



## UO captioning for fans at Autzen Stadium

*The university joins a small group of universities across the U.S. leading the trend to enhance accessibility at athletics venues*

EUGENE, Ore. -- (Sept. 12, 2011) – Fans who attended Autzen Stadium for the Oregon Ducks’ first home game of the football season on Saturday likely noticed a new feature on the Duckvision scoreboard.

The University of Oregon is now captioning athletics events at Autzen Stadium, joining just a handful of other universities around the country. The UO is committed to offering the service at other venues on campus as well.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the number of Americans with a hearing loss has doubled during the past 30 years to more than 28 million. The national increase and urging from the local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America led UO Athletics staff to make the change at Autzen Stadium.

The in-stadium announcements by Don Essig and game officials, and voiceover of programming during stoppage of play, is displayed as text on Duckvision to enable all fans to have a more complete experience in a venue known for its loud crowd involvement.

“The addition of captioning at Autzen Stadium will provide a larger portion of the population with a full fan experience,” said Mike Duncan, senior associate athletic director for Facility Operations and Events. “The game day experience involves audible and visible details that are improved for everyone with text captions, and we’re happy to launch it this football season.”

The service is provided by [LNS Captioning](#), based in Portland. A trained captioner – working remotely – receives an audio feed of what’s being broadcast in the stadium, and types the captions to be displayed on DuckVision with a minimal time delay. LNS provides captioning service for the Eugene City Council live webcasts, as well as NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, MLS and other college sports teams in the U.S.

“The Athletics Department in general, and Mike Duncan and his staff in particular, have made captioning of events in major athletic venues a priority, an effort which is trend-setting and which we, representing people who are hard of hearing and deaf heartedly applaud,” said Clark Anderson, vice president, Oregon Communication Access Project (OR-CAP).

Commencement ceremonies in 2010 and 2011 were captioned at the UO. Plans are underway to provide captioning for additional events at the Matthew Knight Arena, PK Park and Hayward Field.

### **About the University of Oregon**

The University of Oregon is among the 108 institutions chosen from 4,633 U.S. universities for top-tier designation of "Very High Research Activity" in the 2010 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The UO also is one of two Pacific Northwest members of the Association of American Universities.

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