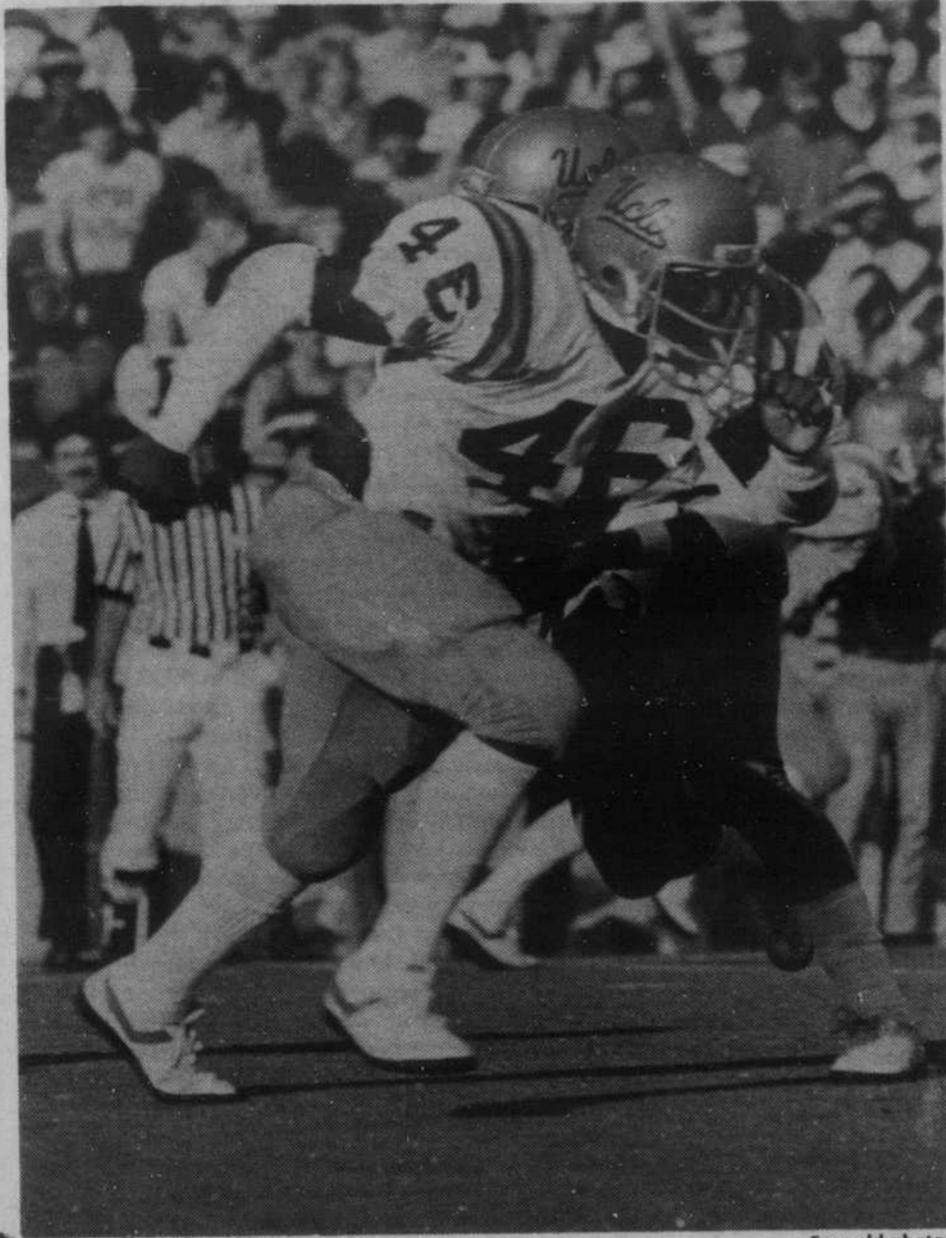


Bruins are running over the Pac-10 for roses

Oregon fields 'lame' Duck team



Emerald photos

The Bruin's might have had a slow start but they're in overdrive for the Ducks, who are plagued with injuries.

By Doug Levy
Of the Emerald

When Oregon's football team meets UCLA Nov. 5 at Autzen Stadium for the homecoming contest, don't be surprised to see some new faces in the Ducks' starting lineup.

Oregon, devastated by injuries, hosts a UCLA team that is 4-0-1 in the Pac-10. The Ducks, 3-4 and 2-1 in conference, traveled to Pullman, Washington, for a matchup with Washington State University, while the Bruins hosted league leading University of Washington with the Pac-10 lead at stake.

Oregon's game against the Bruins also plays a role in determining the conference's Rose Bowl representative, but the Ducks will have more starters at Sacred Heart Hospital than at Autzen.

In the offensive line, seven players have had some kind of injury. Drew Smetana and Greg Schwab are out for the year, and Ken Warner, who had arthroscopic knee surgery Tuesday, may be out for the season as well.

Defensively, a knee injury against Arizona put safety Doug Judge out for the year, and Jeff Williams, Oregon's free safety, suffered a broken arm against UW.

Meanwhile, quarterback Mike Jorgensen hurt his shoulder against the Huskies and probably will miss the UCLA game. Backup Mike Owens will start in place of Jorgensen.

"I've never seen anything like it," says Oregon offensive coordinator Bob Toledo of the rash of injuries. "We've got guys going down like flies."

"I can't explain it," adds defensive coordinator Joe Schaffeld. "They just keep on happening."

Toledo is convinced that Jorgensen, who was 6-20 with three interceptions against Washington, was hampered by a broken finger in his left hand before hurting his shoulder.

"There's no question about it — the broken finger made some of his passes sail high," says Toledo. "On his first interception, he had Kwante (Hampton) wide open and overthrow him."

Schaffeld is concerned about his defensive backs

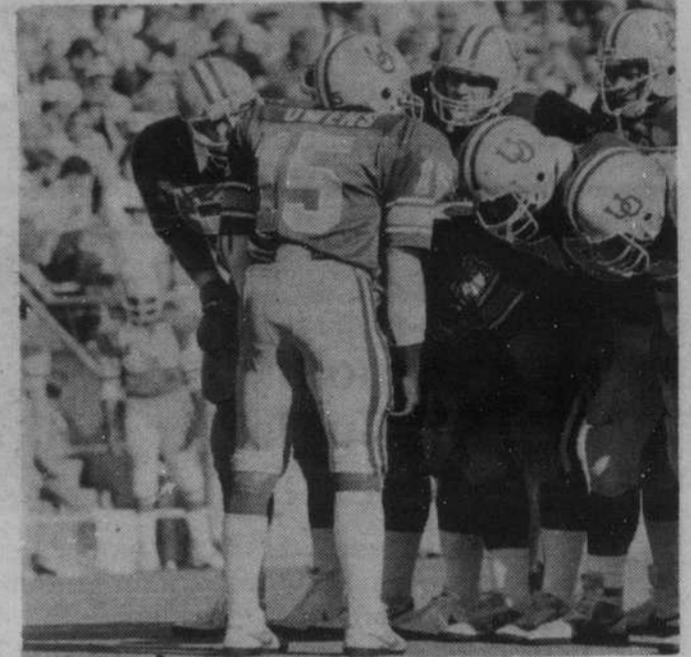
— only five have any experience, and further injuries would destroy Oregon's secondary.

The Ducks must be concerned about UCLA too. After an 0-3-1 start, the Bruins have won their last three games. Coach Terry Donahue has Kevin Nelson (younger brother of NFL star Darrin) on offense and savage hitter Don Rogers on defense.

"Nelson is a good runner with good quickness. We're definitely worried about him," says Schaffeld.

When Oregon has the ball, watch Rogers, who wears No. 7. UCLA's press guide calls the senior safety "the finest in the nation." That may or may not be true, but Rogers certainly can hit with the best of them. In last year's Rose Bowl, he hit Michigan quarterback Steve Smith hard enough to put him out of the game, and Smith still isn't back this season.

"Not only does he defense the ball well, but he is a ferocious hitter," says Toledo. "If I were a receiver, I'd think twice before going over the middle."



Mike Owens will lead the Ducks Saturday afternoon.



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