you looking forward to the Cal game?

JH: Yeah. I played with a lot of those guys in high school; I ran against Jahvid (Best).

ODE: Did he ever beat you?

JH: No way. He never beat me.

— BEN SCHORZMAN

CAL NOTES

FROM PAGE 4

what the defense gives him."

California receivers Verran Tucker and Marvin Jones will also look to contribute to the Golden Bears' potent offense. Tucker has pulled down six receptions for 128 yards through three games, while Jones has recorded seven receptions for 104 yards and a touchdown. Cal's mark of 488.7 total yards per game ranks them 11th in country, while also ranking second in the NCAA in points per game with 48.7.

The Bears will be without wide receiver Nyan Boateng for the next four-to-six weeks after hav-

ing surgery on his broken right foot this past Monday. Boateng had recorded five receptions for 78 yards and a touchdown as Cal's third receiver.

Defensively, sophomore linebacker Mychal Kendricks has led the way for the Golden Bears thus far having recorded 30 tackles, one pass deflection, one forced fumble and he also recovered a fumble.

Senior Tyson Alualu will have been a force to be reckoned with on the defensive line having recorded 13 tackles and 2.5 sacks while also deflecting two passes and forcing a fumble. Alualu

started in 27 games over his first three years with Cal, playing in all 39, and was selected as a preseason honorable mention All-American after recording a career-high 62 tackles in 2008.

Although the Bears are favored to win, Tedford said they aren't taking Saturday's game lightly. The Bears have been focused on the Ducks since last week's game in Minnesota, he said.

"It was very serious on Sunday," Tedford said. "It was almost like we'd lost the game the day before. They were very focused, very serious about what we're getting ready to get into."

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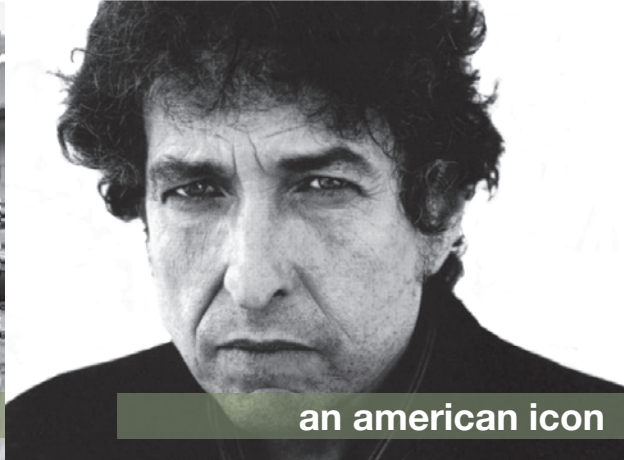
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SEPTEMBER

3 at Boise State (L, 19-8)
 12 vs. Purdue (W, 38-36)
 19 vs. Utah, 12:30 p.m. (W, 31-24)
 26 vs. California, 12:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

3 vs. Washington State, TBA
 10 at UCLA, TBA
 24 at Washington, TBA
 31 vs. USC, 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER

7 at Stanford, TBA
 14 vs. Arizona State, TBA
 21 at Arizona, TBA

DECEMBER

3 vs. Oregon State, 6 p.m.

2009 CAL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

5 vs. Maryland (W, 52-13)
 12 vs. Eastern Washington (W, 59-7)
 19 at Minnesota (W, 35, 21)
 26 at Oregon, 12:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

3 vs. USC, 5 p.m.
 17 at UCLA, TBA
 24 vs. Washington State, TBA
 31 at Arizona State, TBA

NOVEMBER

7 vs. Oregon State, TBA
 14 vs. Arizona, TBA
 21 at Stanford, TBA

DECEMBER

5 at Washington, 3:30 p.m.

BY THE NUMBERS

5 Rushing touchdowns scored by Golden Bears running back Jahvid Best – a prohibitive favorite to take home the Heisman trophy this season – in a 35-21 victory over Minnesota last Saturday

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Amount of a personal check written by Oregon head coach Chip Kelly to Duck fan and alumnus Tony Seminary, who sent Kelly a letter expressing frustration and disappointment over Oregon's 19-8 loss to Boise State on Sept. 3 and an invoice for the expenses he accrued during his trip to Boise. According to the college football blog EveryDayShouldBeSaturday.com, Seminary returned the check to Kelly, but made copies for personal use. Kelly had no comment; Seminary told John Hunt of The Oregonian that he was "humbled and overwhelmed" by the gesture.

9 Consecutive games Utah has won on the road

13

Sacks on the season for the Golden Bears, the most of any Pac-10 team

88.8

Passing efficiency rating for Oregon quarterback Jeremiah Masoli, who has thrown two interceptions but not a single touchdown pass this season

120

National rank of Oregon in time of possession — dead last among Football Bowl Subdivision schools. The Ducks finished last in time of possession last season as well.

170.61

Passing efficiency rating for Cal quarterback Kevin Riley – sixth-highest nationally and tops in the Pacific-10 Conference. Riley has thrown five touchdown passes this season, with no interceptions.

2-8

Cal's road record over its past 10 road games; the only wins came against Washington State (66-3 last season) and Minnesota last Saturday

10

National rank of the Golden Bears' rushing attack, led by Best, Shane Vereen and Covagh DeBoskie-Johnson

8

Three-and-outs (three downs, followed by a punt) forced by the Oregon defense in the Ducks' 31-24 win against Utah, six of which came in the first half

2009 OREGON STATISTICAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	GAIN	LOSS	AVG	TD
L. James	38	240	10	6.1	1
J. Masoli	33	205	60	4.4	4
PASSING	ATT	PCT	YDS	TD	YPG
J. Masoli	64	45.3	379	-	126.3
RECEIVING	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	LONG
J. Maehl	11	152	13.8	-	58
J. Holland	7	105	15	-	40
E. Dickson	4	58	14.5	-	32
DEFENSIVE	SOLO	AST	TOTAL	TFL/YDS	SACKS
C. Matthews	15	16	31	1.5-9	1.0-8
J. Boyett	12	10	22	-	-
S. Paysinger	11	9	20	1.0-1	-
J. Lewis	14	5	19	1.0-2	-
W. Thurmond III	11	6	17	-	-

2009 CAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT	GAIN	LOSS	AVG	TD
J. Best	53	429	17	7.8	8
C. DeBoskie	20	151	5	7.3	1
S. Vereen	30	124	4	4.0	4
PASSING	ATT	PCT	YDS	TD	YPG
K. Riley	71	64.8	698	5	232.7
RECEIVING	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	LONG
M. Jones	7	104	14.9	1	42
J. Best	7	59	8.4	1	22
V. Tucker	6	128	21.3	-	59
DEFENSIVE	SOLO	AST	TOTAL	TFL/YDS	SACKS
M. Kendricks	15	15	30	2.0-2	-
M. Mohamed	14	5	19	4.0-15	2.0-13
D.J. Holt	8	9	17	0.5-2	-
S. Thompson	9	5	14	1.0-1	-
T. Alualu	5	8	13	2.5-16	2.5-16

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MYCHAL KENDRICKS (30)
LINEBACKER



LAMICHAEL JAMES (21)
RUNNING BACK

PLAYERS TO WATCH

California linebacker Mychal Kendricks has been the rock in the middle of a stout defense this year. He's leading the team with 30 tackles, including two for losses, and he has a forced fumble and recovered fumble return to his credit. Running back LaMichael James will collide hardest with Kendricks, and James' ability to elude would-be tacklers will determine how Oregon's rushing game performs. James, who is averaging 76.7 yards per game, will make just the second start of his collegiate career.

JAMES PHOTO BY IVAR VONG | PHOTOGRAPHER
KENDRICKS PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIA CHOW | THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN

STARTING LINEUPS

CAL

DEFENSE

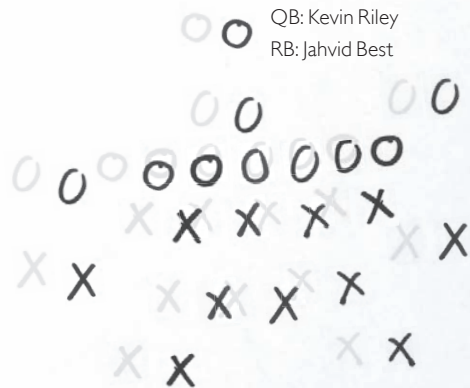
DE: Tyson Alualu
NG: Derrick Hill
DE: Cameron Jordan
OLB: Eddie Young
ILB: D.J. Holt
ILB: Mychal Kendricks
OLB: Mike Mohamed
CB: Syd'Quan Thompson
S: Marcus Ezeff
S: Brett Johnson
CB: Darian Hagan

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK: Vince D'Amato
KO: Giorgio Tavecchio
P: Bryan Anger
KR: Jahvid Best
PR: Syd'Quan Thompson
LS: Matt Rios
HLD: Brock Mansion

OFFENSE

WR: Marvin Jones
LT: Mike Tepper
LG: Matt Summers-Gavin
C: Chris Guarnero
RG: Justin Cheadle
RT: Mitchell Schwartz
TE: Anthony Miller
WR: Verran Tucker
FB: Brian Holley
QB: Kevin Riley
RB: Jahvid Best



OREGON

DEFENSE

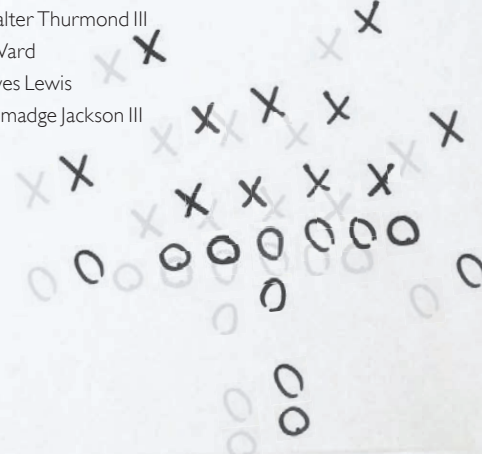
DE: Will Tukuafu
DT: Brandon Bair
DT: Blake Ferras
DE: Kenny Rowe
SLB: Eddie Pleasant
MLB: Casey Matthews
WLB: Spencer Paysinger
LCB: Walter Thurmond III
FS: T.J. Ward
ROV: Javes Lewis
RCB: Talmadge Jackson III

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK: Morgan Flint
KO: Rob Beard
P: Jackson Rice
KR: Walter Thurmond III
PR: Kenjon Barner
LS: Michael Clay
HLD: Nate Costa

OFFENSE

WR: Jamere Holland
LT: Bo Thran
LG: Carson York
C: Jordan Holmes
RG: Mark Asper
RT: C.E. Kaiser
TE: Ed Dickson
WR: Jeff Maehl
WR: Lavasier Tuinei
QB: Jeremiah Masoli
RB: LaMichael James



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Autzen Stadium will provide a challenge to Cal on Saturday, as the Bears do not play well on the road. Since 1987, the Bears have won at Autzen only once, in 2007.

LESLIE MONTGOMERY | PHOTO EDITOR

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POINTS OF DEBATE

The following is an excerpt from an e-mail debate between Emerald Sports Editor Ben Schorzman and Daily Californian sports reporter Jimmy Tran



BEN SCHORZMAN



JIMMY TRAN

Ben Schorzman: This Saturday Oregon will face its stiffest test. Opening on the road in Boise was indeed tough, but opening conference play with a nationally ranked No. 6 rival coming to Autzen is a whole different level. The Ducks haven't beat the Golden Bears since 2005, and with Heisman front runner Jahvid Best leading the way for Cal, this is a huge game for both teams.

First for the Bears. If they win, they will be one step closer to perhaps gaining a Rose Bowl berth. They haven't proven in recent years that they have been able to sustain a full conference schedule without getting tripped up, but this year they play Oregon, then USC in successive weeks. If they get through that unscathed, they will be favored in the remaining games on their schedule.

But while the game for Cal is a big one in terms of gaining a Pac-10 crown, it's an even bigger one for the Ducks because they will finally have beaten the Bears. It will also go further in clearing away the last remnants of the opening week loss to BSU. With the start of conference play brings a new slate, and there's no better way for Oregon to start anew than to knock off a top-10 team.

Jimmy Tran: After a win on the road that can be best described as gritty, the Cal football team faces an even more difficult test this weekend when it heads up to Eugene. The Bears may have won the last three in the series, but recall that this game is taking place in Autzen Stadium. Before 2007's 31-24 win, Cal hadn't beat Oregon on the road since 1987. Still, almost

TURN TO DEBATE | PAGE 13

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PAC-10 PREVIEW

Pac-10 play in full swing Saturday

USC hopes to rebound against WSU; Arizona State goes on the road against Georgia

PATRICK MALEE
SPORTS REPORTER

No. 24 Washington at Stanford (6 p.m.)

After shocking the nation last week with a 16-13 win over USC last week and climbing into the AP Top 25 for the first time in six years, an upstart Huskies team looks to keep its momentum going in Palo Alto. Turnovers played a key role in Washington's upset of the Trojans, as USC lost two fumbles and also had a pass intercepted. Huskies quarterback Jake Locker stepped up with the game on the line, leading Washington on a 10-play, four-minute long drive that resulted in the game-clinching 22-yard field goal. Stanford never trailed last week in their 42-17 win over San Jose State, and Chris Owusu returned a

kickoff 94 yards for the first touchdown of the game.

Key stat: Washington quarterback Jake Locker's 811 passing yards for the season already eclipses his total from last year by 299 yards.

Arizona State at No. 21 Georgia (4 p.m.), ESPN

A week after steamrolling Louisiana Monroe 38-14, the Sun Devils travel to Sanford Stadium to face Joe Cox and the No. 21-ranked Bulldogs. The Sun Devils defense was stifling last week, holding the Warhawks to only 126 passing yards. Omar Bolden returned a kickoff 89 yards for a touchdown, while running back Dimitri Nance ran for two touchdowns of his own.

Key stat: Arizona State has al-

lowed a total of only 168 passing yards this season.

Arizona at Oregon State (4:35 p.m.)

Both the Wildcats and the Beavers hope to bounce back from tough 10-point losses last week. The Wildcats fell to Iowa 27-17 in Iowa City, and struggling quarterback Matt Scott was benched in the fourth quarter after completing only four of 14 pass attempts. The Beavers were stifled by a surging Cincinnati team as star running back Jacquizz Rodgers was held to only 73 rushing yards on 20 carries.

Key stat: Arizona has lost nine of its last 10 meetings with Oregon State.

Washington State at No. 12 USC (7:15 p.m.)

Coming off of yet another early season Pacific-10

Conference loss, the Trojans hope to have injured stars Matt Barkley and Taylor Mays are ready for Saturday. Even if Barkley and Mays are not ready, USC should have little trouble against a struggling Cougars squad that barely survived Southern Methodist last week. Down 27-20 with two minutes left in the fourth quarter, quarterback Marshall Lobbestael led the Cougars 80 yards down the field and tied the game with a seven-yard touchdown pass to Jared Karstetter. In overtime, the Cougars intercepted Southern Methodist's first pass attempt, and kicker Nico Grasu ended the game with a 39-yard field goal. The Trojans should also walk into this game with a bit more confidence than usual, having embarrassed the Cougars last year 69-0.

Key stat: Washington State has not beaten USC in the L.A. Coliseum since 2000.

PMALEE@DAILYEMERALD.COM

NCAA FOOTBALL

Alabama impressive in 2-0 season start

Let me start off by saying this: the Crimson Tide is good. Really good.

But for Tide fans across the nation, what should be more exciting is that they could be great.

I mean really great. I mean pack-your-bags-we're-going-to-Pasadena-for-the-Rose-Bowl great.

The opening two acts of the Capstone's football club has shown a group of athletes with the dual talent of dazzling

and disappointing their followers: a dynamic offense and stifling defense alternate with bone-headed miscues and epic special teams gaffes.

The Tide's outstanding back-to-back offensive performances, in which it put up 498 yards against Virginia Tech and 516 against Florida International, has already doubled the number of 450-yard games from last year's 12-2 squad.

After nearly 10 years of depletion due to probation and sub-standard recruiting by former coaches, Tide football talent has ascended to an elite level under head coach Nick Saban.

But for all the good that the fans in crimson can take from the Tide's 2-0 opening, there remain several nagging issues that simply must be resolved for the Tide to seriously challenge the juggernaut in Gainesville for the SEC championship, and along with it, a shot to hoist the crystal ball in the air in January.

The special teams' performances have been less than stellar, with the Tide allowing two costly touchdowns on kickoff returns, each allowing an offensively dominated team to get back in the game. Against the Hokies, a promising 6-0 start built on the com-

plete domination of the Virginia Tech offense by Rolando McClain and company was instantly erased with one sprint by return man Dyrell Roberts.

This Tide team could accomplish incredible things. As talented as the 1999 bunch that won the SEC, and as well-coached on the defensive side as the 1992 squad that won Alabama's 12th national title, it appears that the sky really is the limit for this 2009 group.

As long as they don't clip their own wings.

THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE CRIMSON WHITE, THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA.

PREVIEW

FROM PAGE 3

Oregon's focus today will be aimed at slowing down Heisman Trophy hopeful Best.

Best has run wild in Cal's first three games, tallying 429 yards on the ground with eight touchdowns, while also pulling in seven receptions for 59 yards and another score.

"I thought he was the best running back in the country last year," said first-year Oregon head coach Chip Kelly. "We need to get 11 guys flying to the ball."

And just how does Kelly plan to stop the best running back in the nation? "Tackle him," he said.

Kelly said it's more than Best alone that makes the Bears offense.

"They're not a one-dimensional team on the offensive side of the ball," he said. "They have a lot of weapons on the offensive side of the ball that we have to contain."

Riley has gone 46 of 71 for 698 yards and five touchdowns this season, while backup running

back Shane Vereen has rushed 30 times for 124 yards and four touchdowns in his limited relief of Best.

The Oregon running game was able to find a little more identity last week against Utah as redshirt freshman LaMichael James ran for an Oregon freshman single-game rushing record with 152 yards on 27 carries and reached the end zone for the first time in his collegiate career.

Kelly was not at all surprised at the performance James had on Saturday, especially after seeing him have similar success last season on the scout team offense.

"That's kind of what I expected from LaMichael," Kelly said. "He's a lot tougher than I think people give him credit for because he's small. He's a tough sucker."

While Cal will bring in one of the fastest offenses in the country, the Oregon defense has plenty of speed to counter their attack.

"We've just got to play our game," Oregon cornerback Talmadge Jackson III said. "Stick to our rules and our keys on defense and just go out and play our game."

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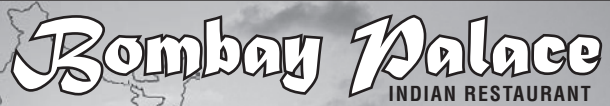
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Bair of a man makes presence felt

Two-year mission provides maturity for defensive line stalwart

ROBERT HUSSEMAN
SPORTS REPORTER

Oregon defensive lineman Brandon Bair says the Mormon mission is sacred: A rite of passage, an exercise of faith and a calling to serve.

Before his collegiate sports career began, Bair abandoned his hometown of St. Anthony, Idaho, for the Deep South to complete his mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to help others come unto Christ.

The experience, marked by two years of fried foods and learning Spanish, might have something with what Oregon head coach Chip Kelly calls the 24-year-old's "maturity."

But Bair's life experience as a husband and father might also have something to do with it. Bair and his wife of nearly two years, Jordan, recently had their first child in August — a baby girl named Brooklyn Hope.

With these experiences under his belt, Bair brings "true leadership," to a relatively young defense, Kelly said.

"He's a great leader by example," Kelly said. "He's got a great work ethic."

Bair is among the ranks of several other Mormon athletes who postponed collegiate sports careers for missionary work. Mormon athletes who have also completed missions include defensive end Will Tu'kuafu, offensive guard Mark Asper and tight end Sam Doman. Redshirt freshman center Hamani Stevens has left school to complete his mission.

For Bair's mission, in addition to moving to Jacksonville, Fla., and Brunswick, Ga., church leaders told Bair he would have to learn Spanish.

Bair had never held much interest in the language before, he said, but he took it upon himself to learn it with a sense of duty.

"They sent us to what they call the Mission Training Center in Provo, Utah," Bair said. "I spent 10 weeks there learning the basics of the language, and



LESLIE MONTGOMERY | PHOTO EDITOR

In large part through the emergence of Oregon defensive tackle Brandon Bair, the Duck defensive line has answered many of the questions surrounding it at the opening of fall camp. The junior from St. Anthony, Idaho, having never recorded more than three tackles in a game before this season, is averaging four per game and partially blocked a punt against Utah.

then they sent me out there and basically said, 'Figure it out.'"

As with Spanish, Bair had to be prepared for a life of college football following his mission — a task that proved difficult while spreading the word in the South.

"In the mornings, we'd get a half-hour time to work out," Bair said. "I'd just wake up a half-hour before that (at 5:30 a.m.) and go to the gym and work out (and) run back to the house."

Keeping up consistent physical ardor was exceptionally challenging given that, as Bair recounted with a smile, "I went to the South. I ate a lot of fried chicken. Everything was fried."

When Bair left for his mission, the first-team, all-state defensive lineman was already committed to the Ducks. Bair's scholarship was honored by

then-head coach Mike Bellotti upon his return, and in the fall of 2006, he began working with the offense as a freshman.

However, a spate of injuries caused Bair and Ed Dickson to move to defensive end to shore up depth. Dickson later returned to tight end the following year and became one of the top tight ends in the country for the 2009 season.

Bair, meanwhile, was steadily seeing repetitions and being integrated into the Oregon defense. He played in all 13 games in both the 2007 and 2008 seasons, recording four and eight tackles in the respective seasons and fumble recoveries in victories against Michigan in 2007 and Oregon State in 2008.

At the end of the 2008 season, Nick Reed, Ra'Shon Harris and Cole Linehan all graduated, leaving a void of experience along the defensive line —

specifically at tackle, where recruiting misses had resulted in questionable depth. Bair was moved to tackle during the spring, where his 6-foot-7, 250-pound frame is atypical among the squat pluggers that traditionally inhabit the position but where Oregon could plug in one of its better overall defensive line players.

"You've gotta know both positions to be on the field," Bair said. "Technically, you're basically doing the same thing. It's all the same fundamentals."

Adjustment to the interior of the line notwithstanding, Bair has proven himself an important piece of what might have been the offseason's biggest puzzle.

"He's still a work in progress," said defensive line coach Jerry Azzinaro, in his first year on the Oregon coaching staff, "but you've gotta grade what you see on film and he's been productive and technically sound."

Statistics for defensive linemen, Kelly said, can greatly deceive. To date, Bair has recorded four tackles a game, along with a partially blocked punt against Utah.

"The D-line isn't going to have a lot of tackles because they're tying up blockers and keeping guys off of your linebackers," Kelly said. "Casey Matthews is the leading tackler in the Pac-10. If you don't have the D-line keeping guys off of him, you don't have him running around making those tackles. A lot of it is the by-product of what the defensive line is doing up front."

But what of Bair's encounters with Spanish? Like in his football career, Bair — a double major in Spanish and business administration — intends to put his language skills to greater use when future opportunities arise.

"That was one of the things I was nervous about when I came home off my mission," Bair said. "If I didn't take it here, I wasn't going to use it. You can't give up something like that."

On the gridiron, as in life, Bair continues to learn, one partido at a time.

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IN MY OPINION | BEN SCHORZMAN

KELLY SHOWS CLASS AMID FAN STUPIDITY

If you are questioning why college football fans are some of the most overreacting bunch of people on the planet, look no further than the incident that happened in Eugene after the Ducks self-destructed against Boise State on Sept. 3.

Basically, one Tony Seminary — a 1996 graduate of the University of Oregon and season ticket holder — who made the trip to Boise e-mailed Duck head



HIGH AND INSIDE

coach Chip Kelly and asked for a refund. He didn't berate Kelly about LeGarrette Blount. He didn't bemoan why the University would let thugs like Blount play football like others did. He just wanted his money back.

Here's part of the e-mail, which can be found in its entirety at www.everydayshouldbesaturday.com:

"...The product on the field Thursday night is not something I was at all proud of, and I feel as though I'm entitled to my money back for the trip. Please see my invoice attached in this e-mail. I will happily send along receipts if need be."

Just reading this makes me shake my head. Seminary says that e-mail was "definitely sent in jest." But the fact that he actually pressed "send" and asked for his money back takes a big set of

stones and also a little ignorance.

You're the one who chose to go to the game and spend the money on a plane ticket, hotel room and a ticket to the game. No one made you. You could have stayed home and watched it on TV.

A part of the reason fans go to the games is because it's the thrill of the competition and they don't know what's going to happen. No one could have predicted that the Ducks were going to fall flat on their faces. I can understand being upset about Oregon's performance, but seriously? You want a refund? That's like a fan of a baseball team e-mailing the manager after his team gets a perfect game thrown against them and saying they were embarrassed by the play and they want their money back. But the best part of the story is yet to come. Kelly e-mailed Seminary back one sentence: "What's your address?" Seminary gave Kelly his mailing address and a few days later there was a check in the mail for \$439.

Priceless. Kelly sent Seminary out on his e-mail. No one knows exactly what he was thinking when he decided to actually respond to the disgruntled fan (Kelly has been asked numerous times and replies with "no comment"), so we don't know whether he was actually sorry for Seminary, or just being bold and calling him out. Maybe he did it to prove that Oregon didn't need fans who abandoned the team after just one embarrassing loss. Who knows? Whatever he thought, it shows

how passionate of a coach Kelly is. A lot of times the media see the man as a little abrupt in press conferences, but there have been a few glimpses beyond the shroud he has in public. He said that he cried when he sat down and talked with Blount about his future. He also fought to hold back tears during the conference where he announced his decision to suspend Blount. Then there are the times during practice when he smiles and laughs and you can tell he's where he wants to be.

We all must realize that he's just human. Yes, he might be in the public eye a bit more than the next person, but at the end of the day he goes home to his family and has a personal life. I know I would have been offended if I would have received an e-mail like the one Seminary sent him. Instead of sending a check, I probably would have ignored him. But the move definitely earned Kelly another fan. He's a classy guy in my book.

This story has a happy ending for Seminary as well. He made a couple of copies of the check and sent it back to Kelly with a thank you note. He's now such a big Chip Kelly fan that even if the Ducks lost 50-0, he wouldn't want the coach fired. He's back on the bandwagon.

It's a cool ending to a slightly comical reaction to a loss. Let's just hope that the next time Oregon loses, upset fans take a deep breath and realize that it's just a game.

BSCHORZMAN
@DAILYEMERALD.COM

DEBATE

everything appears to be in the Bears' favor for this game. While LaMichael James' career-high 152 yards in Oregon's win against Utah last week was impressive, he will have to face a run defense that is ranked tenth in the nation.

Many have labeled this as a "trap game" for the Bears, but head coach Jeff Tedford knows as well as anyone the difficulty of playing the Ducks at their home. Tedford, who was the offensive coordinator for Oregon from 1998-2001, will have his team prepared for what is perhaps the Ducks' biggest strength: noise. Besides, the Bears have plenty of weapons on both sides of the ball to extend their winning streak to seven games. Jahvid Best is coming off a game in which he rushed for a program-record five touchdowns. Quarterback Kevin Riley showed great poise in the latter stages of last week's victory. Finally, cornerback Syd'Quan Thompson bounced back from a mediocre game the previous week to lead Cal in tackles against Minnesota. Also, the Bears looked sharp on the road for the first time in a long time. The last time I recall a Cal team pulling out a road win in the late stages of the game was — well, let me just say, Marcus

FROM PAGE 10

Ezeff.

BS: I agree that this year's Cal team is different than in years past. I watched every second of the Minnesota game and I was very impressed with the team's poise and ability to make stops when it needed to. However, the one area where I expect that Oregon can exploit the Bears is in the secondary. Minnesota wideout Eric Decker caught eight balls for 119 yards and two touchdowns. If Oregon can get the same sort of success and limit the interceptions that ultimately doomed Minnesota, it will be a ball game.

JT: First off, anyone who thought Oregon would implode after its loss to Boise State didn't really know this team. That being said, it's still hard to predict whether the Ducks will live up to their potential or not. The Bears, on the other hand, have the look of a determined team. Not to say there aren't any weaknesses. The special teams unit is going to cost Cal a game if it keeps playing the way it has been. As for that supposedly vulnerable secondary, the Bears aren't terrible in pass defense. As good as Decker was, cornerback Darian Hagan had arguably his worst game of his collegiate career. Hagan has

looked a little lost these first three games, but it may have more to do with the defensive schemes rather than a drop-off in production.

BS: As for a key player in Saturday's game, it has to be tight end Ed Dickson. To date, he's had four catches total this year. If Oregon is to win this game, it will need him to light a spark in the receiving corps. He's a senior and one of the leaders of the offense. If he has four or five catches for over 70 yards and a touchdown, the Ducks will win this game.

JT: Perhaps it's me being blinded with delusions of grandeur, but I have to disagree and go with Cal this weekend. That's not to say I'd be stunned if Oregon won this game. I see this being in the Bears' favor by a very slight margin.

My key player in this game for Cal would have to be Marvin Jones. He had a very quiet game against Minnesota but has the potential to put together a big game. It'll be interesting to see if the Ducks match up Thurmond III against Jones. Oregon defends the pass just about as well as the run, but I don't see Best winning this game in the fourth quarter for the Bears. Similarly to last week, the Bears will have to rely on their air attack if they're going to escape Autzen with a win.

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UO NOTES

FROM PAGE 5

position have a habit of doing that throughout football and we're not going to. These guys are Oregon first, they're going to do their job and when the ball comes to them they're going to try and catch it."

And for this weekend, Frost says the team just has to take what's given to them. If that means more passing, then his guys will be ready.

"It's got nothing to do with what we've tweaked, it's more if the game goes that direc-

tion," Frost said. "The rain affected that a little bit and what they did, too (last weekend). The passing game is going to be a big part of this offense; we just need work on things to get more consistent."

Oregon's first test will be against a good Golden Bear secondary that has three interceptions this year. However, the team is allowing opponents to complete 66 percent of their passes — a good sign for Masoli, who is completing 45 percent.

"I think Cal's secondary is really good," Frost said. "The two safeties are good cover guys and they tackle well, too. We've got a big challenge. Both of the corners are as good as we've seen. We have our hands full but we'll accept the challenge."

Masoli is also confident that this weekend things will turn around.

"We talked after the (Utah) game last week," he said. "And we told each other that it's time to shine."

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Sunday, Sept. 27:
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Monday, Sept. 28:
Freshman Welcome
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Wednesday, Sept. 30:
Student Welcome Back Mass,
9 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2:
"Spaghetti Night Live"
(free dinner), 7 p.m.

**Friday, Oct. 23 -
Sunday, Oct. 25:**
Fall Retreat

Social Connections:

- ✦ Mission Trips
- ✦ Community lunches & dinners
- ✦ Coffee Houses

Personal Enrichment:

- ✦ Guest Speakers
- ✦ Sports Events
- ✦ Social Service Projects

Faith Community:

- ✦ Charity Fundraisers
- ✦ Masses/Adoration
- ✦ Interaction with Permanent Community Members
- ✦ Spiritual Activities
- ✦ Retreats



Mass Schedule:

SATURDAY
5 p.m.
SUNDAY
9 a.m., 11 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
9 p.m. (Student Mass)
DAILY MASS:
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CONFESSIONS
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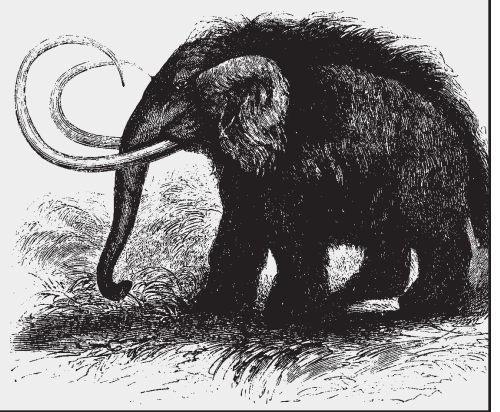
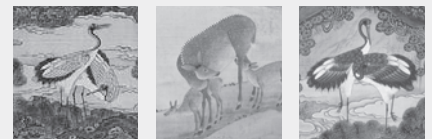
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After a power plant failure briefly plunged the University into darkness at about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, several fire alarms were simultaneously triggered around campus. Fire trucks arrived on the scene shortly thereafter.

While some were false alarms, smoke was reported in Straub Hall and the Volcanology building. Electrical malfunctions were said to be responsible for both incidents.

— CJ CIARAMELLA

NCAA
Kansas football, basketball players fight

Hours after a reported confrontation Tuesday evening, a group of University of Kansas football and basketball players were seen arguing and shouting racial slurs at each other at about 10 a.m. Wednesday outside Wescoe Hall.

Seen among them were basketball players Marcus Morris, Markieff Morris, Mario Little, Sherron Collins, Tyshawn Taylor, Brady Morningstar, Travis Releford, Tyrel Reed, Thomas Robinson, Elijah Johnson and many others. The only football players sources could identify in the group were Dezmon Briscoe and Chris Harris, who the police were questioning.

One of the Morris twins told the police, "One of them just jumped out and threw his hands on me," referring to the football players who were involved in the fight.

Shannon Jobe, a sophomore student from Topeka, said she heard a football player tell the police one of the basketball players had tried to push a football player down the stairs.

Harrison Hems, a senior from San Diego, said he saw basketball and football players gathered in groups between Anschutz Library and the lower entrance to the Wescoe Underground. Hems said several basketball players were yelling at the group of football players. Hems said the group of football players continued to grow to 15 or more.

Erryn Kindel, Eudora junior, said basketball players were trying to calm Collins down.

"Mario Little told me football players had beef with Sherron," Kindel said. "He said they were talking trash."

Joe Dooley, assistant coach of the basketball team, arrived while the police officers were questioning the basketball players.

The coaches requested a meeting with the players for an undisclosed reason.

Sophomore guard Tyshawn Taylor was seen but not admitted to Lawrence Memorial Hospital on Tuesday night, a nursing supervisor said.

Player names and specific injuries have yet to be released.

THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN, THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS.

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