

Reynolds to spark Oregon's new Veer

By Steve Taylor

Last year the Oregon Ducks featured a defense that ranked second in the Pacific 8, an offense which outgained its opponents and four All-Coast players. A successful season, right. Wrong.

The 1973 Oregon football team finished the season with a record of two wins and nine losses. It also finished the head coaching stint of Dick Enright, who was replaced at the end of the year by Don Read.

Read inherits a squad that returns 29 lettermen and 14 starters. He doesn't hedge about the Ducks' chances of improving their '73 performance.

"Oregon will be a better football team in 1974 than it was in 1973," Read claims. "In some positions we have some very talented people—as talented as any team on the coast."

One of those positions is running back where slippery Don Reynolds returns. Reynolds rushed for more than 1,000 yards last fall and was named the Ducks' most valuable player. Read tabs him one of the top three running backs in the nation.

Another source of worry to Oregon opponents will be Reggie Lewis, who has been switched from defensive tackle to noseguard.

Lewis was an All-Pacific 8 pick as a sophomore while terrorizing enemy ballcarriers. Fourteen times he threw opposing running backs for losses.

The Oregon offense will run from the Veer instead of the I formation this season, and manning the quarterback controls will be Norval Turner. Turner spent two years on the bench behind Dan Douts and would have been in the same spot this year had it not been for a summer injury to Herbert Singleton. Turner is a slick runner, but an inconsistent passer.

Defensively, the Ducks appear solid with eight returning starters. Last year, Oregon had the top defense against the run in the Pacific 8, and the defense secondary includes All-America candidate Steven Donnelly.

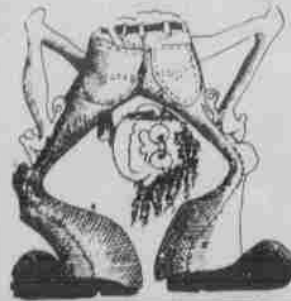
The offense will put points on the scoreboard if the offensive line comes through. Only two starters return in the line that will be trying to open holes for Reynolds and running mate Rick Kane.

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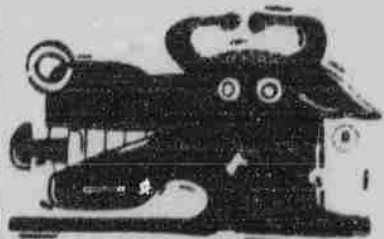


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