THE DUCKS ARE FAMOUS FOR their flashy uniforms. See what it takes to be a part of Oregon’s equipment team, the people behind the gear.
The Fifth Street Public Market is the area’s premier shopping destination. Here you’ll find a colorful collection of unique and enchanting stores, restaurants, and cafés, as well as a boutique hotel.

(541) 484-0383
5stmarket.com | 206 E. 5th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401
PLAYERS TO WATCH

BY: Jack Butler @Butler917

Washington State

Defensive Line: Hercules Mata’aafa

Besides having one of the best names in college football, Mata’aafa is one of the best defensive linemen in college football. He leads the Pac-12 in sacks with 4.5, and he leads the conference in tackles-for-loss with 10. Mata’aafa, who had one sack against the Ducks last year, will be playing a crucial role in the Cougars’ effort to stop Oregon’s running game. With quarterback Justin Herbert out, Oregon will run the ball constantly. Mata’aafa’s ability to get in the backfield will be important for stopping Oregon’s potent rushing offense. Washington State hopes that he can put pressure on the Ducks’ new quarterback and force him into bad decisions.

Running Back: James Williams

James Williams is what Oregon hopes to make Griffin into. Williams is a running back, yet he’s tied for first in receptions per game in the Pac-12. He also leads Washington State in rushing with 47 carries, so he’s a versatile weapon that the Cougars love to use. Quarterback Luke Falk is starting to get Heisman hype with his performances, but Williams is Washington State’s hidden weapon.

Oregon

Wide Receiver: Taj Griffin

Griffin made the move from running back to wide receiver this season but hasn’t seen much action due to injury. He made his return against Wyoming, where he caught a touchdown pass, but it wasn’t until the game against Cal when he unleashed his full arsenal. Oregon will need to focus on the run with Herbert out and Freeman possibly limited, so his experience as a runner is important. Since Oregon’s backup quarterbacks don’t have the arm that Herbert does, Griffin’s ability to catch bubble screens and turn them into big plays will be vital.

Safety: Tyree Robinson

This is really a statement to all of Oregon’s secondary, but Robinson’s performance at safety will significantly help or hurt Oregon’s chances against Washington State’s notorious pass offense. Robinson was playing a quality, physical game until he got too physical and was ejected from the game for targeting. He was making open field tackles and being physical with wide receivers. Washington State loves to have multiple wide receivers on the field, so Robinson will have to match up against slot receivers and make open field tackles again.
Facing a ton of roster uncertainty, the Oregon Ducks will take on the Washington State Cougars on Saturday with a 5 p.m. kickoff at Autzen Stadium.

The Cougars are led by senior quarterback Luke Falk, who enters Saturday's game tied with former Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota with 105 touchdowns — good for second place on the Pac-12 career passing touchdown list.

"It's another opportunity for our defense to play against a top quarterback — a guy that will be playing on Sundays," Oregon head coach Willie Taggart said. "I think our guys will be fired up about another great opportunity to go against a guy like that. That's pretty cool. You don't get to do that each and every week."

Washington State head coach Mike Leach, who is in his sixth season coaching the Cougars, runs a pass-heavy offense and ranks second in the nation with an average of 414 pass yards per game. The Cougars primarily get their running backs involved through short passes, screen plays and draws. The Cougars enter Saturday ranked 124th in rushing offense, averaging only 81.8 yards per game.

"They're very aggressive. They do a lot of movement before the snap," Taggart said. "They slant, angle and bring a little pressure and just try to confuse you up front, and they're pretty good at affecting people when they do it. It's going to be another great challenge for our O-line going against their D-line."

Last week Washington State upset then-No. 5 USC to improve its record to 5-0, all of which came at home. The Cougars rolled through four of their five wins this season. The one challenge was from Boise State, which ended in a 47-44 triple overtime win for the Cougars.

Now, Washington State must take their show on the road. Saturday will be the Cougars' first road game of the year as they will play five out of their seven final games on the road.

Despite Washington State's success and Oregon's uncertainty on the roster, the Ducks opened the week in Vegas as a surprising 2.5-point favorite. It could partially have to do with the fact that Oregon has been dominant at home, outscoring opponents 164-80 this season. Autzen Stadium isn't an ideal spot for the Cougars to experience their first road game.

Heading into the sixth week of the season, both teams still have questions that need to be answered; however, Saturday marks an opportunity for Taggart to pick up his first signature win over a near top-ten team.
When Oregon's starting quarterback Justin Herbert walked off the field at the end of the first quarter, the Ducks' worst nightmare was coming true: they would be without their starting quarterback as they entered the toughest stretch of their schedule.

With Herbert's fractured collarbone set to keep him out for 4-6 weeks, Oregon will turn to either redshirt senior Taylor Alie or true freshman Braxton Burmeister to run the offense. The Ducks offense will have to adjust to life without their starting quarterback, but it's unknown who will start.

“Our offense doesn’t change and we go out and revise just like any of us would do [with] our networks or business,” quarterbacks coach and co-offensive coordinator Marcus Arroyo said. “If you went out sick for two weeks or three weeks or whatever, they’re not just going to fold up shop and take off.”

In the Ducks' 45-24 win over California, Alie came in after Herbert's first-quarter injury. Then Alie went down with an injury, and the Ducks called on Burmeister.

The Ducks only threw the ball 14 times after Herbert's first-quarter injury, with Alie accounting for 13 of those attempts. With either Alie or Burmeister set to start at quarterback on Saturday, Oregon will probably deploy a similar offensive strategy. The Ducks will rely even more so on their running backs, which means opposing defenses will look to gameplan for an even heavier Oregon run game.

“I'm sure they will — they've already been doing that with our run game,” running back Kani Benoit said. “I don't expect anything else — I'm sure they'll do that — and we'll find a gameplan to get around it.”

Choosing between the two quarterbacks is going to be a difficult decision for the Ducks' coaching staff. By picking Alie, the Ducks would have someone who has some experience at the collegiate level, but by picking Burmeister, Oregon would be allowing the freshman to get some game experience in the Pac-12.

Burmeister and Alie were neck-and-neck for the backup spot behind Herbert during fall camp, but Alie ended up winning the backup job; however, the coaches say that a starter against Washington State will be decided during the week before the game.

“I don’t know if it was as clear cut as it may have seemed,” Arroyo said of the competition between Alie and Burmeister. “I don’t know if there's anything that really sets them truly that far apart.”

As a freshman, Burmeister is much more unknown than Alie, so naturally a lot of discussion has revolved around the first-year quarterback. Giving Burmeister a chance to start will give him the ability to get minutes under his belt and be more comfortable not just playing in competitive games but building trust with his teammates.

The talk around Burmeister has been extremely positive, but the same can be said about Alie.

“Braxton — he’s gotten better ever since the spring,” head coach Willie Taggart said. “Each week he continued to get better. Same as Taylor and Mike Irwin and anyone else we’ve had back there.”

Whether it's Burmeister or Alie who gets the nod, the message from Arroyo about the offense is consistent.

“Nothing changes.”
When Justin Hollins’ shoulder was bothering him during last year’s game against Nebraska, there was one man on the sideline who knew just what to say to the linebacker. It wasn’t then-head coach Mark Helfrich or one of Hollins’ teammates; it was Oregon equipment manager Austin Cruz.

“I just had to look at him and say, ‘Justin, you’re on national T.V. You’re on ESPN. Scouts are watching. Your family is here. They drove all the way from Dallas.’ I said, ‘Go out there and do what you do best.’”

Cruz and Hollins were roommates for over two and a half years. As a student manager, Cruz was assigned to the linebackers group, where he and Hollins grew close. Today, three years after first meeting, they refer to each other as “brothers.”

“It’s wonderful, you know,” Hollins said. “It’s like having a brother out there on the field. He and I got really close; that was my roommate. It’s a blessing to have a good friend like that out there with me.”

This type of relationship is common between the athletes and the equipment managers on the team. They spend so much time together — it’s inevitable.

Student managers, although often overlooked, work up to 60 hours per week and are a vital part of making the football program operate on such a high level. Their schedules are just as chaotic as the athletes’, if not worse. They attend every football practice but usually arrive hours before for preparation. Their day begins around 6 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m. after classes.

But among the early mornings and long nights are relationships, job benefits and a family that is built through it all.

The Man Behind It All

Kenny Farr is in his eighth season as the football equipment administrator for Oregon. Although his job has many facets, in short, he “handles all the day to day operations for the entire team and staff from an equipment standpoint.”

Farr got his start as a student Oregon equipment manager in 1997 – a role he served in until graduating in 2002. He made his return in 2008 when Oregon reestablished the baseball program and served as baseball equipment manager for the 2009-10 season. In 2010, Chip Kelly brought him over to football where he’s been ever since.

“When I got here and got a student manager job, I would have worked for free,” Farr said. “...I enjoy the aspect of contributing. Even if it’s just a small percentage of how the team performs on the field, you feel like you’re a part of something bigger than yourself.”

With coaching changes, a growing program and the national attention the Oregon football team has garnered over the years, the equipment team has had to adjust accordingly. For instance, this is the first year that they expanded the student manager position from 10 students to 11.

“It was a lot different [when I was in college],” Farr said. “Obviously we had a lot less equipment. There were a lot fewer managers. The demands of the job were a little bit less, I would say, because we just didn’t have the amount of equipment that we have now.”

The “game loops” that the managers have to prepare for each active player contain a girdle,
a Nike dri-fit, tights, pants, socks and gloves; and that is only one minor component that goes into the equipment preparation.

As Farr puts it: “Football is just a different kind [of] beast.”

**Perks of the Job**

Oregon is nicknamed ‘Nike University.’ As a group of people who deal with all of the Nike gear that the football team gets, the equipment managers know that all too well. But the managers aren’t left out when it comes to the illustrious gear.

“We don’t get as much as the players or the coaches, but I don’t remember the last time I bought an Oregon shirt or a pair of Oregon shorts,” Cruz said. “... It’s like Christmas year-round.”

Just like student athletes, the managers get access to the Jaqua Center, the student athlete academic center with free tutors. They also eat meals with the teams and get priority registration for classes. On top of that, they are awarded merit-based scholarships.

“I’m able to pretty much pay for all of my school through this job, so I’ll have no debt when I graduate,” senior Graham Millie said.

Another benefit of being an equipment manager is the front-row seat that they get each game day. The five student managers who are chosen as the ball boys interact with the game on another level. They get to run up and down the field, ultimately controlling the tempo of the game. During the Kelly era known for speed, Kelly would harp on Farr to make sure that his ball boys were ready for a fast-paced 60 minutes of play.

Another perk that comes with the job is the networking. Whether the equipment managers are trying to pursue a job in equipment, athletics or something unrelated, the position connects them to many people.

Senior C.J. Hargis doesn’t know whether he wants to go into coaching or pursue a job as an equipment manager at the next level. This past summer, he was offered a position as co-head equipment manager at Baylor University, but had to turn it down to continue school.

“The hands you shake are incomparable to anything you could do outside of this world. ... It’s a lot about who you know and the relationships you make now,” Hargis said. “You can’t put it into words about how much that means to your future career. If I wanted to get into coaching football, I can’t think of a better place to be in the world.”

**Quarterback competition? What about equipment manager competition?**

With so many benefits of being an equipment manager, it is no surprise that a lot of incoming students are interested in the job.

Because of this, Farr conducts what he calls a “tryout process.” When students express interest, he interviews them, calls references and has them come in a few days a week for a few hours at a time to see how they do.

From an outside view, the job of an equipment manager may look all fun and games. But in reality, it’s filled with long, hard hours without much recognition. He wants to make sure that the students are completely committed and ready to put in the work.

“What these guys have to do is very difficult,” Farr said. “Some guys come in and they want to be student equipment managers because they’ll see something be put on social media or they’ll see these guys doing stuff on the sideline on game day and think, ‘Wow, that’s really cool. I’d like to do that.’ But they don’t see that these kids have been here six or seven hours before the game and they’ll be here another three or four hours after the game.”

The equipment managers report on July 24, a week before the athletes show up and more than two months before school starts. The football equipment managers are essentially sacrificing half of their summer and dedicating the majority of their time during the school year to their equipment duties.

**More Than A Team**

Although the football equipment managers have many perks to their job, there is one thing that they all treasure most: each other.

“Between the 13 of us, it’s a team,” Farr said. “We spend so much time together, we’re like a family. “One of the biggest perks is our little family that we have — that we’ve been able to create and build,” Hargis said. “Shoot, I’ve been with these guys more than my own family for the last three or four years. These guys are my family. ... We get awesome shoes, awesome gear ... but it’s all about those relationships that last longer than a pair of shoes.”
INJURIES:
Many Ducks day-to-day

BY: Gus Morris @JustGusMorris
PHOTO: Adam Eberhardt

Four days have passed since Oregon’s 45-24 win over Cal, and the scope of Oregon’s injury situation is beginning to become clearer. The overall outlook still isn’t great for the Ducks, but several players that left Saturday’s game with injuries could be back for Oregon’s bout with No. 11 Washington State this Saturday.

Obviously, the Ducks will still be without sophomore quarterback Justin Herbert, who will be “out for a while” with a fractured collarbone, and junior linebacker Kaulana Apelu who fractured his ankle and will miss the rest of the season.

But Oregon head coach Willie Taggart offered a minor update on some of his injured players before practice on Wednesday. Just to recap, five Oregon starters are listed as day-to-day. They are: tight end Jacob Breeland, wide receiver Charles Nelson, offensive lineman Jake Pisarcik, running back Royce Freeman, and wide receiver Dillon Mitchell.

On Wednesday, Taggart said that all above players mentioned remain day-to-day, but did offer some encouraging news about Freeman.

“I expected Royce to play whenever Royce wants to play,” Taggart said. “Royce probably could have come back and played on Saturday. He’s built differently. But he’s getting better.”

Taggart’s statement is reinforced by the fact that Freeman practiced throughout the week. Breeland also practiced this week and was seen working in individual drills during the portion of practice media is allowed to observe.

Nelson was seen walking into practice carrying pads on Tuesday, but was not wearing cleats.

As far as the quarterback situation goes, Taggart didn’t say he’d name a starter until, possibly, as late as game time on Saturday. Alie and Burmeister have shared reps at practice this week but neither has set himself apart.

“We still have today’s practice, tomorrow’s practice and Friday’s practice,” Taggart said. “And we have a late game so we have all day Saturday.”

He said he wants Alie and Burmeister to keep competing for the starting job. Up until Saturday, Alie had been Oregon’s backup quarterback. But he was among the long list of Ducks that left Saturday’s game with an injury.

“I don’t have a point, I just want to have a starter,” Taggart said. “And we will. We’ll have a starter by Saturday.”

Taggart was also asked about the possibility of playing both Alie and Burmeister, a suggestion that he coyly sidestepped.

“I don’t get caught up in any of that,” Taggart said. “It’s just who practices well and who gives us our best chance to win.”

A smart approach as a banged-up Oregon team welcomes the No. 11 Cougars to Autzen on Saturday.

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE
APPLY TODAY
wou.edu/grad

Questions: graduateprograms@wou.edu

Western Oregon University
Graduate Programs

- M.A. Criminal Justice
- M.A. Interpreting Studies
- M.A. Teaching (Initial License)
- M.M. Contemporary Music
- M.S. in Education
- M.S. in Ed. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education
- M.S. in Ed. Information Technology
- M.S. in Ed. Special Education
- M.S. Management and Information Systems
- M.S. Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Specialization
- Elementary Mathematics Instructional Leader Specialization/Certificate
- ESOL Endorsement/Certificate
- Instructional Design Certificate
- Reading Endorsement/Certificate
SECONDARY PREPARES FOR HEISMAN CONTENDER

LUKE FALK  
BY: Zak Laster  
PHOTO: Adam Eberhardt

One of the surprises of this season has been Oregon’s much-improved defense under new defensive coordinator Jim Leavitt. They’ll face a stiff test this weekend when they match up with the most experienced quarterback they’ve seen this season: Washington State senior Luke Falk.

Part of the reason that Falk posts such impressive stats, is that he has many opportunities to pass with Mike Leach at the helm. Leach coaches an air-raid offense that is ranked second in the nation in total passing yards and loves a quarterback willing to chuck the ball all over the field.

This is Falk’s third full season as the starter. This season he leads the nation in average completions per game and ranks within the top six nationally in six out of 10 quarterback statistical categories.

With all the success he’s having, how do you stop Luke Falk?

“I don’t know if you do,” Leavitt said. “Honestly, he’s going to move the ball – we know that. He’s too good. But hopefully we can challenge him a little bit.”

Leavitt and the defense will need to figure out a way to dial up the pressure on Saturday, but there are risks involved with that too.

“You have to win some one-on-one battles and do your best to get to him because he gets rid of the ball, and he’s really accurate when he does get rid of the ball,” head coach Willie Taggart said. “He has some really talented receivers who can make you pay. So, I think it’s very important that we get to Mr. Falk.”

Occasionally, the Cougars will run the ball, but typically the running backs receive the ball via Falk in the passing game as well.

“He makes everything go, and he has a good supporting cast and it’s been working,” defensive line coach Joe Salave’a said. “He’s going to make his plays. That kid is blessed with a lot of tools, and it shows every Saturday.”

Washington State has had Oregon’s number the last two seasons, putting up a combined 96 points on the Ducks’ defense. This year’s secondary is a very young group, which could play into Falk’s favor, but it also means Falk will be going up against a handful of new faces.

“I think it’s going to be fun,” redshirt freshman safety Brady Breeze said. “I’ve never been able to play against Washington State, so I’m pretty excited to see what their offense is like on the field. Watching it is a little different, but when you’re on the field, it’s definitely going to be a lot faster. Their routes are going to be flying all over the place, and they’re going to be fast paced. So, I’m excited to see what they can do and see how we hold up against them.”

---

Burrito Boy

Bring this coupon on Gameday for

Buy 1 Bean & Cheese Burrito  
Get 1 FREE!  
limit 1 per person  

Gameday,  
October 7th  
only!  
(exp. midnight)  

--- offer valid at all locations! ---

Broadway  
510 E. Broadway, Eugene  
Open 24 hours  
(541) 344-8070

Downtown  
30 W. 10th Ave., Eugene  
Hours: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
(541) 344-5856

Chambers  
1840 Chambers St., Eugene  
Hours: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
(541) 246-8775

West 11th  
2511 W. 11th Ave., #A, Eugene  
Hours: 6:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
(541) 338-4219

River Road  
1060 River Rd., Eugene  
Hours: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
(541) 689-7970

Springfield  
1889 Olympic St., Springfield  
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
(541) 747-7775
MAKE EUGREEN YOUR HOME IN OREGON FOR

$50 ELITE SELECT STRAIN PENTOPS

$25 GRAMS OF SHATTER

AND

$5 GRAMS - $100 OUNCES

OF OUR HAND SELECTED FLOWER

DAILY, TAX INCLUDED - PLUS - A NEW SPECIAL EVERY DAY!

ONLY AT EUGREEN HEALTH CENTER

WEST EUGENE
1000 OBIE ST
EUGENE, OR
TEL: 541-505-7275

DOWNTOWN
1111 WILLAMETTE ST
EUGENE, OR
TEL: 458-205-8056

LOVE OUR STORES & FRIENDLY BUDTENDERS?
VOTE FOR US IN EUGENE WEEKLY’S BEST OF EUGENE POLL!

BESTOFEUGENE.COM

Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. For use by adults twenty one years of age and older.
RYAN BAY’S DREAM COME TRUE

BY: Jack Butler @Butler917 | PHOTO: Adam Eberhardt

When Oregon tight end Ryan Bay was recruited as a walk-on by the Ducks, he was told he may never play a snap.

Last week against Cal, Bay started the game and made two receptions for 20 yards. They were his first receptions as a Duck.

“It was amazing,” Bay said. “Definitely a dream come true. Something I’ve always dreamed about as a kid — coming down here and making big plays and [doing] what I can to help this team get the win.”

Bay started as a walk-on in 2015, but now he is seeing significant playing time, especially last week since starter Jacob Breeland was injured.

In high school, his goal was just to be a Duck, but now he has an opportunity to make an impact during the game.

Bay only played two seasons of high school football. He played his freshman year, but he stopped to focus on basketball, and he averaged a solid 10 points and four rebounds per game during his junior season. He was getting recruited by some colleges to play basketball, but it was ultimately his desire to play football that put him back in pads.

“I guess just the passion of the game,” he said. “I didn’t really have a lot of experience coming into my senior year, but I just knew I wanted to play for the Ducks one day.”

Bay transferred from Jesuit High School to Tigard High School for his senior year of football in 2014. He excelled at both defensive end and tight end, so he reached out to Oregon to see if they’d be interested in recruiting him.

He didn’t hear back for a month and a half. Finally, then-wide receiver coach Matt Lubick direct messaged him on Twitter offering him a walk-on spot.

“They knew that Oregon was something I always wanted to do. … They supported it. … It was hard for them to understand that I wanted to work hard, and I was going to prove one day that I could play here.”

He was ready. He wanted to be a Duck, and he was going to work hard to prove to himself and his teammates that he could make plays.

“I think when Breeland went down he really got excited about his opportunity and he took advantage of it,” head coach Willie Taggart said. “I thought he played well. … I really love his development.”

So after all this work, is it even surprising that he’s made it to this point?

“Oh no, it does surprise me,” he said. “Again, I can’t take anything for granted. I am pretty thankful, but it definitely is pretty incredible how everything works out like that.”

BY:

PHOTO:
Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of marijuana. Keep marijuana out of the reach of children.

4+ STRAINS TO CHOOSE FROM!
We know the ‘other guys’ tried but with Lifted’s B-Buds, the price is right and the nugs are tight!

HOME OF $89 OUNCES +$4 PRE-ROLLS!

MON-THUR 9 A.M. - 9 P.M.
FRI-SAT 9 A.M. - 10 P.M.
SUNDAYS 9 A.M. - 7 P.M.

$89 oz.
($71.10 medical)
$47.50 1/2
($39.58 medical)
$25 1/4
($20.83 medical)
$15 1/8
($12.50 medical)

Lifted is sure that you’ll Be Back for their B-Buds!

Straight outta Green Acers Farm

Multiple Strains with 15-19% THC

Emerald City MEDICINAL
Eugene’s First & Finest OLCC Dispensary

541-505-9065
1474 W 6TH AVENUE

Eugene’s First & Finest OLCC Dispensary

For When the Going Gets Tough

7 Days a Week
8 Locations

Eugene Urgent Care

Ducks vs Cougars

EugeneUrgentCare.com

Nonstop EUG to San Jose
Connecting the Silicon Shire to the Silicon Valley

Fly Easy…

Alaska Airlines

EUG to San Jose
Connecting the Silicon Valley

Eugene Urgent Care

For When the Going Gets Tough

7 Days a Week
8 Locations

Eugene Urgent Care

Ducks vs Cougars

EugeneUrgentCare.com