

Ducks of future assert themselves

By JOHN HARRIS
Of the Emerald

"Wait until next year," is often the rallying cry of a losing team after another defeat. But a look at the future of the Oregon football program might be appropriate now in the afterglow of the Ducks' 31-7 victory over Washington State Saturday.

Oregon started seven underclassmen on offense, and only three seniors started for the defense, which limited the Pac-10's second best offense to 285 total yards and 25 points below its per game scoring average.

The younger Ducks not only played, but they excelled as well. The most visible standouts were the defensive line, which combined to sack the Cougars' quarterback Jack Thompson five times in the first half, and two bruising

fullbacks, sophomore Vince Williams and junior Jeff Wood. Williams continued his consistent, outstanding play, running like a bull at the Pendleton Roundup for 102 yards in 16 carries. Wood handled the bulk of the Oregon ball toting chores late in the game, carrying five straight times on the Ducks' final, six-play, scoring drive. For the day he gained 70 yards in 16 tries.

The defensive line received much of the credit for the victory in the raucous Oregon locker room following the game.

"I thought they (WSU) would score a lot more. The defensive line was the difference," said junior defensive back Rock Richmond, who earlier in the day had dazzled the crowd of 25,000 with a twisting-turning 54-yard punt return that set up the Ducks first score.



Photo by Steve Schneider

Sophomore defensive tackle Vince Goldsmith sacks Washington State quarterback Jack Thompson while linebacker Mike Berkich looks on. The Duck defenders threw Thompson for 57 yards in losses in Saturday's 31-7 win.

"I figured it would depend on how much pressure our defensive line put on them, and they did the job," said senior safety Ken Bryant.

Sophomore tackle Vince Goldsmith was the leader of Oregon's defensive front, totalling

12 tackles and throwing Cougar runners for 19 yards in losses. Sophomore end Neil Elshire made nine tackles, broke up two and added 16 yards to WSU's negative rushing statistic. Junior end Terry Dion, who left the game in the fourth quarter with a

strained and bruised knee broke up a pass and sacked the Cougars' Jack Thompson for a 11-yard loss.

Scott Setterlund, a sophomore, and Mike Kesler, a junior, made

(Continued on Page 13)

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