



'Fighting Ducks' Take on Utah

Redskins Exciting, Explosive Ball Club

The Utah Redskins bring an exciting, explosive offense to Autzen Stadium today for a 1:30 p.m. battle against the Oregon Ducks.

The Utes, 2-3 on the season like Oregon, lost their last encounter to Wyoming, 20-9. They lost their first two contests, 31-0 to Nebraska and 27-24 to Oregon State, but brought themselves back to .500 in their next two games with victories over Washington State (17-14) and New Mexico (30-7).

Thomas Leads Club

Leading the Salt Lake City club is senior split end Louis "Speedy" Thomas. In five contests this year, the 6-0, 176-pound Houston, Tex., product has latched onto 23 passes. But what he does with the ball after he catches it is even more impressive.

Thomas has scored four touchdowns this season—on pass-run plays of 48, 56, 53 and 51 yards. On those 23 receptions he has, he's racked up 447 yards.

Directing the Utah forces is quarterback Ray Groth. Groth is an average thrower, according to Oregon Head Coach Jerry Frei, but is a good scrambler and likes to run the ball.

Actually, the Redskins have a better rushing than passing attack. With fullback Steve Molnar running out of the Utes' slot-T formation, the Ducks could be in for a rough day. Molnar, a senior from Canada, has rushed for a 3.8 average against some of the toughest football teams in the country.

Halfback Dave Smith, with 20 yards in 20 carries, will start at another backfield spot, with Bill Fowler opening opposite Smith on the left side.

Line Satisfactory

John Marshall, the Frosh assistant who scouted the Utah-Wyoming game last weekend, reported that the Ute line was satisfactory but not very big—averages 206 pounds.

On defense, the Redskins have a big, strong line. They employ a split-six line formation, thus not using a middle guard. Most feared pair on the line are the defensive ends, Norm McBride and Gary Kerl. "They're very strong and big," Marshall said. "They do a good job of anchoring the line." Both are 6-3 and in the 220-pound range.

Utah Sports Information Director Ron Fessenden adds, "They're two of the finest, most aggressive defensive men in the Western Athletic Conference," the league in which Utah plays. Marshall said he felt Oregon would be able to get outside against the Ute defense. "They don't stunt," he said, "but they do have good linebackers," in Larry Stone and Fred McFarren.

In the defensive backfield, the Redskins use a three-deep rotation, with Dick Worley and Joe Galarze at halfbacks and Gary Barker listed at the safety position.

Good Punting

The Utes are well-suited in the punting department. There they have Craig Smith, who has punted 40 times this year for a 41.4 average and a longest kick of 63 yards.

One of Utah's downfalls is a tendency to fumble frequently. They've dropped the ball 16 times this year and lost it on 12 of those occasions.

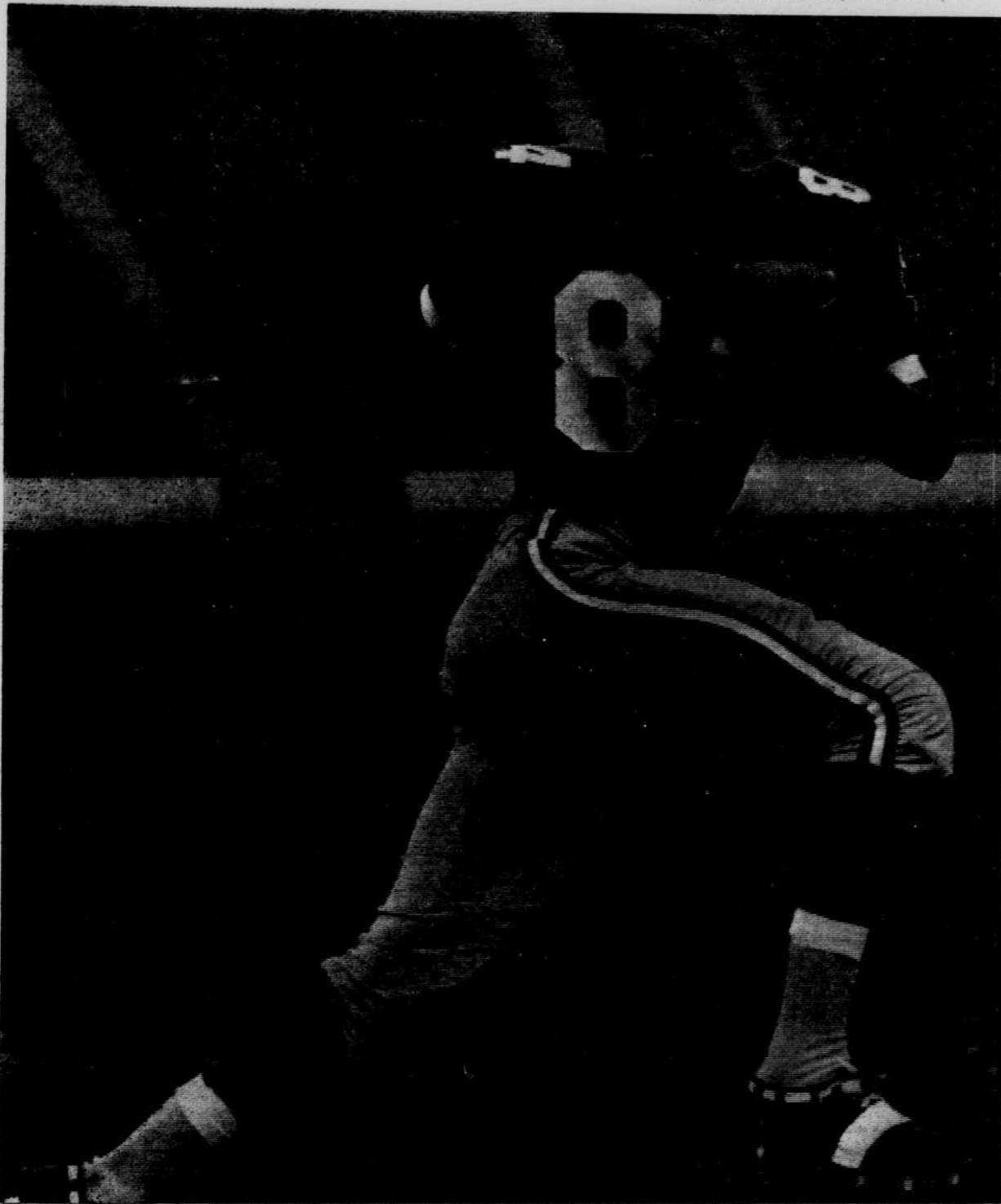
Although the Ute roster lists a total of 33 returning lettermen, that figure tends to be somewhat deceiving. Last season the Redskins posted a 4-7 overall record and a 2-3 mark in league play, but the thirteen Utah lettermen who ran out of eligibility accounted for the bulk of what punch the Utes had.

Coach Bill Meek is in his first year at Utah, the second week in a row Oregon meets a first-year coach. Meek, 45, had been offensive coach at Army for two previous seasons, and during his time there the Cadets posted a pair of 8-2 records. Meek installed the forward pass, missing for several seasons at West Point, and added outside running to the Army attack.

Meek in Pros

Meek, a standout quarterback at Tennessee in the early 1940's, spent five years with the Denver Broncos and Dallas Cowboys in the professional ranks beginning in 1961 before going to West Point. He previously had been head coach at Kansas State, Houston, and Southern Methodist.

Utah has met the Ducks 12 times previously and has lost eight of those games. But they've won the past two, 17-14 in 1966 and 21-0 last season in Autzen Stadium. Biggest Oregon win was 35-8 in 1962.



UTAH END LOUIS 'SPEEDY' THOMAS
23 receptions for 447 yards and four touchdowns

Oregon Tries for Number Three

Webfoots Rolling into High Gear

The "Fighting Ducks" of the University of Oregon, starting to roll into high gear after two straight victories, face a tough Utah squad today at Autzen Stadium.

The Utes are coming off a 20-9 loss to Wyoming while Oregon tripped Idaho 23-8 in its 600th football game after upsetting Washington 3-0 the week before.

Both Teams 2-3

Although both teams are 2-3 for the season, all losses have been to one-time top twenty teams. Utah dropped contests to Nebraska, Oregon State and Wyoming while Oregon lost to Colorado, Stanford, and the number two team in the country, Ohio State. If the Ducks should win today it would be the first time they have reached the .500 mark since the ninth game of the 1965 season.

Oregon's two straight wins clearly give them the momentum edge as they prepare to meet USC, the top team in the country, next Saturday also at Autzen Stadium.

The Ducks appear to be in their best physical shape with only slotback Andy Maurer still out of action. Maurer will be on the injured list for at least two more weeks.

The return of several key players in the last two weeks may be just what Oregon needs to rack up win number three.

Coach Jerry Frei will have both his top signal callers back in action with the return of junior Alan Pitcaithley. John Harrington took over for Pitcaithley last Saturday and completed 5 to 16 passes including a 28-yard bomb to Bob Newland. He also scrambled for another 63 yards on the ground. Harrington was also instrumental in Oregon's 3-0 win over Washington.

Pitcaithley has completed 11 of 34 passes in three games. His totals include two touchdown tosses and 94 yards rushing.

Welch to Start

Teaming with Harrington to start in the Webfoot backfield will be one of Oregon's all-time great rushers, Claxton Welch. The former all-state high school football and basketball star now stands eighth on the Oregon all-time rushing list with 1,012 yards during his three year career as tailback. Last, Saturday he gained 139 yards in 28 carries against Idaho to move from tenth to eighth on the rushing list and receive "back-of-the-game" honors. Welch is now fast approaching Jake

Leicht who gained 1,240 yards during his varsity career.

Roger Smith, filling in for injured Andy Maurer, will be at slotback. Smith was Oregon's leading receiver in 1967 with 28 receptions but has caught only 2 aerials for 11 yards this fall.

Marshall at Fullback

Sophomore Greg Marshall will again assume fullback duties and possibly share the punting chores with Pitcaithley. Marshall is the second leading rusher on the squad with 133 yards in 47 carries.

With the return of Bob Newland to his offensive end position last week, Oregon's passing attack should give the Utah defense plenty of trouble. Newland, who caught his first varsity pass for a TD against Idaho, will team with Denny Schuler and Greg Lindsey to give the Ducks three good pass receivers.

Schuler leads the club in pass receptions with 12 and also has two touchdowns to his credit. Lindsey has caught seven passes for 170 yards and a 24.3 average.

Oregon's offensive interior line, which provided good protection for Harrington against Idaho, will remain intact for to-

day's contest. Dave Roberson will be at tight end with Warner Wong, Nick Shur, Tom Wooton, John Luger and Joe Phillips forming the interior line.

Improvement has been the byword for Oregon's defensive alignment which has allowed only one touchdown in the last two games.

The Duck's defensive unit led by George Dames limited Idaho to -12 yards on the ground last week and limited the Vandals' quarterback, Steve Olson, to -52 yards rushing.

Dames Leads Charge

Dames was named "lineman-of-the-game" as he led the defensive charge from his middle guard position. Joining him on the front line today will be Jack Rust and Jim Nicoliasen at tackles and Dennis Gassner and Mike Kish at defensive ends. Kent Grote, the Ducks' leading tackler, will open at linebacker along with Keith Sherman.

Steve Hilbert, second in Pacific Eight pass interceptions with 5 for 77 yards, is Oregon's top pass defender and will be at the lone safety position.

Oregon looks in good shape overall but will have to go "all out" to win their third consecutive game.