

Ducks take on Bruins

UCLA-Oregon matchup has a new meaning

By JEFF DICKERSON
Of the Emerald

Saturday's game with UCLA was going to be an important one for the Oregon football team — perhaps the one that would tip the scale one way or another in the Ducks' Rose Bowl hopes.

Earlier in the fall, before they had even played one down, the Ducks must have looked ahead to this weekend's game knowing that if they were fortunate enough to be challenging for the Pacific 10 Conference championship, it would be the UCLA game that would be perhaps their biggest task ahead of them.

The game is still an important one for both teams, but for different reasons now.

The Ducks remain winless in three Pac-10 games (1-6 overall), and a victory over the highly touted Bruins would be a nice feather in the cap of an otherwise dreary season.

The Oregon offense, unable to move the ball well yet this year, will again be under the command of freshman quarterback Mike Owens. Owens, hampered by a knee injury suffered against Arizona, completed 21 of 29 passes against Air Force last week. But his injury prevented Oregon from establishing the outside option game that worked well against the Wildcats.

The bright spot for Oregon's year has been the defense, led by a hard-hitting backfield. Joe Figurs, Ross Gibbs and Steve Brown among others have been the strong point as injuries have taken their toll.

The Bruins, however, remain very much alive in the race for the roses, and are not in the mood for an upset.

The Bruins are in fifth place in the Pac-10, behind Washington State, Arizona State, Washington and USC, but their 2-1-1 conference record leaves them only one game behind the first-place Cougars — the team

UCLA tied 17-17 two weeks ago.

Last week, the Bruins provided some impetus to their drive toward the title by thumping the California Bears 34-6. UCLA opened the game with 34 first halfpoints before going into hibernation in the second half.

Bruin coach Terry Donahue brings a team loaded with talent to Eugene.

Quarterback Tom Ramsey, the Pac-10's leading quarterback, is primarily known for his passing prowess, but the junior signal caller has carried the ball with some success as well for the Bruins.

Junior split end Cormac Carney leads the Bruin receivers in the pass reception department, followed by senior tight end Tim Wrightman and junior flanker Jojo Townsell.

A pair of sophomores highlight the UCLA running attack. Kevin Nelson and Frank Cephus make up the Bruins' one-two punch in the backfield.

Defensively, the Bruins boast

the play of All-American candidate Irv Eatman and defensive back Tom Sullivan, who has the honor of replacing triple All-American winner Ken Easley in the defensive backfield.

Like the Ducks, defense would seem to be the dominant force for the Bruins. UCLA has given up only 10 touchdowns on defense in seven games this year. The Duck defense — by far the brightest spot in this season's performances — has given up 12 touchdowns.

DUCK NOTES — The Ducks have a battered lineup for this one: Senior center Mike Delegato and senior linebacker Mike Berkich are out for the year with injuries, while senior linebacker Andy Vobora and freshman backup center Jeff Jaraczekski is both questionable. Senior tailback Reggie Brown needs 15 yards to break into Oregon's top ten career rushing list. Brown has 496 yards on the season.



Photo by Bob Baker

Quarterback Mike Owens, still hampered by knee problems, will be at the helm of the Duck offense.

Washington out as Portland opens season

PORTLAND (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers open their regular National Basketball Association season against the Phoenix Suns on Friday night without team captain Kermit Washington.

A team representative said Thursday that an ankle injury that kept the 6-foot-8 power forward out of the Blazers' last three pre-season games will eliminate him from the contest against the Suns.

Veteran 6-foot-6 guard Walter Davis of Phoenix broke his elbow in a pre-season game and is not expected to rejoin the Suns for six to eight weeks.

The Blazers also will be without broadcaster Bill Schonely, the play-by-play announcer for the team's radio network. Schonely, who has missed only two regular-season games in the team's 12 years, is having heart bypass surgery Friday.

Oregon Daily Emerald





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