

OREGON DUCKS



DT Arik Armstead

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2014

QUARTERBACKS - Did you know that from 1997-'03 Oregon had more QB's drafted than any other school (6 incl 2 #1's)? The last QB drafted was Dennis Dixon and he along with then-OC Chip Kelly created a "new" Ducks offense. In '12 PS#28 Bryan Bennett (1 start, 8 gm in '11) battled Marcus Mariota (PS#31) who was the star of the spring. Mariota became the first Fr Duck QB to start the opener s/'91 (Danny O'Neil). He earned 1st Tm P12 (267.7, 69%, 32-6, 752 rush). LY rFr Jake Rodriguez (PS#15) and Jeff Lockie (PS#7) battled for the bkp job. Mariota had a 28-0 ratio and streak of 353 passes w/o an int end on a tipped pass that was flipped back inbounds between Ariz teammates (1st play of game). Mariota inj'd his knee vs UCLA (gm #8) and had -34 rush yds the next 2 as he wore a brace the rest of the year. By the bowl he was healthy and rushed for a ssn high 133 (8.9). He threw for 3,665 (63.5%, 31-4, 715 rush, 7.4, 9 td) becoming the first ever Duck to top 4,000 yds tfl off. Lockie (8-13-57) ply'd in 9. Rodrigues played in 7 (3-6-67) but along with Damien Hobbs (PS#53, RS in '13) opted to trans after spring '14. With Mariota turning down a shot at the NFL, this position is home to a legitimate Heisman candidate.

RUNNINGBACKS - UO has had a long list of outstanding RB's and now has a streak of 7 str yrs with a 1,000 yd rusher including Jonathan Stewart (PS#1) who set the schl record w/1,722 (6.2) in '07 (#1DC) and LaMichael James (P10 OPOY) who reset the record w/1,731 (5.9) in '10. James reset the record again in '11 w/1,805 (7.3, 18 td, #2DC). In '12 Kenjon Barner (939, 6.2 in '11) took control and led w/1,767 (6.4) and added 256 rec. De'Anthony Thomas (PS#2) had 701 (7.6) and 445 (9.9) rec while true frosh Byron Marshall (PS#12) had 447 (5.1). LY Barner departed and Marshall had 991 after 10 gms but was inj'd (4 yds L2 of reg ssn) and eventually topped 1,000 in the bowl. True frosh Thomas Tyner (PS#3) rushed for 140 (6.4) in the Civil War (#2 RB, 711, 6.2). Thomas missed 3 full gms and was not 100% for 4 others (594, 6.2, 246 rec). Walk-on Ayele Forde has 538 yds (5.5) in 3Y. TY Thomas left early for the NFL (#4DC KC) but UO adds in PS#11 & #26 VHT true frosh and I look for the unit to stay healthier and be even more productive.

RECEIVERS - In '12 the Ducks had to replace their top 2 WR's (comb 1037, 13.1). The leading returnee was Josh Huff (430, 13.9) who was banged up but still finished #1 in yds (493, 15.4, 7 td). The #2 WR was Keanon Lowe (PS#26, 244, 11.1)

then Bralon Addison (PS#26, 243, 11.0). LY the top 5 ret'd (top 3, 1129, 14.3) including TE Colt Lyerla (392, 15.7) who was susp and played in just 3 (dismissed mid ssn). Pharaoh Brown (PS#11) played in 9 (123, 12.3) after opening the year on crutches. True frosh Johnny Mundt (PS#23) became the first UO TE with a 100 yd rec gm s/Ed Dickson in '09 but still only finished w/281 (17.6). Huff led w/1,140 (18.4). Addison added 890 (14.6) and Hawkins' was #3 (347, 15.1) so the top 3 doubled their production with 2,377 (16.3). TY they lose 2nd Tm P12 Huff (13 st, #3DC PHI) and Hawkins while Addison tore his ACL during spring practice. Through recruiting, this unit has gained speed the last few years but still, with the loss of 2 of their top 3 (plus Addison being a ?), figures to be down a notch.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '12 UO had just 2 ret OL st's and one of them st'd just 6 so they were inexp'd. Still, the rush ypg climbed for a 3rd str year to 315 although their ypc "fell" from an FBS best 6.7 to 6.0 (19 sk, 5.1%). LY they had to replace 1.5 st's incl #1DC Kyle Long who'd only st'd 5 gms, but had 7 of the top 10 back (55 car sts) incl 4th Tm AA C Hroniss Grasu, 1st Tm P12 LT Tyler Johnstone and 3rd Tm P12 RT Jake Fisher. While the rushing ypg slipped to 274, the ypc improved to 6.3 (18 sk, 4.4%). Those 3 stars all return with the only losses being Mana Greig (8 st) and bkp Everett Benyard. The car sts climbed to 108 and this has the makings of one of the top OL's in the country.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In '11 the Ducks had to replace 3 st's incl two 2nd Tm P12 DL but actually the D recorded a modern day schl high 45 sks (39 '08) while all'g 143 ypg rush (3.6). The D-line was hit hard by injuries in '12 and slipped to 145 (4.0) with 28 sks. LY they had to replace a #1DC DE and a starting DT. The ypc improved to 3.8 but they yielded 166 ypg rush, their highest s/'97 (28 sk). Soph Arik Armstead (PS#7, 26 tkl true) st'd the first 5 but lost his spot to DeForest Buckner (PS#39). TY they lose 2nd Tm P12 DT Taylor Hart (13 st, 75 tkl, 3.5 sk, 3 tfl, #5DC PHI), DT Wade Kelikipari (13 st, 34 tkl, 2 sk, 3 tfl) and bkps Ricky Havili-Heimuli (PS#21, 25 tkl, 4 tfl) and Jared Ebert (PS#12JC, 5 tkl). They again return 2 st's incl 2nd Tm P12 DE Tony Washington (7.5 sk, 4.5 tfl) and look just as strong up front.

LINEBACKERS - UO usually does a good job replacing their LB's because they play their bkps so much (see my '12 magazine). LY they shifted to a 4-3. They had to replace their #1 (Tm MVP) and their #2 tkl'r (#2DC) but did have 7 of the top 9 back (#8, #10, #12 tkl's) and there were 11 VHT's. Boseko Lokombo was a #3DC of the CFL but played his Sr season and may have been the most athletic of the LB's (#7 tkl'r, 3 sk, 4 tfl). Derrick Malone (1 st, 41 tkl, '12) missed most of spg (inj) and despite being listed 2nd string into the yr, he ended up #1 w/105 tkls (2 sk, 2 int). TY they lose Lokombo but return 1st Tm P12 Malone and the unit goes from 1 ret st'r to 2.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - The Ducks have finished in the Top 25 of my PDR in 9 of the 10Y. In '12 they had to replace 2 st's (1st Tm P12 ROV) then 1st Tm P12 FS John Boyett (PS#39) was OFY in the opener. Avery Patterson had an int in 3 str gms, 2 ret'd for td's but was OFY in game #10. The Ducks still moved up to #7 (59%, 19 td, 26 int #1 FBS). LY they had to replace Boyett (#6DC) but ret'd everyone else incl 3rd Tm AA CB Ifo Ekpre-Oloru (PS#21, 20 pd, #3 FBS). UO finished #7 again (56.5%, 14-17). Gone TY are CB Terrance Mitchell (13 st, #9 tkl'r, 5 int, 7 pbu, #7DC DAL), SS Brian Jackson (13 st, #5 tkl'r, 3 pbu) and FS Avery Patterson (13 st, #3 tkl'r, 3 int, 6 pbu, 6 tfl). Surprisingly Ekpre-Oloru (#2 tkl'r, 3 int, 6 pbu) turned down the NFL and he was the only all-cont ply'r of the DB's as well as 2nd Tm AA. They're not as exp'd but looking at their history, they most likely will have yet another Top 25 finish.

SPECIAL TEAMS - If you look at my ST rankings, you'll see the Ducks are usually solid and had a streak of 5 str years at #32 or better end in '12 (#77). LY they had to replace their K (4-8, L41) and P (37.4 net). De'Anthony Thomas (17.1 PR and 24.3 KR in '12) only handled KR's but Bralon Addison (14.1, 2 td) filled in admirably. The unit climbed to #28. Alejandro Maldonado (3-6 fg's, L33, '12) struggled again (3-5, L34) and was replaced by true frosh Matt Wogan (PS#1, 7-9, L39, 22 TB 100 KO). Maldonado took over the P duties (39.9, 38.5 net). The Ducks were +9.2 on PR and even on KR. TY they lose their top 2 KR's, Thomas and Huff (comb 765, 23.9) and Maldonado but should finish in the same area.

COACHES - Chip Kelly departed after a 4 year stretch with 46 wins (4 BCS bowls). He got the Eagles to the playoffs his rookie season. Despite having 3 diff HC's the Ducks have put together 6 str seasons with DD wins (4x of 11+). Mark Helfrich was the OC here for 4Y and was OC/QB cch at Colo ('06-'08). Scott Frost was named the OC after 4Y's as WR cch here. Frost (#3DC NYJ) was the starting QB for the '97 Nat'l Champ Nebraska team. Replacing the legendary Nick Aliotti as the new DC is someone he has tutored the entire time here, Don Pellum. Pellum played LB here under Rich Brooks and has coached here s/'93 (mostly LB cch).

ALSO ON ROSTER: WR Chris Tewell 5'8" 175 So LB Ivan Faulhaber 6'2" 220 rFr RB JJ Jones 5'9" 170 So TE Davaysia Hagger 6'5" 215 rFr DB Bobby Dunn 6'3" 188 Jr RB Lane Roseberry 6'1" 233 So LB Mike Garrity 6'1" 218 Sr

PHIL'S FORECAST

This Oregon program has come a long way. The AP Poll started in 1936 and from 1936-2008 (72 yrs) the Ducks were ranked in the Preseason Top 20 a total of 3 times. In '54 (#18), then under Mike Bellotti in '01 (#7) and in '02 (#15). Since '09 the Ducks have become a fixture in not only the preseason, but reg season Top 20's and now Top 10's. Chip Kelly's 4 tms were ranked #16, #11, #3 and #5 preseason and did even better at the end finishing #11, #3, #4 & #2. In '10 they were ranked #1 for 6 str wks before losing to Aub in the Nat'l Champ gm by 3. In '12 (Kelly's last yr) they were #1 w/2 wks left when they were upset by Stanford 17-14 at home in OT (-20). After knocking off Kansas St in the Fiesta Bowl they finished #2. Mark Helfrich inherited 15 ret st's incl QB Mariota but had Stanford on the road. The Ducks blew out their first 5 opp's then vs #16 Wash, led just 31-24 after 3Q's actually playing their starters into the 4Q for the first time. They went 66/5, 75/8 and 60/11 for td's taking a knee at the UW9 winning by 21. Two weeks later it was much the same vs #12 UCLA. It was 14-14 late 3Q but the Ducks took over in the 4Q and won 42-14. That set up #2 UO vs #6 Stanford and the Ducks were pummeled. SU led 23-0 in the 3Q before UO got some late points to make it respectable, 26-20. The most surprising loss came vs Ariz when they were hammered by 26 the week after some players said they were disappointed to be playing in the Rose Bowl and not the Nat'l Title gm. They were fortunate to get past Oregon St in the Civil War scoring a late td but then ruined Mack Brown's send-off whipping Texas 30-7 in the bowl (469-236 yd edge). Their #9 finish was actually their lowest in 4 yrs. TY Helfrich's 3 biggest recruits are probably QB Mariota, C Grasu and CB Ifo Ekpre-Oloru who all turned down the NFL and the Ducks get Stanford at home, most likely putting them in the Preseason AP Top 5 again. They host Rose Bowl Champ Mich St early but miss USC and Ariz St from the West with their toughest 2 road games being at UCLA and at Oregon St. That game at UCLA may be the preview of the Pac-12 Title game and even if they lose to the Bruins, the rematch TY is at new Levi's Stadium (San Fran). Oregon is again a National Title contender.

OFFENSE

JERSEY #
IN GREEN

2014 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

JERSEY #
IN GREEN

DEFENSE

QB 8 MARCUS MARIOTA JR. 6-4 215 PS#31. 13 st, 267.7 (69%, 32-6), 1st Tm P12 rFr. 13 st, 366.5 (64%, 31-4), 715 (7.4) rush, 1st Tm P12 LY. 17 Jeff Lockie (6'2" 194 So) PS#70. 9 gm, 79 tkl yd rFr. 12 Taylor Alie (6'0" 171 rFr).
RB 9 BYRON MARSHALL JR. 5-10 201 PS#12. 11 gm, 447 (5.1) true. 10 st, 1038 (6.2), 3rd Tm P12 LY. 24 Thomas Tyner (5'11" 211 So) PS#3. 1 st, 12 gm, 711 (6.2) true. Royce Freeman PS#11. 36 Kani Benoit (6'0" 205 So) PS#129.
WR 88 DWAYNE STANFORD SO. 6-5 197 PS#25. 13 gm, 106 (9.6) true. 1 Chance Allen (6'2" 199 So) PS#151. 9 gm, 98 (19.6) rFr. 23 BJ Kelley (6'2" 183 Jr) PS#178. 19 gm, 116 (16.6) 2Y. RB 30 AYELE FORDE (5'7" 181 Sr) 5 gm, 362 (5.8) 2Y.
WR 7 KEANON LOWE SR. 5-9 186 PS#26. 8 gm rFr. 11 st, 244 (11.3) '12. 10 st, 233 (12.9) LY. 15 JASON BROWNE PS#17. IFS. 10 Johnathan Loyd (5'8" 163 Sr). 86 Austin Daich (6'3" 195 So). RB 31 KENNY BASSETT (5'9" 182 Sr).
WR 87 DARREN CARRINGTON RFR. 6-2 192 PS#30. 13 Devon Allen (6'0" 195 Jr) PS#37. 11 Bralon Addison (5'10" 181 Jr) PS#26. 13 gm, 243 (11.0) true. 11 st, 890 (14.6). 2nd Tm P12 PR LY. TOLR ACL spg. 88 Jeff Stolzengberg (6'4" 195 Sr).
TE 85 PHARAOH BROWN JR. 6-6 241 PS#11. 13 gm, 42 (21.0) true. 5 st, 123 (12.3) LY. 83 JOHN MUNDT (6'4" 232 So) PS#23. 5 st, 281 (17.6) true. 81 EVAN BAYLIS (6'6" 235 So) PS#6. 2 st, 17 (17.8) rFr. Koa Ka'ai (6'4" 235 Jr). 15 gm 2Y.
C 55 HRONISS GRASU SR. 6-3 297 PS#109. 40 st C. 2Y. 1st Tm P12, 2nd Tm AA LY. Doug Brenner (6'2" 298 rFr) PS#167. 61 Brigham Stoehr (6'0" 281 rFr). LS Tanner Carew PS#1. 53 Connor Johnson (6'6" 222 rFr).
RG 77 CAMERON HUNTER SO. 6-4 282 PS#39. 7 st (5 at RG, 2 at RT), 13 gm as true. 76 JAKE PISARIC (6'2" 277 rFr) PS#212. Tyrell Crosby (6'5" 290 Fr) PS#56. 69 Brandon Thomas (6'4" 290 Jr). No gm action L3Y.
LG 54 HAMANI STEVENS SR. 6-3 312 PS#53. RS '08. Left for mission '09. 8 gm '11. 12 gm '12. 13 st (8 RG, 5 LG) LY. Hanitelli Lousi (6'5" 295 Jr) PS#53JC. IFS. 68 Jamal Prater (6'4" 296 Jr) PS#134. 2 gm rFr. 2 gm LY.
RT 75 JAKE FISHER SR. 6-6 293 PS#76. 12 gm RG/RT true. 11 st RT '12. 11 st RT LY. 3rd Tm P12 LY.
LY EVAN VOELLER (6'5" 284 rFr) PS#27. Braden Eggert PS#99. 70 Matt McFadden (6'4" 295 So). 1 gm ST's rFr LY.
71 64 TYLER JOHNSTONE JR. 6-6 277 PS#43. 13 st LT, 1st Tm Fr AA rFr. 13 st LT, 2nd Tm AA LY. 72 Andre Yuretagoyena (6'5" 284 Jr) PS#14. 11 gm 2Y. 74 Elijah George (6'5" 272 Fr) PS#204. Matt Pierson (6'6" 267 Jr). 10 gm 2Y.
K 49 MATT WOGAN SO. 6-2 197 PS#1. 7-9 fg, L/39, 42-44 PAT, 100 KO (61.9), 22 TB, 7 OOB, 13 gm as true LY. 48 Eric Solis (5'10" 192 Sr). 3-4 fg, L/30 true. RS '11. DNP L2Y. 97 Hayden Crook (5'10" 163 So). DNP rFr LY.

DE 44 DeFOREST BUCKNER JR. 6-7 286 PS#39. 13 gm, 29 tkl, 2.5 tfl true. 8 st, 39 tkl, 3.5 tfl LY. 45 TJ DANIEL (6'6" 256 So) PS#164. Jason Jelts PS#104. 57 Ryan Kendrick (6'2" 215 Jr) 1 gm LY. Jason Sloan (6'3" 195 Jr).
NT 56 Alex Balducci Jr. 6-4 297 PS#35. 1 st, 1 tkl true. 13 gm, 18 tkl LY. 39 Sam Kamp (6'3" 287 Jr) PS#117. 8 gm, 5 tkl rFr. 10 gm, 9 tkl LY. 84 Stetson Bair (6'9" 281 Jr) PS#57JC. RS here '12. 4 gm, 1 tkl LY.
DT 9 Arik Armstead Jr. 6-8 296 PS#7. 2 st, 26 tkl true. 5 st, 15 tkl, 2.5 tfl LY. Tui Talia (6'5" 270 Jr) PS#12JC. IFS. Austin Maloata (6'2" 291 Fr) PS#93. 94 Jonathan Kenion (6'2" 255 rFr). Henry Mondeaux is PS#83.
DE 91 TONY WASHINGTON SR. 6-3 245 PS#131. 1 st, 38 tkl 2Y. 13 sts, 60 tkl, 12 tfl, 2nd Tm P12 LY.
96 Christian French (6'5" 244 Jr) PS#6. RS '11. 20 gm, 23 tkl 2Y. 42 Cody Carriger (6'6" 245 So) 6 gm, 2 tkl rFr.
WLB 22 DERRICK MALONE SR. 6-2 220 PS#68. 1 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 12 st, 105 tkl, 5 pd, 3rd Tm P12 LY. 34 Rahim Cassell (6'0" 223 Jr) PS#61. 13 gm, 32 tkl, 2 tfl LY. 19 Tyrell Robinson (6'4" 217 So) PS#20. 9 gm, 12 tkl true.
MLB 48 RODNEY HARDRICK SR. 6-1 231 PS#60. 13 gm, 19 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 65 tkl, 4 pd LY. 35 Joe Walker (6'2" 230 Jr) PS#48JC. 1 st, 37 tkl LY. 46 Danny Mattingly (6'5" 230 Fr) PS#41. 51 Isaac Ave (5'10" 250 Sr). 21 gm, 13 tkl 3Y.
SLB 33 TJASON COLEMAN JR. 6-1 225 PS#28. 1 st, 34 tkl rFr. 2 st, 21 tkl LY. 86 Torrondey Prevot (6'3" 214 So) PS#17. 12 gm, 14 tkl true. 47 Oshay Dunmore (6'2" 201 So) PS#59. 11 gm, 9 tkl rFr. Grant Thompson (5'11" 224 Sr) 14 gm, 8 tkl 3Y.
CB 3 Dior Mathis Sr. 5-9 175 PS#19. 15 gm, 23 tkl 2Y. 13 gm, 18 tkl LY. 6 Dominique Harrison PS#72JC. IFS. 29 Stephen Amoafo (5'11" 197 So) PS#124. 1 gm rFr. Mattrell McGraw PS#53. Michael Manns (5'11" 165 So).
CB 14 IFO EKPRE-OLORU SR. 5-10 195 PS#21. 15 st, 97 tkl, 28 pd 2Y. 13 st, 84 tkl, 9 pd, 2nd Tm AA LY. 1st Tm P12 LY. 13 Troy Hill (5'11" 168 Sr) PS#77. 6 st, 69 tkl, 2 pd 2Y. 11 gm, 29 tkl LY. 10 Chris Seisay (6'1" 180 rFr) PS#72.
SS 8 Reggie Daniels So. 6-1 198 PS#33. 9 gm, 6 tkl rFr. 2 Tyree Robinson (6'4" 200 rFr) PS#17. Arrian Springs PS#21. 28 Eric Amoafo (5'11" 190 So) PS#98. 1 gm rFr. 43 Bronson Yim (5'10 185 Jr) 4 gm, 2 pbu 2Y.
FS 4 ERIC DARGAN SR. 5-11 212 PS#11. 9 gm, 15 tkl rFr. 43 Bronson Yim (5'10 185 Jr) 4 gm, 2 pbu 2Y. 44 tkl, 5 pd, 2nd Tm P12 ST's LY. 5 Isaac Dixon (5'11" 193 Jr) PS#131. 14 gm, 24 tkl 2Y. Juवान Williams (6'0" 190 Fr) PS#115.
P 49 MATT WOGAN SO. 6-2 197 PS#1. 7-9 fg, L/39, 42-44 PAT, 100 KO (61.9), 22 TB, 7 OOB, 13 gm as true LY. #1 P spg. 38 Ian Wheeler (6'0" 192 rFr) PS#79. 1st Tm All-Region as Sr in HS. W/O fall & RS LY.

