

Ducks tackle Arizona for Pac-10 lead

By Brent De La Paz
Of the Emerald

Facing its toughest challenge to date, the Oregon football team travels to Tucson for a Saturday night encounter against the University of Arizona with first place in the Pac-10 on the line for both teams.

The Wildcats are on top of the Pac-10 standings with a 2-0 mark, but Oregon, 1-0 in league, could launch into first place with a win Saturday night.

"It's a mighty important game for both teams," says Arizona coach Larry Smith whose team rallied to beat Long Beach State, 31-24 in the closing seconds last week. "It promises to be a very even match."

Oregon will be looking to up its record to 5-0 with a victory, but the task of beating the 3-2 Wildcats at home will not be easy.

"We are going to have to control the line of scrimmage," says Oregon coach Rich Brooks. Brooks will be looking for his second-straight win in Tucson

after the Ducks upset the Wildcats last year, 19-10.

Smith is unsure of the Wildcats' potential despite victories over California, Long Beach State and Oregon State.

"We're out (playing) still trying to find ourselves," says Smith of Arizona's outlook on the game. "I think a lot of things are undecided. We have three victories, but those three teams (we beat) have won two games."

The key to Saturday's game will be the effectiveness of Oregon's running attack against Arizona's rushing defense. The Wildcats are ranked third in the nation in preventing the run, giving up an average of 70.2 yards a game.

"We are going to have to be able to run the ball effectively against Arizona's defense," says Brooks. "It is going to be a real chore."

Oregon tailback Kevin McCall, who gained 104 yards last week, will need another top performance to crack the 100-yard barrier this week. The Wildcats are rated 12th na-

tionally in overall defense.

If Oregon's ground game fails, quarterback Chris Miller will probably go to the air. Miller has connected with flanker Lew Barnes for four touchdowns passes to pace Oregon's big-play combination. Barnes is also second in the Pac-10 in punt returns with 11.6 average.

Miller's stats explain why Oregon is averaging 26.5 points per game. The sophomore signal caller is leading the league in passing efficiency. He also has completed over 60 percent of his tosses without throwing an interception in 92 attempts.

Arizona nose guard Joe Drake anchors the Wildcats' defensive front. Miller may have to scramble because Arizona's defense is nicknamed the "Cactus Sack Pack." The Wildcats have 34 sacks for the year, including eight last week.

"I would like to remain balanced on offense," says Brooks who fears the Ducks may have to go to the air sooner than expected. "That will depend on

whether we can run the football on Arizona."

Brooks feels the Ducks will need to play better defensively in order to keep Oregon's six-game unbeaten streak alive. The Ducks' streak is the longest by any team in the Pac-10.

Arizona's offense is centered around tailback Vance Johnson. Johnson ran for 110 yards against Long Beach, his first 100-plus day since 1982. However, Johnson suffered neck and back injuries in the fourth quarter and had to be carried off the field on a stretcher. Reports say he will play this Saturday.

"I think we're going to have to control their running game," says Brooks of Johnson and fellow tailback David Adams who could play despite bruised ribs. "Our success over the past two years is that they have not been able to run the ball on us."

Quarterback is also a strong point for the Arizona offense. Sophomore quarterback Alfred Jenkins is coming off one of his best games of the year. Jenkins had 15 completions out of 25 at-

tempts for 205 yards and three touchdowns in leading the Cats to the win over Long Beach.

"They are a different team this year in that they have a better running game and a quarterback that can run also," says Brooks. "It gives us a different problem on defense than the last two years."

Arizona has several key players who are "questionable" for Saturday's game. Besides Johnson and Adams, flanker Jay Dobyns and outside linebacker Steve Boadway are still nursing injuries. The Ducks should be at full strength for Saturday's tilt with no serious injuries to report.

The Ducks received some national publicity this week when Sports Illustrated ranked Oregon No. 19 in its latest college football poll.

"We still have to go to Arizona and play a football game," says Brooks, "but it's nice to be recognized by someone."

The Ducks will get more than share of recognition if they win in Tucson Saturday night.

Spikers fire up for Civil War matchup against Oregon State

By Robert Collias
Of the Emerald

1980 was a long time ago for Chris Voelz. That was the last time her Oregon volleyball team beat Oregon State University in a match.

The Ducks could end the four-year drought when they meet OSU this Saturday in McArthur Court at 7:30 p.m.

The Beavers have beaten the Ducks nine times in a row dating back to 1980 season. Oregon would like to see the streak stop this Saturday.

"We came close a couple of times last year, but just couldn't seem to get a win against them," says Oregon coach Chris Voelz who is in her seventh year at the coaching helm.

The Ducks, 14-6, lost five times to the Beavers last year. Voelz doesn't want that trend to continue in 1984.

"We had some very competitive matches with them last year, but they really had the better team," says Voelz. "This year I think it is going to be a different story."

The Ducks will be taking nothing for granted this

weekend despite being ranked 13th in the latest NCCA poll.

"We can not afford to take anything for granted," says Voelz on the Beavers who own a respectable 11-6 record. "They are still a very formidable team."

The Beavers have matched the Ducks' 2-0 conference mark this year after sweeping NorPac matches in Washington last weekend.

OSU is led by hitters Shari Jamison and Susie Swanson. Both women have had to take up the slack of missing middle-hitter Julie Steding. Steding, a NorPac all-conference selection last year, was lost early in the season because of academic problems.

"They will be weaker in the middle without Steding," says Voelz who will probably let Oregon's All-America candidate, Sue Harbour exploit the weakness to its fullest.

The Ducks have a nine-game winning streak coming into the OSU encounter. The winning streak ties a team record. In the steak, the Ducks have lost only one game in 24 played.

"We have been playing very well lately," says Voelz who would like to break the record against the Beavers.

The Ducks won't be playing the Beavers at full strength because of injuries. Oregon will be missing the services of middle-blocker Laurie Krejcha who sprained her ankle against Washington State University. Hitter Cynthia Shepherd will not play either because of a broken finger suffered in practice last week.

"It's time to get the monkey off our back as far as OSU is concerned," says Voelz. "Because this match is against the Beavers, it will make it a good one."

The Oregon coach thinks a victory over OSU will give the team a lot of momentum heading into conference play.

"We have the most important part of our conference schedule coming up," says Voelz. "We have to be ready."

The Ducks lead the all-time series between the two schools with a 31-12-1 record. Win number 32 should be in the calling for Oregon Saturday night.

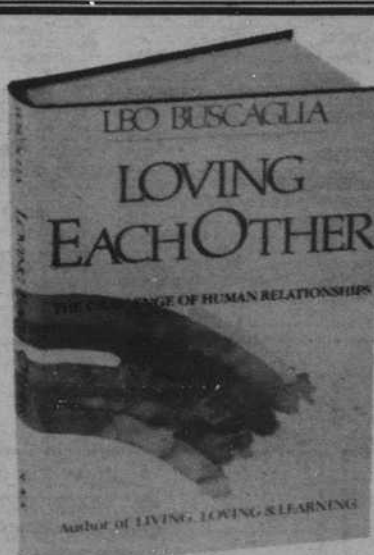
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