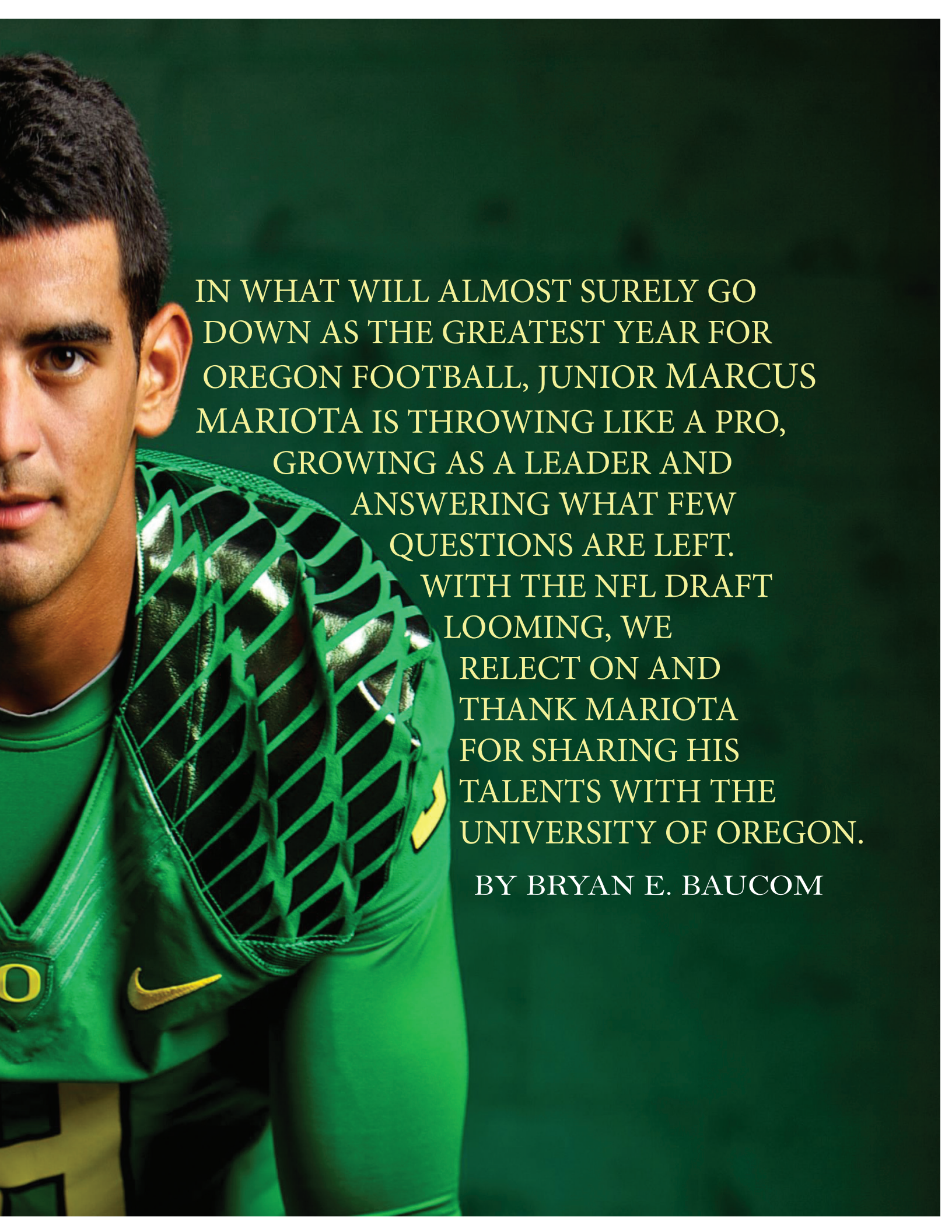




# MAHALO MARCUS

*LIFE AFTER EUGENE*





IN WHAT WILL ALMOST SURELY GO DOWN AS THE GREATEST YEAR FOR OREGON FOOTBALL, JUNIOR MARCUS MARIOTA IS THROWING LIKE A PRO, GROWING AS A LEADER AND ANSWERING WHAT FEW QUESTIONS ARE LEFT. WITH THE NFL DRAFT LOOMING, WE RELECT ON AND THANK MARIOTA FOR SHARING HIS TALENTS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON.

BY BRYAN E. BAUCOM

*“There’s three things that go on at O’Hara Catholic School. There’s Jesus, there’s girls, and there’s Marcus Mariota.”*

*-Charlie Pape*

**M**arcus Mariota has not only made a dramatic impact on the football field but has perhaps made an even bigger impact on those around him, teammates, coaches, fans, the community, and even his opponents. Because of the Hawaiian blood rushing through his veins, Marcus has always had a very laid back, humble, and family oriented spirit about him. This spirit is infectious to all those he comes in contact with. “His attitude and demeanor helps our team to stay calm during adversity,” says running back Thomas Tyner, “His calm impacts my calm.”

After the 2014 regular season, a season that had 4454 passing yards, 42 touchdowns, and only 3 interceptions, Marcus won his first PAC12 Championship, beating a physical Arizona team that had punished him earlier in the season. While at the post game press conference head coach, Mark Helfrich, was asked if he thought his quarterback should win the Heisman Trophy. Helfrich responded by saying, “If this guy isn’t what the Heisman Trophy is all about, then I’m in the wrong profession.” This shows how much respect Coach Helfrich has for Mariota. In addition, he added: “If you want your son or daughter to have a role model, pick this guy.”

Perhaps due to Marcus being the first Oregon player to win the highly coveted

Heisman Trophy, Mariota has the potential to be the greatest Oregon Duck of all time. Perhaps even more influential than Mariota’s skills on the field are his skills off the field. It is all part of the evolution of Mariota’s leadership. When he arrived in Eugene from Honolulu, his talent was rock solid, but he was so reserved, almost shy. He is a Tuesday afternoon regular at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley, where he strived to be a mentor to several young boys.

“He genuinely cares about the kids,” says Kassey Mosher, the club’s executive director, who says Mariota is considered part of the staff. “He’s amazing.”



But the kids at the Boys and Girls Club are not the only members of the community affected by this humble Hawaiian. During a press conference following a win over Colorado, a 12-year-old boy, Charlie Pape, a student

reporter from O’Hara Catholic School in Eugene was given the chance to ask Duck’s coach Mark Helfrich a question. “Do you know anything about Marcus Mariota, if he’s staying or leaving? I mean, that’s, like, the talk around school.”

Helfrich turned the tables on the twelve-year old and asked, “What is the talk around school?”

“Well, there’s three things that go on at O’Hara Catholic,” Charlie replied.



Mariota wins Heisman after an almost unanimous vote. (Pg.4)  
Mariota displays talent in rout of beating Michigan State. (Pg. 3)

“There’s Jesus, there’s girls, and there’s Marcus Mariota.” Helfrich said that was the best question of the day, and laughed hilariously while avoiding giving a real answer.

Mariota’s humble attitude has helped propelled him as a football player and as a person. It has been reported by several players on several different teams that after delivering a hit to the Oregon QB, the defenders are surprised to see Mariota smile, tap them on the helmet and congratulate him on the play by simply saying “Nice hit.”

It is hard to believe that this shy islander has had such a profound impact on his team, his community, and sports fans worldwide. Marcus Mariota will go down as the greatest Oregon Quarterback of all time and will always be remembered by the quiet leadership on the field and his desire to make the world a better place off the field. Mariota is a once in a lifetime player. Oregon has never seen anything like him before and its hard to believe that duck fans will see something like him again. As a community, we want to thank Mariota for his tireless efforts in improving our team, influencing young kids in Emerald Valley, and shaping our athletic program. We have thoroughly enjoyed having you as our quarterback. Mahalo.

## Critical Thinking

When first enrolled at the University of Oregon, then freshman Marcus Mariota took a job at a local grocery store in order to afford his college tuition. While working, a heavier set woman approached Marcus asking him if she could purchase only a half head of lettuce. Making sure, Marcus walked back into his managers office and said “There is a big ole’ lady in here asking if she could buy just a half of a head of lettuce.” Not knowing the woman had followed him back to the office, Marcus turned around surprised and then replied, “And this nice lady would like to buy the other half.”