



They've faced USC. They've faced Notre Dame. They've faced California. But Oregon's defense will get its biggest challenge Saturday when it faces

third-ranked UCLA in the Los Angeles Coliseum at 1:30 p.m. The Bruins are currently second in the nation in rushing with 352.5 yards a games.

Photo by Mike Baer

Bruins 2nd in NCAA rushing

Duck defense must do it in L.A.

By JOHN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

No, UCLA is not taking a two-week vacation in Palm Springs before facing USC for the Pacific-8 championship. But with 3-5 Oregon coming to town Saturday and a game with 1-7 Oregon State next weekend, Bruin Coach Terry Donahue has been approached with that proposition.

"Our biggest problem right now is that so many people in the media want us to look past our next two games to USC," said Donahue, whose club is third in the nation with a 7-0-1 record. "It's difficult to keep our minds on the Oregon game, but if we don't prepare properly the way we have in the past, we could easily be defeated Saturday."

When the Ducks roll into the Los Angeles Coliseum for the 1:30 p.m. contest, they'll face a team which has found that it's cup runneth over this year.

The pre-season rap on the Bruins was that they'd give the ball to All-American halfback Wendell Tyler, and let the team's hopes ride on his shoulders. UCLA lost All-American quarterback John Sciarra after he led the Bruins to a Rose Bowl victory over Ohio State last year, and Tyler was picked as the man to keep the Veer offense afloat.

Tyler's 781 yards this year has made him UCLA's all-time leading rusher, but Donahue has found a bundle of other potent runners in quarterback Jeff Dankworth and sophomores Theotis Brown and James Owens.

Brown is currently second in the conference behind USC's Ricky Bell with 793 yards, Dankworth has chalked up 617 and substitute Owens came through for 123 yards in UCLA's 30-21 win at Washington last week.

"They're much stronger offen-

sively than they were last year," said Oregon Coach Don Read. "The loss of Sciarra really weakened their team, but Dankworth has done a super job. He and the other runners have added another dimension."

The Ducks have experience with rushing depth as Washington's trio of Robin Earl, Joe Steele and Ron Rowland rushed for 349 yards in the Huskies' 14-7 win over Oregon two weeks ago.

But Washington is more like thunder while UCLA is like lightning.

"The difference is that UCLA's backs hit the hole so much quicker," said Read. "Earl was big and strong, but we had more time to get to the hole. With UCLA, it's either hit or miss because they hit the hole quicker and block better."

The Bruins have rushed enough to average 352.5 yards a game, and rank second behind Michigan in rushing offense. UCLA's only blemish came in a 10-10 tie to Ohio State, but have mopped up Arizona State 28-10, Arizona 37-9, Air Force 40-7, Stanford 38-20, Washington State 62-3, California 35-19 and Washington.

Defensively, the Bruins are even more improved. They've allowed an average of 293.8 yards a game, which ranks second behind USC's 264.

"They're much quicker," said Read. "They throttled down

Washington State, and they moved the ball well against us. They're an explosive active defense that has lots of speed."

The bulk of the explosiveness is in the secondary, where the Bruins list four players in the conference top 10 in interceptions. Mike Coulter and Harold Hardin have four each, Levi Armstrong has three and Jerry Robinson has returned two for 150 yards and two touchdowns.

But the Bruins have been vulnerable through the air, as they're last in the conference with a 159.2 average. Oregon is coming off its best offensive performance in three years after they rolled up 373 yards in last week's 23-22 loss to WSU.

Greg Bauer is currently second in the league in receptions with 34, and will start along with Billy Vincent at flanker. Starting at running backs will be Greg Bullock and George Bennett with Jack Henderson at quarterback.

The Ducks are relatively healthy. Guard Bill Hoffman has an ankle injury and linebacker Rod Rickert has a pinched nerve in his neck. Both are questionable starters.

UCLA is a 28-point favorite, but Read is hoping UCLA won't be sky-high.

"This is our biggest challenge of the year, especially coming off a loss like last week's," said Read. "But I can't see them pin-pointing for us since we have three wins and were beaten by Washington State."

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Harriers tested in NCWSA Invitational

By DAN LINDAHL
Of the Emerald

be an equally blessed Duck squad.

Undefeated in collegiate competition and ranked fourth in the nation, Oregon women's cross country team sweeps into Saturday's Northwest College Women's Sports Association (NCWSA) Invitational Cross Country Championship at Eugene's Laurelwood Golf Course in fine shape.

But despite the bright outlook, you won't hear Duck coach Tom Heinonen making any premature victory statements.

With strong Seattle Pacific in the lineup and memories of last year still in his head, Heinonen knows his team will be in for a very tough outing in the race that is slated to begin at 11 a.m.

"It really looks like a toss up for the win," remarked the coach. "It is so close it is impossible to tell who is going to win."

Seattle Pacific figures to offer the stiffest competition to the Duck contingent, which has not lost to a collegiate team in three outings. So far this season Oregon has twice defeated the Falcons, but experience tells Heinonen that the past doesn't mean anything.

The Ducks were also unbeaten at this time last year, having handled SPC earlier. But the Falcons came up with a sterling performance at the Northwest meet, and upset Heinonen's squad. The former All-American six-miler sees the possibility of history repeating itself this year.

"We expect Seattle Pacific to be much better at this meet than they were earlier in the season. Last year they were like that," he said.

Attempting to offset the talent of the SPC team which features Debbie Quatier, a freshman who three times has finished in the top six at the national AAU meet, will

Ellen Schmidt and Debbie Roth are expected to lead the home forces, while Kim Spir and Katy Mountain provide depth. Heinonen sees impressive performances by his top four runners as being crucial to victory.

"Seattle Pacific has very good balance, its strong suit being that its third through sixth runners are very tight. So we must try to get three people in before their second runner if possible," pointed out the coach of the Ducks, whose team finished fourth in the national meet last year.

A triumph over SPC and the rest of the 15 team, 150 runner field would be an important momentum builder towards the National meet November 13 in Madison, Wis. Heinonen sees a couple of key factors as being possibly strong enough to throw the decision Oregon's way.

"We're hoping that running on a hilly course and running here at home will be the deciding factor," commented Heinonen.

And if it is, then it will be time for victory statements.

Racquetball club to hold meeting

The Oregon Racquetball Club will hold a meeting and clinic at 9 a.m. Sunday in the outdoor racquetball courts.

All members and interested players are welcome to attend.

Take a study break

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