

sports

Ducks on the road again — and it's a similar situation

By MIKE MARINO
Of the Emerald

Oregon hasn't had any particular success with its scheduling this season, and the Ducks fare no better this Saturday when they travel to Baton Rouge to face Louisiana State fresh from a tough 33-13 Southeast Conference loss to rival Kentucky.

"We'd been awfully high for a while," said LSU Coach Charlie McLendon. "They were a very physical team and left us with a few bumps and bruises."

Notable among the casualties stemming from last week are starters Blake Whitlatch and Kent Broha. Whitlatch, a senior linebacker, had keyed the Tiger defense in early wins over Florida and Rice, as did defensive end Broha.

The real key to the early suc-

cess of LSU, however, was its spectacular running game, which until last week had led the nation.

Junior Charles Alexander, who had led the nation in rushing with well over 160 yards per game, was stopped for 87 by the 12th-ranked Wildcats. "He took a pretty good beating last week," McLendon said. "His yardage wasn't that bad, but he knows it's low for him."

The Oregon running back situation fared no better this week, as starting fullback Vince Williams is stopped with a knee ailment. "He hasn't practiced this week because of the bad knee," said Coach Rich Brooks. "We'll start Jeff Wood and he'll be backed up by Kim Nutting."

Freshman tailback Donald Davis will start, but senior Dennis Bullock should see plenty of action coming off of his fine showing in Los Angeles against USC.

The loss of the two starters on the Tiger defense might give the Ducks a little added advantage on offense, as they proved last week they can indeed control the line of scrimmage.

"Of course we don't have the advantage of knowing much about their players," McLendon said. "But judging from what we've seen in their game with Southern Cal, I'd say that their line

is very strong."

For the first time this year, the Ducks will at least be competing on even terms, as the average size of LSU's line is roughly the same as Oregon's. "They move very well," McLendon warned. "And they give the quarterback a lot of time back there. Henderson is a real quality player and he can hurt you that way."

Louisiana State is being favored by upwards of 20 points, which might cause the Tigers to look to their next game with Mississippi. "I'll be disappointed if they do overlook Oregon, though," McLendon said. "Oregon will be coming down here to win a football game, and we've been making too many mistakes to overlook them. They're larger than we are, and physically I think that they can give you problems."

One thing Oregon and LSU have in common is the problem of getting good field position. "We have a good offense," McLendon admitted, "but it's tough when you have to move 80 or 90 yards to score no matter who you are."

"It will be tough to keep them out of the end zone," Brooks countered. "We'll have to improve our punting game and keep them away from the end zone."

Which, as other teams have discovered in the past, is no easy task.



Photo by Steve Scher

Oregon's Ken Page, the tenth ranked receiver in the Pac-8, will be one of the Ducks quarterback Jack Henderson will be looking for when Oregon meets Louisiana State Saturday night in Baton Rouge.

Duck field hockey team hosts four foes in Oregon Invitational

Unbeaten through four games against collegiate competition, the Oregon field hockey team will host a four team tournament Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

Central Washington, Western Washington and Oregon College of Education will participate in the four team tournament of Northwest schools.

Oregon will open the day's events with a 9 a.m. game with Central Washington and play a 3:30 p.m. against Western Washington.

Coach Diane Smith believes

Western will give Oregon its toughest test of the tourney. The Vikings are termed a very rough and aggressive team.

The Ducks have been untouchable thus far against collegiate competition, rolling up four shut-outs enroute to a 4-0 record. Susanna Randall has done the majority of the damage with her 13 goals this season. Getting credit for helping set up some of those goals is forward Caryn McComas.

Saturday's competition represents the second time Oregon has engaged in at-home collegiate competition. Earlier in the season

the Ducks hosted Willamette.

Last weekend Oregon competed against three amateur clubs, splitting three games, including a 1-0 loss to Los Angeles. Coach Smith termed that game Oregon's best of the season.

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