

## Oregon football:

### ‘New world’ Ducks in reload

Oregon’s new recruiting class, considered among the top 10 in the nation, is shaping up to be its best ever

By John Smith  
The Associated Press

With a week to go before national signing day, Oregon is putting the finishing touches on one of the best recruiting classes in school history.

And if the Ducks can finish well by wrapping up a couple more defensive linemen, there may be no debate.

The class as currently assembled by Chip Kelly and his football staff is already ranked in the top 10 nationally by both Rivals and Scout, the two pre-eminent online services that compile such ratings. It features big-name national prospects like linebacker Anthony Wallace of Dallas, top in-state talent such as Colt Lyerla of Hillsboro and overall a well-rounded group who across the board are considered at least three-star recruits, for a program that rose to national prominence on the backs of diamonds-in-the-rough and overachievers.

“When you look at the map of college football, I don’t think there’s another team that’s changed its footprint more than Oregon,” analyst Allen Wallace of Scout.com recently told The News Tribune of Tacoma. “Oregon represents the new world in college football.”

The national letter-of-intent signing period begins on Feb. 2. The Ducks don’t figure to sign any special teams players, having addressed those spots in recent class, but are expected to add essentially a full lineup of offensive and defense standouts.

Key to that will be wrapping up commitments from a defensive tackle or two in the coming days, as defensive line coach Jerry Azzinaro did a year ago in securing the services of Ricky Heimuli. This afternoon, defensive lineman Roderick Byers of Rock Hill, S.C., will choose between the Ducks and South Carolina; he visited Eugene last weekend and told 247sports.com he joined the Ducks for Saturday’s parade honoring their BCS National Championship appearance.

Oregon is also thought to be among the finalists for tackle Delvon Simmons and end Branden Jackson, both of McKeesport, Pa., and tackle Christian Heyward of San Diego. The Ducks are thought to be the top choice of Simmons and a strong player for Heyward; three national analysts from Scout.com are unanimous in predicting that Heyward will sign with Oregon, though he has been tight-lipped about his decision-making process, according to reports.

Defensive line is so significant to the Ducks that in December they signed a junior-college player, Jared Ebert, who has said he intends to enroll

Continued on A2

## STATE OF THE UNION

# ‘Move forward together’



Photos Courtesy of AP

President Obama addresses important topic at this year’s State of the Union, addressing concerns of Americans. After his speech, Vid quisqua ssequi occusan denimin ctorat. Haribus dem et ipsum nimus ellaut fuga. Optatio. Onsed quo beariti iscide omnihit atestru mquaers peraeperem is aut liquidi ctionsecea dolup.ssadgadgddff.

## President Obama’s address encourages more investments

By John Smith  
The Associated Press

Declaring that the nation faces big decisions like those it confronted at the dawn of the space race, President Barack Obama called for sweeping bipartisan “investments” in science, education and infrastructure in his State of the Union address Tuesday night — all without increasing government spending.

In a 61-minute address from the House chamber, Obama pleaded for a cooling of political tensions to help him reach that goal, saying America faced a crossroads that demanded a cooperative effort “bigger than party and bigger than politics.”

At “our generation’s Sputnik moment ... we will move forward together or not at all,” the president said, recalling the massive U.S. mobilization of money and resources to catch the Soviet Union after

it launched the world’s first satellite into space in 1957.

At the same time, Obama acknowledged that he must accommodate conservatives’ demands for restrictions on overall government spending and taxes, proposing a freeze on “annual domestic spending for the next five years.”

The address came halfway through Obama’s term, at a time of deep partisan breaks exposed by the November elections — and rubbed raw in the aftermath of the shootings that killed six people and left Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., gravely wounded this month.

The president opened by asking for prayers for Giffords and pointing out that one seat remained empty in the House chamber in her honor. Family members of some of the victims joined first lady Michelle Obama in the chamber, where many lawmakers of both parties wore black-and-white lapel pins.

The parties did not sit apart, as is traditional. Instead, many lawmakers paired up with members of their opposing party to show solidarity with calls for less confrontation in America’s politics.

Among them were Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., who shouted that Obama was a liar

More on the State of the Union on A2



Photos Courtesy of AP

President Obama speaks at the 2011 State of the Union, addressing issues such as jobs, immigration, and education.

## Speech Highlights

### Jobs

*Best for economy:*

“We will put more Americans to work repairing crumbling roads and bridges. We will make sure this is fully paid for, attract private investment, and pick projects based on what’s best for the economy, not politicians.”

### Immigration

*Stop expelling:*

“I am prepared to work with Republicans and Democrats to protect our borders, enforce our laws and address the millions of undocumented workers who are now living in the shadows. Let’s stop expelling talented, responsible young people who can staff our research labs, start new businesses, and further enrich this nation.”

### Education

*Lagging behind:*

“If we want innovation to produce jobs in America and not overseas - then we also have to win the race to educate our kids. Over the next 10 years, nearly half of all new jobs will require education that goes beyond a high school degree. As many as a quarter of our students aren’t even finishing high school. America has fallen to 9th in the proportion of young people with a college degree.”

### Innovation

*Sputnik moment:*

“This is our generation’s Sputnik moment. Two years ago, I said that we needed to reach a level of research and development we haven’t seen since the height of the Space Race. I will be sending a budget to Congress that helps us meet that goal. We’ll invest in biomedical research, information technology, and especially clean energy technology.

### Terror

*American Muslims:*

“Al-Qaeda and their affiliates continue to plan attacks against us. We are disrupting plots and securing our cities and skies. And as extremists try to inspire acts of violence within our borders, we are responding with the strength of our communities, with respect for the rule of law, and with the conviction that American Muslims are a part of our American family.”