

Freshman quarterback takes reigns

Ducks battle giant killers in homecoming

By JEFF DICKERSON
Of the Emerald

All the oldtimers should be back for Saturday's football clash between Oregon and the University of Arizona. But while members from the class of '56 celebrate their 25th homecoming, a freshman from Van Nuys, Calif. will start his first game at quarterback for the Ducks.

Mike Owens, the "AAA" high school player of the year last year in Los Angeles, will get the starting nod for the Ducks after first-string quarterback Kevin Lusk went down with a separated shoulder last week against Arizona State.

Owens and fellow freshman quarterback Mike Jorgensen shared duties last week against the Sun Devils after the Lusk injury, but it was Owens who emerged with the starting assignment following Wednesday night's practice.

Owens has the dubious honor of leading the worst offense in the Pacific 10 Conference in their quest for a touchdown — something the Ducks have failed to accomplish in their last two games.

Last week against ASU, Oregon could manage only 131



Photo by David Corey

Freshman quarterback Mike Owens will be calling signals for the Ducks when they take on Arizona Saturday at Autzen Stadium.

yards total yards on offense, but Owens was able to connect on six of 10 passes.

Now, at a time when Oregon needs a win to keep alive any hopes of bettering last year's record of 6-3-2, the Ducks face a team coming off what coach Larry Smith calls "the greatest victory in the history of the

University of Arizona." Last week, the Wildcats surprised the top-ranked Trojans of Southern California, 13-10.

"Washington, Arizona State, and now Arizona — We seem to be catching our opponents at the wrong time," said Oregon coach Rich Brooks this week. Brooks, who spent much of the

week working on his much-aligned offensive line, will look to his defense to stop a Wildcat offense that reeled off 405 total yards on offense against USC.

Arizona, on the other hand, will try to keep the game in perspective.

"Hopefully, we'll get off our cloud," Smith said. "We have no time for celebration. We simply have to play well and hard, and execute. Nothing comes easy in this conference."

At the helm of the Arizona

offense is sophomore quarterback Tom Tunnicliffe, who completed 21 of 37 passes for 293 yards and one touchdown against the Trojans. Getting a reputation for winning the big one, Tunnicliffe directed last year's 23-17 upset over UCLA, this year's victory over Stanford and the victory over USC.

What may trouble Brooks more than the efficiency of Tunnicliffe is the way Arizona's defense effectively shut down the powerful USC offense.

Of course, USC tailback Marcus Allen had his usual 200-plus game in rushing yardage with 211, but the usually balanced USC attack gained only 86 additional yards against Arizona for a total of 297 — far short of the more than 400 yards they had been averaging.

Smith, who agrees that being able to defeat the Trojans on both sides of the ball is quite a feather in one's cap, said he saw little difference between being number one in the nation and being number 56.

For the Ducks, in the midst of the hoopla of homecoming and the pressure to perform on offense, the only numbers concerning them are 1-4.

DUCK NOTES — The injury report for the Ducks shows that linebacker Chris Cosgrove will miss the game with a pulled hamstring... Fullback Terrance Jones will also miss the game because of a suspension for disciplinary reasons... Arizona will be without the services of defensive tackle Chris Schultz, who is out with cartilage damage to his right knee, and backup quarterback Mark Fulcher who is out of the lineup due to personal matters.

Oregon team prepares for Invitational

By STEVE TURCOTTE
Of the Emerald

Oregon women's cross country coach Tom Heinonen sat back in his chair and pondered the situation.

"This course that we are running on Sunday is like the course we will run at District down at Stanford," said the veteran Oregon cross country and track coach.

The meet Heinonen is referring to this Sunday is the Oregon Track Club Invitational at Emerald Valley Country Club in Creswell.

The OTC Invitational will be a co-ed affair with the women's 5,000-meter race beginning at 10:30 a.m. and the men at 11:00.

"There will be an excellent field in the race," Heinonen said. "Athletics West will probably field a team and if they bring everybody, no college team will touch them."

Also included in the team race will be the Oregon Track Club, featuring star runner Debbie Eide. College teams at the meet will include, Oregon, Oregon State, Utah State, Sacramento State, Idaho, California and Washington.

Individually, according to Heinonen, the race should be a battle among a handful of runners.

The early favorite would have to be Athletics West runner Mary Decker, if she runs. Maggie Kayer, also of AW will challenge for the crown. Other top finishers should include Regina Joyce of Washington, Patsy Sharples of Idaho and Oregon runners Eryn Forbes, Kathy Hayes and Leann Warren.

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"I'm eager to see what Leann will do in her first meet," said Heinonen. "She had a good week of practice last week and got the flu last weekend. I think she'll be ready."

Warren announced that she was going to skip cross country, but thought she could help the team by running this year. So two weeks after winning the Fifth Avenue Mile in New York City, she announced she would run with the team.

In the team competition, Oregon and Washington should duke it out for the meet crown, unless Athletics West fields a team, Heinonen says.

"We'd like to beat Washington, Cal and Idaho," Heinonen said. "Washington is one of the teams we'll have to

beat at District to make it to Nationals, so we'll have to go after them this weekend."

Oregon is going into the meet looking fairly healthy. Joan Hopfenspirger is doubtful with a recurrent calf injury, Lisa O'Dea-Martin is coming back from a bout with anemia and Forbes is coming off a heavy cold.

"The team is in reasonable health," said Heinonen. "We're not 100 percent, but that's what you'd expect at this time of the year."

"We're in mid-season right now and trying to solidify where we stand. It's time to start proving where we stand in relationship to the other teams in the District."



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