

# Bruins run over the Ducks — literally

By Todd Fletcher  
Of the Emerald

In its battle for the Pac-10 title and a second consecutive trip to the Rose Bowl, UCLA seems to have adopted a Revolutionary War phrase — one if by land, two if by sea. The Bruins have reworded it somewhat to read one if by land, two if by air.

In last week's win against University of Washington, UCLA put on an aerial show that saw walk-on quarterback Rick Neuheisel complete 25 of 27 passes (a 92.5 percentage and an

NCAA single-game completion percentage record) for 287 yards.

Saturday against Oregon, the Bruins left the passing game in sunny Southern California and opted for the running game — a running game featuring the workhorse effort of tailback Kevin Nelson. Nelson had scoring runs of four, 12 and 35 yards and racked up 131 yards on 17 carries.

UCLA's running machine had some help — from the Ducks, who repeatedly failed to make first-time tackles. But Nelson was more inclined to credit his own team.

"The offensive line did a good job to get me to the corner," said Nelson of his 35-yard touchdown jaunt in the third quarter. "The holes they created were giving us a chance at five or six yards a crack."

At times, opportunities for five or six yards turned into 12 or 14 yards. In their first scoring drive, the Bruins ran roughshod over the Duck defense. Nelson had a 14-yard run, Danny Andrews had a pickup of eight yards and Frank Cephus went off left tackle for 13 more. Nelson capped the eight-play, 65-yard scoring drive with an unmolested four-yard run.

"Nelson runs hard, and we made him look awfully good," said safety Dan Wilken after Oregon missed numerous tackles.

Nelson's ability to cut upfield and spin off Oregon tacklers led to one of his most productive days in a Bruin uniform.

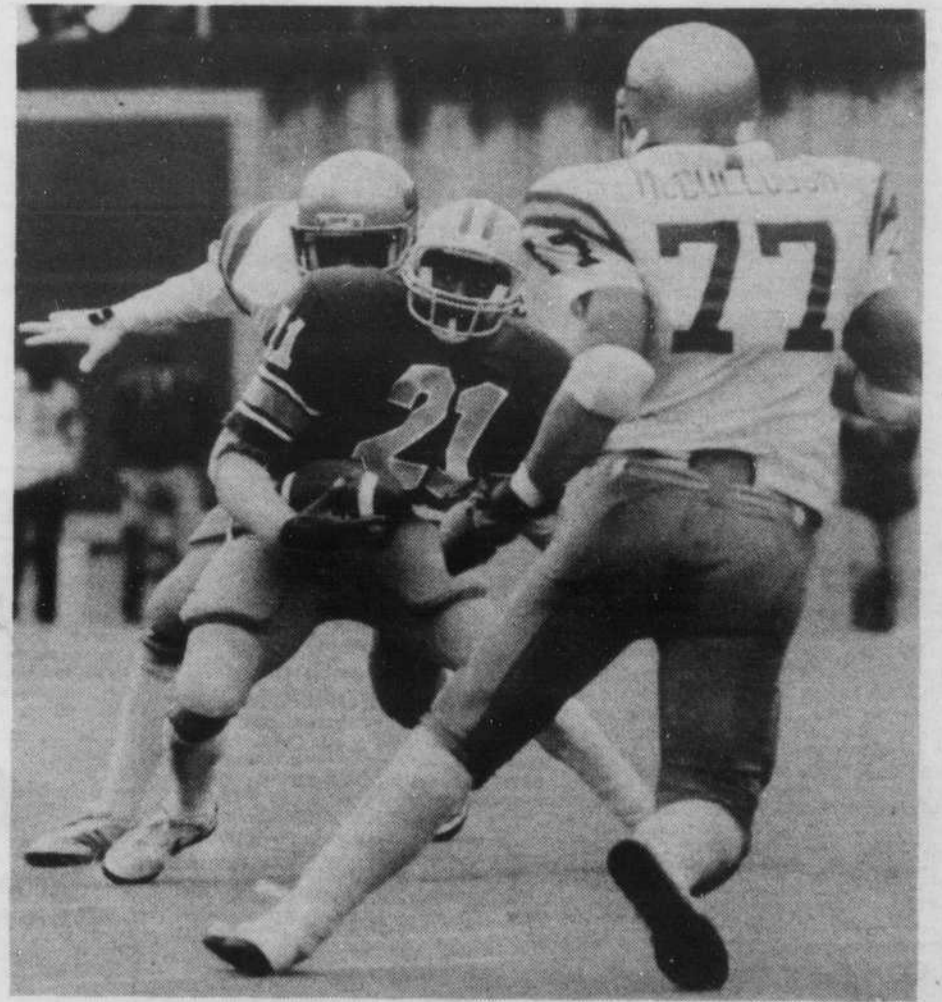
"The key was body control because of the slippery turf," said Nelson. "Oregon was coming up (to tackle) so fast, I would make a move and they would slip."

The Bruins finished with 240 yards on the ground, 155 of that in the first half.

"Give UCLA credit for some of our missed tackles, but we missed too many to give them all the credit," said Oregon coach Rich Brooks.

The only thing that prevented UCLA from going in at halftime with a 21 or 24-0 lead was penalties. The Bruins were whistled for six infractions for 72 yards in the first half. Three of the flags were for second-quarter holding calls.

The second half, however, was a difference between night and day.



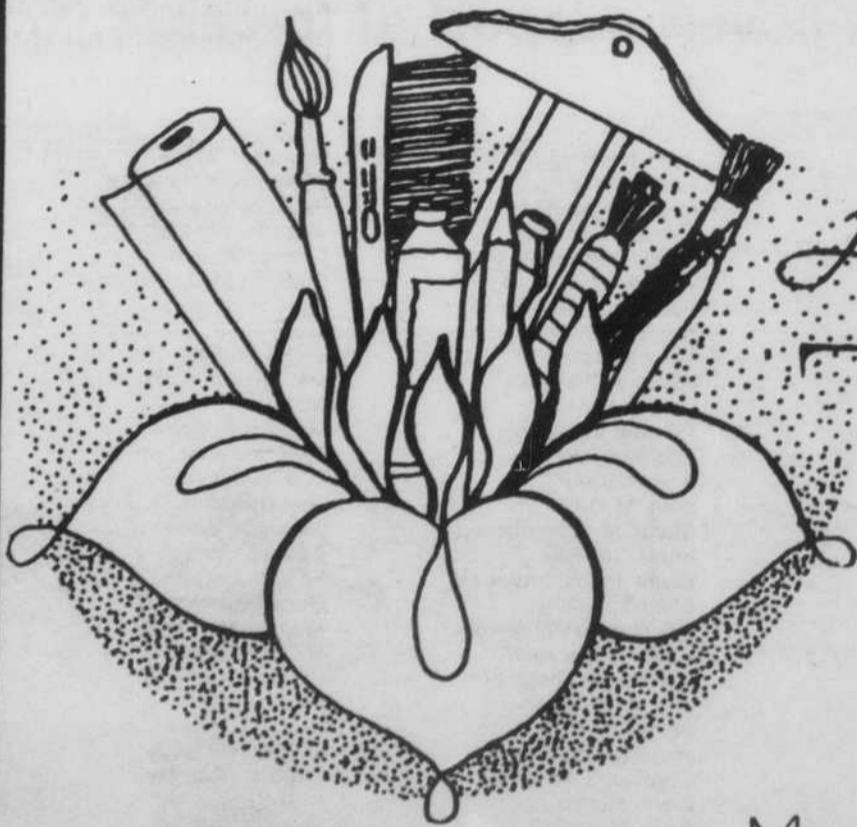
Defensive back Don Brown looks for some running room after intercepting a Rick Neuheisel pass. He found none, fumbled and UCLA recovered to clinch a 24-13 victory.



Photos by Dave Kao

Oregon's Lew Barnes leaves UCLA tacklers in his wake on the way to a 69-yard punt return. Barnes' score narrowed Bruin lead to 21-13.

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