

Ducks face 'real' test against Arizona

By Steve Turcotte
Of the Emerald

The Oregon football team will attempt to prove it's really in the Pac-10 race when it tangles with Arizona Saturday night in Tuscon.

Last weekend the Ducks, 2-3, opened conference play in high style with a convincing 24-17 victory over California.

With a victory over the Wildcats, Oregon would win its second straight game in league play and fourth straight dating back to last year.

But getting a fourth conference victory in a row will not be easy. Arizona, ranked ninth in the nation, is 5-0-1 on the season.

Saturday, the Wildcats face an unpredictable Oregon team. Against the Bears, the Ducks unveiled a multi-threat offense that featured long bombs, a pass from a tight end and a "swinging gate" play where quarterback Mike Jorgensen snapped the ball to wide receiver Lew Barnes.

"We are worried about the game because Oregon has a good defense and has combined it with an explosive offense," says Arizona coach Larry Smith.

Oregon's offense ran and passed the ball effectively last Saturday, running for 279 yards and throwing for 165. If the Ducks get a repeat performance, coach Rich Brooks feels the game could be an interesting battle.

"We have got to control our running game," says

Brooks. "We hope we can establish it early. We should be able to do some things passing if we can get the run going."

Getting the run going has been a job shared by several players. Ladarja Johnson has gained 193 yards on the season, Kevin Willhite 142 and Kevin McCall 119.

Still, if the Ducks want to find a win, the passing game may be the means to do so. Jorgensen has thrown for 756 yards this season and has a stable of people to throw to.

There is one imposing figure that Jorgensen, and the Ducks for that matter, must contend with — 6-2, 230-pound Arizona linebacker Ricky Hunley. The senior All-American leads the conference with five interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown.

Offensively, the Wildcats are dangerous on the ground and in the air. The offense is directed by quarterback Tom Tunnicliffe, who has excellent receivers in Brad Anderson and Jon Horton.

"Offensively, they have a great passing game and Tunnicliffe's the premier quarterback in the league," says Brooks.

In 1982, an Arizona team which is averaging 33 points a game this year was held to seven by Oregon. The stellar defensive show gave the Ducks a 13-7 upset win at Autzen Stadium.

"Oregon just plain kicked our butts last year," admits Smith.



Emerald Photo

Fullback Ladarja Johnson leads a balanced Oregon rushing attack with 193 yards.

KC teammates plead guilty to coke charge

From Associated Press reports

Willie Wilson, last year's American League batting champion, and teammate Willie Aikens of the Kansas City Royals each pleaded guilty Thursday to a federal misdemeanor charge of attempted cocaine possession.

Both players were released on \$5,000 personal recognizance bonds and sentencing was set for Nov. 17.

The charges carry maximum penalties of one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine. However, Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda Meers said she would not rule out the possibility that both would be placed on immediate probation.

John Schuerholtz, the Royals' general manager, said the club "was saddened by the entire situation."

Schuerholtz, reached in Philadelphia where he is attending the World Series, said: "We're looking forward to it being put behind us, so we can all look ahead as an organization to playing baseball and winning ballgames again."

Whether the players face further disciplinary action by the American League team or Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn was unclear.

Chuck Adams, a spokesman for Kuhn, said from World Series headquarters in Philadelphia that the commissioner had no comment. Pres. Lee MacPhail, also attending the World Series

could not be reached for comment.

Meanwhile, a six-month federal investigation of local drug trafficking could reach its climax on Monday when information is presented to a grand jury in Kansas City, Kan. The names of several other current or former Royals — including pitcher Vida Blue, outfielder Jerry Martin and infielder U. L. Washington — have been linked to the probe.

However, federal authorities declined comment when asked if the investigation still might involve members of the baseball team or Blue, who has since left the Royals.

Wilson, an All-Star outfielder, arrived at the courthouse with his wife and two attorneys a few minutes after the U.S. attorney's office charged him and Aikens with attempting to possess cocaine.

Aikens, a first baseman, walked into the courthouse with his lawyer a short time later.

Both declined comment. "You gotta be kidding, man," said Aikens, when asked if he had anything to say.

Meers told the court that arrangements for the pleas had been made, including the government's promise that no further charges of possession or distribution of narcotics would be filed against the players in connection with the current investigation.

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