

Believe it — Ducks go for fifth win

By Brent De La Paz

Of the Emerald

Can you believe it?

The Oregon football team is 4-0. Yes, this area is still known as Eugene, not Norman, Okla., or Seattle or even Austin, Texas. The unbeaten Ducks even have a better record than the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

No, this isn't a misprint. The Ducks are really undefeated which is the main reason a lot of optimism has been flowing through Duckland lately.

I can't help but pinch myself to see if the past four games have been a dream. I must have imagined several "waves" roll around the stands at Autzen Stadium on Saturday when the Ducks collected win number four against the University of the Pacific.

I thought they only did that



Photo by Bill Harpole

Oregon flanker Lew Barnes is one of the reasons why the Ducks have jumped out to an early 4-0 start.

with winning teams. Well, Eugene welcomed its winner in grand fashion Saturday with about a half dozen waves around Autzen. College football can't get much better than that.

Could the Ducks be a possible threat to the Pac-10 crown? Possibly, but the jury is still out on how Oregon will stack up against the rest of its conference foes. Wins over Long Beach State, Colorado, California and Pacific won't exactly put the Ducks in the Top Twenty. However, a win, is a win, is a win when it comes to any Oregon football team. Just ask the folks in Corvallis.

At least the talk of going to the Rose Bowl isn't as loud as it was last season despite the 4-0 mark. But wait, things could get quite boisterous in Eugene Saturday night if the Ducks beat

the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Many remember a year ago when the Ducks shocked the Wildcats with a 19-10 win in Tucson. The victory launched Oregon into a first-place tie with the University of Washington.

All of last year's hoopla turned into ugly reality as the Huskies popped Oregon's Rose Bowl balloon with a 32-3 stomping at Autzen.

Of course, that was last year when Oregon had a miserable offensive unit. The situation has changed considerably with Chris Miller at the quarterback helm.

Miller's resurrection of the offense has given Oregon coach Rich Brooks a reason to smile. Miller isn't Superman, but his scrambling athletic ability has turned him into a leader the Ducks have been looking for since the days of Reggie Ogburn.

The play of Oregon's Mr. Excitement, flanker Lew Barnes, has also been a key part of the team's success. Brooks has certainly succeeded in getting the ball to "Sweet Lew" this season.

Saturday the job of winning will get much tougher for Ducks. But, a win in Tucson shouldn't be a surprise for anyone living in Eugene.

Steelers win

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers intercepted five passes, two for touchdowns by Dwayne Woodruff and Donnie Shell, to rout Cincinnati 38-17 Monday night and hand the winless Bengals their fifth National Football League loss.

The Steelers twice scored a pair of touchdowns in a minute's span as Woodruff and Shell each intercepted two of Turk Schonert passes after Bengals' starting quarterback Ken Anderson left the game with first-period muscle spasms.

Woodruff's 42-yard return of a Schonert pass with 12:02 left in the first half gave the Steelers, 3-2, a 14-0 lead and came just over a minute after rookie running back Rich Erenberg raced 31 yards for the game's first touchdown.

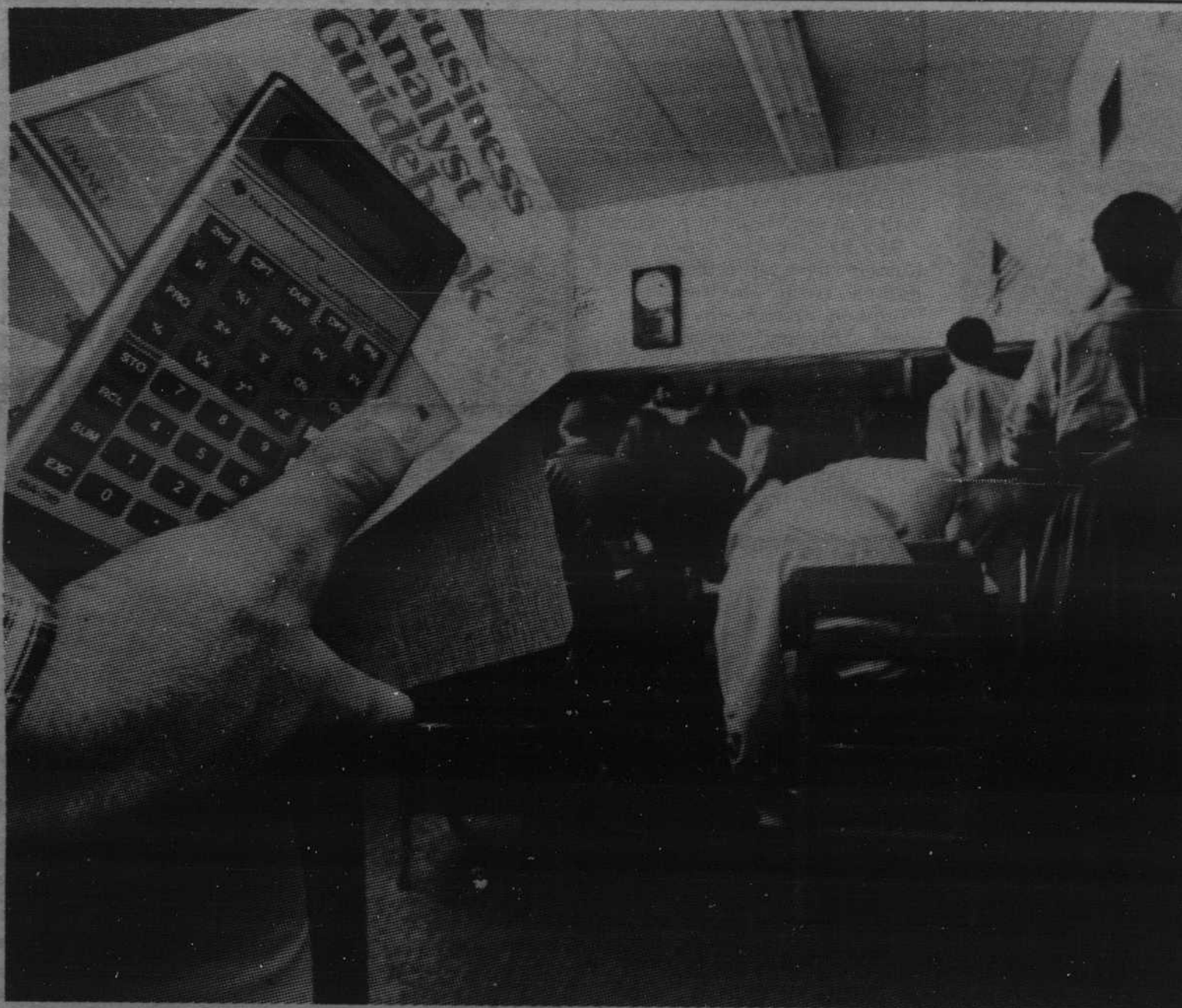
Another Steelers' rookie, Weegie Thompson, hooked up with quarterback David Woodley on a 23-yard scoring pass play late in the third quarter as the AFC Central Division-leading Steelers built their lead to 24-10.

The Steelers' defense then set up two more touchdowns within 25 seconds of each other in the fourth period.

Torre fired

ATLANTA (AP) — Joe Torre was fired Monday as manager of the Atlanta Braves after guiding the team to its most successful three-year run since it moved from Milwaukee in 1966.

Torre, 44, confirmed in a live interview on Cable News Network that he was fired during a Monday morning meeting with team owner Ted Turner, who also owns CNN.



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