

# letterwinner

## DUCKS AT THE NATTY

### BCS playoff draws a flock of Ducks

There was a huge contingent of former players and coaches in Arizona for the BCS national championship game between the Ducks and Auburn. According to the athletic department's Jeff Eberhart, "quite a few went to Dan and Patrick Johnson's party at the Firehouse after the pep rally in Scottsdale on Sunday night and many went to Reuben Droughns' and Akili Smith's party at the Club Axis Radius, also in Scottsdale. On game day, about 60 former players and their guests showed up to the tailgater that we had within the Alumni Association party." Observers noted many other alumni tailgaters scattered throughout the huge stadium parking lots.

Eberhart said the effort culminated seven years of working for football, "realizing many of you felt a little bit disconnected to the program. It has been our goal to reverse that and bring everyone back into the fold. The participation has been wonderful, as the spring alumni golf tournament set a record last year for attendance and the annual reunion the first part of the season has gone from 45 former players, to 236, to 252 in three years."

Jeff also works with the Order of the O Board in facilitating "keeping everyone informed of what's going on in our department and in their sport and giving them an avenue to communicate with us. We now have a comprehensive database for both baseball and football and are continually trying to update it and connect with "lost" former players. Our next project is getting a database completed for men's and women's basketball and eventually every varsity sport that has participated at Oregon."

He pointed out that athletic directors "Rob Mullens and Jim Bartko and the coaches have been very supportive of what we are doing with former student-athletes, as we will continue to reach out through reunions and other events to help keep everyone connected with their school, and also their former teammates and those that may have played before or after them. James Harris and I will also be meeting in the future to set up more events that include both the former and current athletes, which would obviously benefit both groups." Those alumni with ideas or suggestions for future are encouraged to contact Eberhart at the athletic department. ©



ORDER OF THE O  
NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2011

BCS REPORT  
NATIONALS

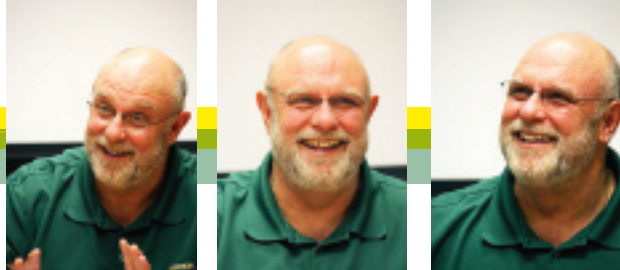
CHIP KELLY  
COACH OF THE YEAR

DEDICATION  
Matthew Knight Arena

2011 Football Schedule | Volleyball Team

## President's Corner

### new message from Don Stone



Outstanding year so far...both Oregon Football and Men's Basketball went way, way beyond all our expectations. In addition our Women's Indoor Track team won the national championship. I'm so proud to be Duck...all our programs represent us and our University well. Additionally I have been impressed with the smooth transition in our Athletic Department leadership. Rob Mullens, our new Athletic Director, has been very busy yet he has found time to meet with me twice to learn more about the Order of the O. He has been very responsive to our needs and concerns.

One of the concerns I addressed was with updating and revitalizing our Order of the O website. Thanks to Rob, Jeff Hawkins, Jeff Eberhart, Ryan Therrell, and Neal Zoumboukos, we will be soon part of the Oregon Athletics home website, Goducks.com. As we work on the website we hope to provide you with upcoming timely events, reunions, and celebrations. The newsletter, our scholarship application and links to corresponding related websites will be also available on this venue. These sites include the Duck Store, Career Athletes, ticket office, and several others.

Please take notice of what's happening on May 7th. Our club mission is "athletes helping athletes;"

athletes honoring athletes". In keeping with our motto it's time to "right a wrong". Women who participated in NCAA sanctioned sports here at Oregon prior to the establishment of Title IX never received athletic letters from our University. We are going to recognize these accomplishments and award letters on May 7th. The Order of the O will also give free one year memberships to these women as we do for all seniors who used up their athletic eligibility. Contact Beth Campbell (bethc@uoregon.edu or ph.541 346-4460) for details.

We have extended the deadline for our scholarship to June 15th. This is available to any Order of the O member's child or grandchild not involved in any of Oregon's NCAA sanctioned programs. Our club has given scholarships the past 4 years to many outstanding students. Contact Beth Campbell (bethc@uoregon.edu or ph.541 346-4460) for details.

If you have any have any concerns please contact any of our board members. Their contact information is on our web...just go to Goducks.com and look for our tab on the right side.

And as always...GO DUCKS!



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Football 1970-71

**Colin McArthur, Treasurer**  
Track 1997-00

**Mike Johnson, Secretary**  
Football 1968-70

**Randy Robinson**  
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**Bill Thompson**  
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**Tim Reed**  
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**Bob Donnelly, Social**  
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**Peg Rees, (Sr. Awards, Becky Sisley)**  
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**Robin Wilcox-Gruver**  
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## letterwinner

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The LetterWinner is the official publication of the Order of the O and the University of Oregon Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. If you have stories, ideas, or articles about Order of the O members, address changes, or other suggestions for the please send correspondence to:

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# CHIP KELLY Coach of the Year



Oregon's bright young head coach, Chip Kelly, in only his second year leading the Duck football program, was named winner of five national Coach of the Year awards on the basis of the Ducks' 12-1 record and a berth in the National Championship playoff game against the Auburn Tigers.

Kelly lead the Ducks to their second straight outright Pac-10 championship and a national number-one ranking for six weeks of the football season.

After dropping the playoff game to Auburn 22-19 on a last-play field goal, Kelly told the press, "We'll be back," strong words from a coach who rarely says anything substantive to the media. The awards came from

the Associated Press, Eddie Robinson, Sporting News, Walter Camp Coach of the Year, and the prestigious American Football Coaches Association, a group of peer coaches. Kelly became the first Oregon coach to ever win the award.

Last season, Kelly took the Ducks to the Rose Bowl where they lost to Ohio State. In this year's playoff game, the exciting Oregon squad took favored Auburn down to the last play of the game, which had the highest rating ever for a cable-covered sports event on television. Duck fans are already excited for Spring football and the possibilities for next season. Although Kelly loses 11 letter winners, the majority of big-play players are back, promising

more high-scoring games with the wide-open spread offense.

Kelly's mantra, "Win the Day," has become a popular outlook for many in the Oregon community, outside the football program and in schools and business organizations. It will be interesting to see if Kelly is able to maintain the team's (and fans') focus on "one day at a time," when they all have had a brief, sweet taste of the final prize. The opener will be a nationally-televised game against LSU from Dallas, which provides an excellent opportunity to get some Southeast Conference payback before entering conference play, the first year of the new Pacific-12 Conference. ©

## 2011 Football Schedule

**9/3 LSU @Arlington, Texas**  
**9/10 Nevada**  
**9/17 Missouri State**  
**9/24 @Arizona**  
**10/6 Cal (Thursday)**  
**10/15 ASU**

**10/22 @Colorado**  
**10/29 WSU**  
**11/5 @Washington**  
**11/12 @Stanford**  
**11/19 USC**  
**11/26 OSU**

# MATTHEW KNIGHT ARENA DEDICATED BY HIS FATHER



A capacity house of 12,300 packed Matthew Knight Arena for the new basketball stadium's dedication, a gift largely paid for by Phil Knight and his wife Penny, who are among the most steadfast University of Oregon supporters the school has ever had. The night had everything: Phil Knight, with some poignant personal remarks aimed at his family and late son, Matthew, for whom the arena is named after, and an exciting game that put the Ducks undefeated on their new home court.

The Duck mascot was eased on down from the rafters, and the crowd was regaled with fireworks, dance by the spirit squads and a

destiny-type effort from the Oregon basketball team that resulted in an upset win over USC. There was positive reaction to the arena and efforts by the university to create a world-class facility with the hominess and charm of beloved Mac Court and the amenities of a modern building suitable for sports, cultural and entertainment events. The new arena's price tag was \$200 million with an additional \$27 million in property purchases.

The project was spearheaded by the leadership and investments by the Knights and Pat Kilkenny, former athletic director. The Knight's donation of \$100 million established the Legacy Fund, which

served as the financial bulwark for the project. It was finished ahead of budget through the efforts of 1,890 workers, all of whom personally committed to a quality effort. Initial design feedback was that the new arena needed to be as tight as Mac Court, and as loud and intimidating for opposing teams. A curtain can be pulled to cover seats on the upper concourse, leaving a more intimate 7,500-seat environment for events such as volleyball.

The designers produced a dazzling tribute to Oregon basketball, through the use of glass, white oak, and innovative lighting. There are references to the Tall Firs, the Duck team that won the first NCAA



basketball championship in 1939, led by Urgel "Slim" Wintermute and by the player who became "The Admiral," John Dick. There are additional remembrances of the Kamikaze Kids of Ronnie Lee and Mike "Bulldog" Drummond, and to the legend of the Pit where opposing coaches referred to the "Pit Crew" as 'deranged idiots.'

The three-level building covers 405,000 square feet. It can seat 12,364 for basketball games, and up to 12,784 for concerts, depending on the location of the stage. The basketball floor — Pat Kilkenny Floor, with its unique depiction of an old-growth forest (designed by Oregon alum Tinker

Hatfield) and the slogan "Deep in the Woods" — can be removed for an ice surface for skating, or a dirt base for dirt bike, rodeo and tractor pulls. The floor received a good bit of attention by those who watched the game on television, mainly because it reflected a glare from lights that marred the television coverage. The mid-court line is difficult to see and may cause a problem down the line, but fans, including opposing coaches, said the court was more attractive in person.

For the basketball and volleyball teams, there are lounges, locker rooms and shower areas (eight feet high in the men's locker), plus

coaches' lockers and showers and meeting rooms, plus two locker rooms for officials. There are also two visitors' locker rooms that can be divided into four for use in tournament situations. Matt Arena also boasts additional assets for student-athletes: a training room, weight room, treatment center with a hydrotherapy pool, hot tub and cold-water tank, and a state-of-the-art video control room to run the scoreboard replay screen.

Oregon hopes to host future NCAA playoff games with the attractive venue and expects to feature over 50 non-sporting events annually in the plan to make Matt Knight Arena a profitable enterprise. ©

## Looking to Capture Your College Days Forever?

The name Randy Morrow may strike a chord with Oregon Duck fans as the son of the late Ken Morrow, who was an attorney in Eugene who represented many Ducks over the years, or else, as a highly talented and unique sports artist and graphic designer. Randy, who attended the Pratt Institute in New York City and Colorado College, has degrees in graphic design and fine arts with honors, in painting and drawing.

Morrow, whose dad was one of the first Honorary Members of the Order of the O back in 2001, has been building a reputation in the Eugene area through his experience as a graphic designer coupled with his interest in sports, and passion, in particular, for the Oregon Ducks. Randy has worked with the Metropolitan Opera, the United Way, and Prudential Securities in New York, and several University of Oregon-dedicated sports

magazines: Fighting Ducks Review, Inside Duck Sports and Ducks Illustrated, in Eugene. Morrow said, "Many people have told me they think my style is dynamic and different than most of the sports art you see out there. I am trying to generate some exposure so that athletes and former



case. Morrow has produced art of former Oregon basketball player Rob Closs, Duck football great Matt LaBounty, Mickey Mantle, and Michael Jordan among others. To produce the portrait, Randy obtains a photo, either from the athlete, or through research and then creates his rendering.

"What I do with the photo is what sets this apart from the rest," said Morrow, "it's been a great thrill and privilege for me to see many great Duck teams and athletes compete and I try and capture the same kind of excitement to create a great portrait from your playing days."

athletes know that I could produce a lasting tribute or memory of their experiences as a Duck athlete."

Morrow observed that many athletes use the art as a gift to parents or children, not always for the trophy

For those interested in contacting Randy, call 541-349-0489, or email him at [rmgraphics@opusnet.com](mailto:rmgraphics@opusnet.com). ☺

## Soccer's Erickson Sets All-Time Win Mark

Coach Tara Erickson became the leading winning Oregon women's soccer coach this fall, as her team carved out a 7-10-3 record, with three wins in Pac-10 play, two more than last year. Erickson, who was an All-Pac-10 player at Washington, was the head coach for Portland State before coming to Eugene. In her six years at Oregon, Erickson has produced a 54-52-13 mark and in 2006, was named the Pac-10 Coach of the Year.

Junior Jen Stoltenberg, out of Mission Viejo, was named to the first team All-Conference team with 12 goals which helped her become the all-time leading Duck scorer with 84 points. Coach Erickson only lost four seniors to graduation, so the future is hopeful for a team that took a great number of shots on goal and needs to improve its scoring average.

Academically, the Ducks were outstanding: Stoltenberg was named

to the second team All-Pac-10 Academic team for her play and 3.49 grade point average in Business Administration. Nine others were named Honorable Mention: seniors Kristie Kuhns, Rianna Mansfield, and Mercedes Walters. Junior Taylor Jones and sophomores Nicole Bakke, Kelsey Hanes, Scout Libke, Mandy Mercier, and Lauren Thompson also were singled out for their accomplishments in the classroom. ☺

## Duck Volleyball Aced Out of NCAA's

Oregon football fans have chafed at the Bowl Championship Series' bureaucracy in the past, especially in 2001 when Joey Harrington and the one-loss Ducks were overlooked for the national playoff with Miami in the Rose Bowl. Now, Duck volleyball fans may have a similar beef.

Jim Moore, the coach who had taken the Ducks to four straight NCAA playoffs, was disappointed to see Oregon overlooked by the NCAA brain trust, which picked 16 volleyball teams ranked below his Ducks to fill out the 64-team playoff field. Moore has brought a great deal of excitement to the program and the volleyball team has become an attraction to both students and fans.

The Ducks were 19-11 for the season, with a 7-11 record in the Pac-10, the premier volleyball conference in the nation. That

record is a bit deceiving as 7-of-the-10 Pac-10 teams were ranked in the top 25 in the country. Nine of Oregon's losses were to teams ranked in the top 15, and all 11 were to NCAA qualifiers. Moore's squad was ranked nationally between 11 and 21 all season.

As the "computer" figures out the power index of football teams, the NCAA has a ranking system called RPI (Rating Percentage Index). As described by Wikipedia, the RPI is figured as follows: "The team's winning percentage is 25%, the opponent's winning percentage is 50% and the winning percentage of the opponent's opponents is 25%. The strength of schedule (SOS) accounts for 75% of RPI calculation and is 2/3 the opponent's winning percentage 1/3 times its opponent's opponents winning percentage." Wikipedia's vast group of national

experts has declared that the RPI "lacks theoretical justification from a statistical standpoint."

Duck fans, both volleyball and football, will attest to the apparent unfairness of the rating system, which seems to have a West Coast bias. On the other hand, Coach Moore will welcome five freshman, six sophomores and one senior back to have another go in 2011. He must replace departing senior Heather Meyers, who was voted first team All-Pac-10 and lead the league in aces and was sixth in scoring. Alaina Bergsma was an honorable mention Pac-10 pick and Lauren Plum was voted to the All-Pac-10 Freshman team. With such returning talent, the future is bright for Oregon volleyball as all hands look forward to playing in the flashy Matt Knight Arena next season. ☺