

Ducks, Aggies still seeking consistency

By JOHN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

Despite boasting a winning record, the 2-1 Oregon Ducks will be facing a similar team when 0-4 Utah State limps into Autzen Stadium at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. "They're a team that just hasn't put it together yet," said Oregon Coach Don Read. "And we think that of ourselves."

ing was much closer than 20-3. They blocked a punt with eight seconds left in the half and scored a TD, and they had a 30-yard drive for a touchdown off a fumble."

Snyder was thrown into a tough situation when he took the post after serving under John McKay at USC for two years. He lost 14 starters from last year's 6-5 team, then a rash of pre-season injuries hit the defensive unit.

emerald sports

The winless Aggies have had some real problems, especially on offense. Leading rusher Dan Cox has been nursing an injured leg and bruised shoulder, and has gained just 123 yards in four games.

Turnovers have also plagued USU as it's lost 10 fumbles, and has thrown 10 interceptions. Last week in the Aggies' 20-3 loss at Wyoming, they fumbled three times within the Cowboy's 30 yard line.

For the record, Utah State has lost to San Jose State 45-10, Arkansas 33-16, Long Beach State 32-10 and Wyoming 20-30.

"We've had kind of a roller-coaster year," said Utah State's first-year head coach Bruce Snyder. "That first game was just a nightmare. Everything went wrong. Against Arkansas, we were down 21-16 after the third quarter so we felt pretty good. Maybe we felt too good."

"Long Beach doesn't have Arkansas' name, but we just played flat the whole game. And Wyom-

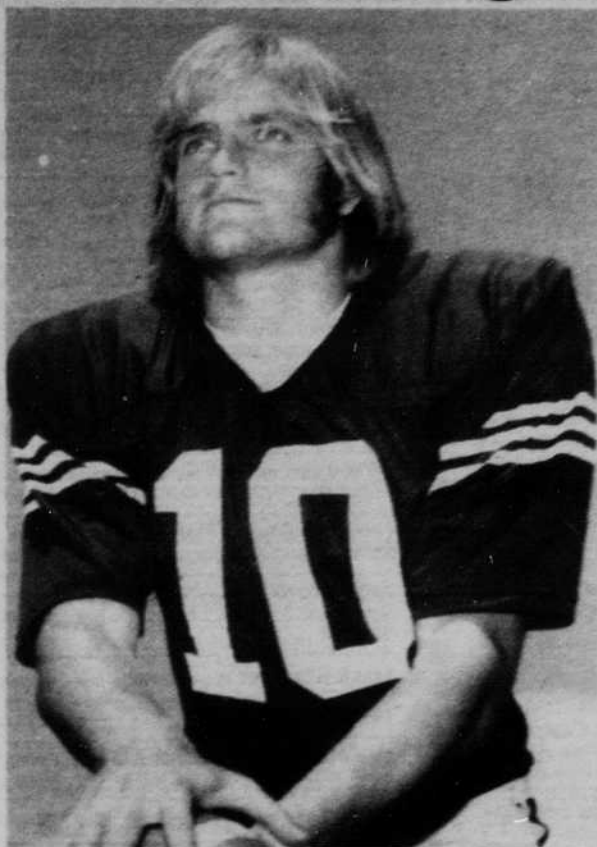
Defensive backs Dave Parkin and Scott Tillotson got hurt, and linebacker Kelly Stroick fractured a cheekbone in practice. All are out for the year.

"Obviously we're not very happy," said Snyder who's a former Oregon aide. "In fact, we're very disappointed. But there's one encouraging factor. We're playing a lot of inexperienced people, and they're learning as they go."

The Ducks won't be turning their noses up at the Aggies with a Pacific-8 contest approaching next Saturday at California.

"Potentially they're a pretty good football team," said Read. "Their quarterback, Eric Hipple, can throw the football and can run which creates problems. They haven't been effective on the ground, but they have some size surprisingly."

Their defensive lineman are Paul Stephenson (6-3, 258), Del Bunselmeier (6-3, 226) and Jim Hough (6-2, 254). With Hipple starting at quarterback, however,



Two Aggies the Ducks must stop are (right) Eric Hipple, a 6-1, 187 lb. quarterback from Downey, Cal., and (left) Dan Cox, Utah State's starting tailback, a 5-9, 182 lb. senior from Salt Lake City, who recently has been playing with a shoulder injury.



the Ducks will have a bigger edge than they had last week against Utah.

"USU is a lot like Utah offensively," said Read. "We won't be seeing much new. But last week we didn't know who would be Utah's quarterback so we had to divide our practice time. This time, we'll be a little more prepared."

Unlike Utah State, the Ducks have put just enough together to scrape up wins over Colorado State and Utah to offset the 53-0 slaughter against USC.

Read is still waiting for a solid four-quarter performance from his offense as the supposedly wide-

open attack is last in the Pac-8 with just under 200 yards a game. The coach can only shake his head in amazement.

"I have no explanation," said Read. "I can't understand how we can look so bad in the first half against Utah and so good in the second half."

Utah State has been a big target for the offense.

"This is the hardest we've pushed the kids all year," said Read. "We're not taking them lightly. It's even more important with Cal next week that we get on track."

A couple of changes have been made in the Duck line-up to replace injured players. Tailbacks Greg Gilchrist and Dennis Bullock are out with a hip pointer and pulled hamstring, respectively. Starting at tailback will be junior Jim Johnson, and senior Dave Miller will start at tight end for Jeff Butts who strained a knee against Utah.

The Ducks have been tabbed nine-point favorites in the contest where the attendance is estimated to be about 25,000. Featured at halftime will be the first appearance of Oregon's 125-piece marching band.

Soccer

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lack of organization last year, Davis, an experienced mentor, was hired this year.

Originally from England, the new coach has had eight years of experience coaching on a level similar to that of American high schools. Though he realizes that the basic skill level of soccer players in America is below that found in England, he sees good potential on his team. Of the 15 squad members, 14 are American. The other is Nigerian.

In a scrimmage held Sept. 26

against a team made up of players from last year's Oregon soccer champions, Mazzi-Nike of Eugene, Oregon came out with an impressive 5-2 victory and the coach was pleased. "They weren't just kicking the ball around. They set it up from the back to the front well," praised the Englishman. "The University did well against an experienced team. They played very well and their game was well constructed," he added.

The upcoming match should

prove to be an exciting one. Seattle won last year's contest, and that, added to soccer's popularity in the Seattle area, should add up to trouble for Oregon.

Davis' squad is ready for the challenge. "I'm confident we can give them a tough game, especially if we continue to play as well as we did in the scrimmage," said the coach.

Oregon has ten matches scheduled for this year, five of which are to be played at home. However, two of those will be

played in Corvallis as a part of two separate doubleheaders. The team will move to Autzen Stadium for the remaining two home appearances.

This schedule doesn't bother Davis. "I'm fairly confident we'll

have a good season. We'll win some games."

With two weeks of work behind it and an impressive scrimmage under its belt, Oregon will get the chance to prove itself the home opener.

Caine asks fans to leave bottles home

Athletic Director John Caine is appealing to Oregon football fans for their help in eliminating glass bottles in Autzen Stadium.

"Our concern is for common

safety. For that reason, we are personally appealing to all Oregon football fans," Caine said tonight.

"For those who cannot recognize or appreciate the

danger, I am authorizing the responsible law-enforcement officials to immediately eject any person who jeopardizes the common safety of Oregon football fans in Autzen Stadium."

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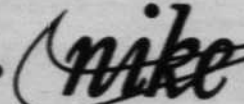
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