Hey, Barry Sanders is in my biology class

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Lori Profozich of Bloomfield Hills suspected something exciting was in the air Thursday when her biology instructor at Oakland University advised students not to be surprised if a photographer showed up in class.

"I knew something was up," said the 1988 Rochester Adams graduate. "But I didn't know what. Somebody said Barry Sanders was in the class, but I wasn't sure."

Any mystery was cleared up three days later, when the announcer at the Detroit-Washington football game mentioned that all-star running back Barry Sanders is enrolled at OU hoping to earn credits toward a degree.

The announcer said Sanders was intent on the game, eventually lost by the Lions, 41-10. He also mentioned Sanders was concerned about a biology quiz on Tuesday.

That's when Profozich realized. "Hey, he's in my class," she shouted to her fiancee, John Grubbs, and others attending a football party in Troy.

As it turned out, neither Sanders, Profozich nor any of the other students in the class needed to worry — at least about Tuesday. That quiz was postponed because of the snowstorm, like most other activities scheduled at OU.

"I suppose we'll have it Thursday," Profozich said.

SANDERS, 23, was a junior when he left Oklahoma State University, after winning college football's most prestigious prize, the Heisman Trophy, to pursue a multimillion dollar career in pro football.

Sanders is currently listed as a junior at OU where he is presumably heeding his father's advice that a college degree is important to self-esteem.

While Sanders is pursuing his goal, he's also enlivening things at OU. "It's really exciting," said Profozich. "But I imagine it will die down. As the semester goes on, I imagine he'll be just another student."

The biology instructor thinks so too. "I expect students to be excited for awhile," said Phillip T. Clampitt, a former staff zoologist at Cranbrook who teaches Sanders and more than 100 other students in the class.

"But I don't expect any disruptions," said Clampitt, who is not a sports fan and watched Sunday's game only because of his low-profile, but highly publicized student.

"The name was familiar when I was going over the class roster," said Clampitt of Auburn Hills. "But I didn't recognize the name."

THAT CHANGED Thursday when he got a call from the OU public relations office asking if he'd mind having a photographer in the class to get a picture of the Lions' star running back.

"The photographer showed up," said Clampitt, "but Barry didn't. But I can certainly understand why he didn't."

Enrolled in another session of the same biology class is one of Sanders' teammates, star receiver Willie Green, who left the University of Mississippi to play pro football.

Green's instructor, John Cowlishaw, is a football fan and said he was aware it was one of his students who scored the Lion's only touchdown against Washington.

"But when I saw his name on the class roster, I didn't realize he was the football player," said Cowlishaw, a resident of West Bloomfield.

Cowlishaw said like other Lion fans, he too was thrilled when his student caught the touchdown pass that pulled Detroit back into contention.

He didn't mention, however, anything about extra credit.

Program targets women's health

The popular health and nutrition program Just for Women will begin a winter segment Tuesday at the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute at Oakland University in Rochester.

A health and personal development seminar tailored to the special needs of women is one example of a single-sex program that makes sense, MBHEI personnel say.

The sessions run from 6:15-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from Jan. 21 through March 26.

The program responds to a women's health needs and includes personal health assessments, body composition, cholesterol and HDL measurements, and nutrition and weight-management sessions. Participants will receive low-impact exercise and weight-resistance exercise instruction and have use of the institute's extensive facilities.

Those interested are invited to call L.E. Smith at 313-370-4523 or 313-370-3198. The cost is $200 for non-members, $185 for members and $75 for OU graduates.

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