

# No. 1 ranked Huskies await Oregon

By Brent De La Paz

Of the Emerald

Nobody is giving the Oregon football team a break these days.

Not the schedule makers who have the Ducks, 4-2, traveling to Seattle for a Saturday meeting with No. 1 ranked football team in the nation, the University of Washington.

Not the oddsmakers who have Oregon listed as 18 point underdogs to a 6-0 Washington team in the 1:30 p.m. contest in Huskie Stadium.

And not the trainers who have been taking care of Oregon's injured over the past two weeks.

The Ducks, 1-2 in the Pac-10, are coming into the game with back to back losses to Arizona and Southern California. If the losses weren't bad enough, the injuries were. Oregon looks like a qualified recipient for Red Cross disaster relief after losing nine players to the sidelines the past two weeks.

"It's not good," says Brooks who has holes to fill at the offensive tackle position after seeing starter Steve Jensen and backup Brent Orick go out of USC with shoulder injuries. "I think it will probably definitely affect us during the game."

The Ducks also lost defensive tackle Dave Maley for the season. To add more bad news, the Ducks have four players, defensive tackle Will Stipanovich, offensive guard Ray Wheatley and linebackers E.J. Duffy and Dan Devaney listed as questionable for Saturday's game.

Things don't get any easier with the Huskies, 2-0 in the Pac-10, who have a defense that goes along with their number one ranking. Washington's defensive crew has allowed a mere 7.8 points a game, tops in the nation.

"If we don't beat ourselves, we have a chance to be in the football game," says Oregon offensive coordinator Bob Toeldo. "There is no doubt they are the best defensive group we have faced this year."

The Huskies also lead the nation in making the opposition to turnover over the ball. Washington has recovered 14 fumbles and intercepted 17 passes for an average of 3.67 turnovers a game.

The turnover statistic has Oregon coach Rich Brooks worried.

The rivalry between the two Northwest schools should be evident Saturday even though the Ducks' last win against the Huskies was in 1980, a 34-10 demolishing in Seattle.

"The Huskie game is always a good intense game," says Oregon middle linebacker Bob Hudetz who had 20 tackles against USC. "The ratings make me hungrier to get after them."

Defense has been the foundation for the Huskies' success. Washington's main strength is in their linebacking unit. Linebacker Fred Small has a team-leading five sacks while teammate Tim Meamber has three interceptions.

"They are a super team," says Oregon quarterback Chris Miller. "We are going to have to establish the line of scrimmage. I hope we can mix up the run and pass."

Miller will have to beware of a sneaky Husky secondary that picked off five passes from Stanford in a 37-15 win last week.

Oregon's defense will need to stop a Washington offensive machine that is averaging close to 32 points a game.

Quarterback Hugh Millen has improved consistently in his first year at the helm by throw-

ing to the talented duo of flanker Danny Greene and split end Mark Pattison. Greene leads the Huskies with 15 receptions while Pattison has three touchdowns catches to his credit.

"The receivers are the two best we have seen," says Brooks.

Tailbacks Cookie Jackson and Jacque Robinson complement the Huskies' aerial attack. Robinson, rebounding from a disappointing 1983 campaign, has rushed for 377 yards and scored four touchdowns.

"They make big plays out of

ordinary plays," says Oregon defensive end Dale Dorning.

Adding to the Ducks' worries will be place-kicker Jeff Jaeger. Jaeger is leading the nation in field goals kicked with 2.8 a game.

Washington coach Don James isn't taking the Ducks lightly.

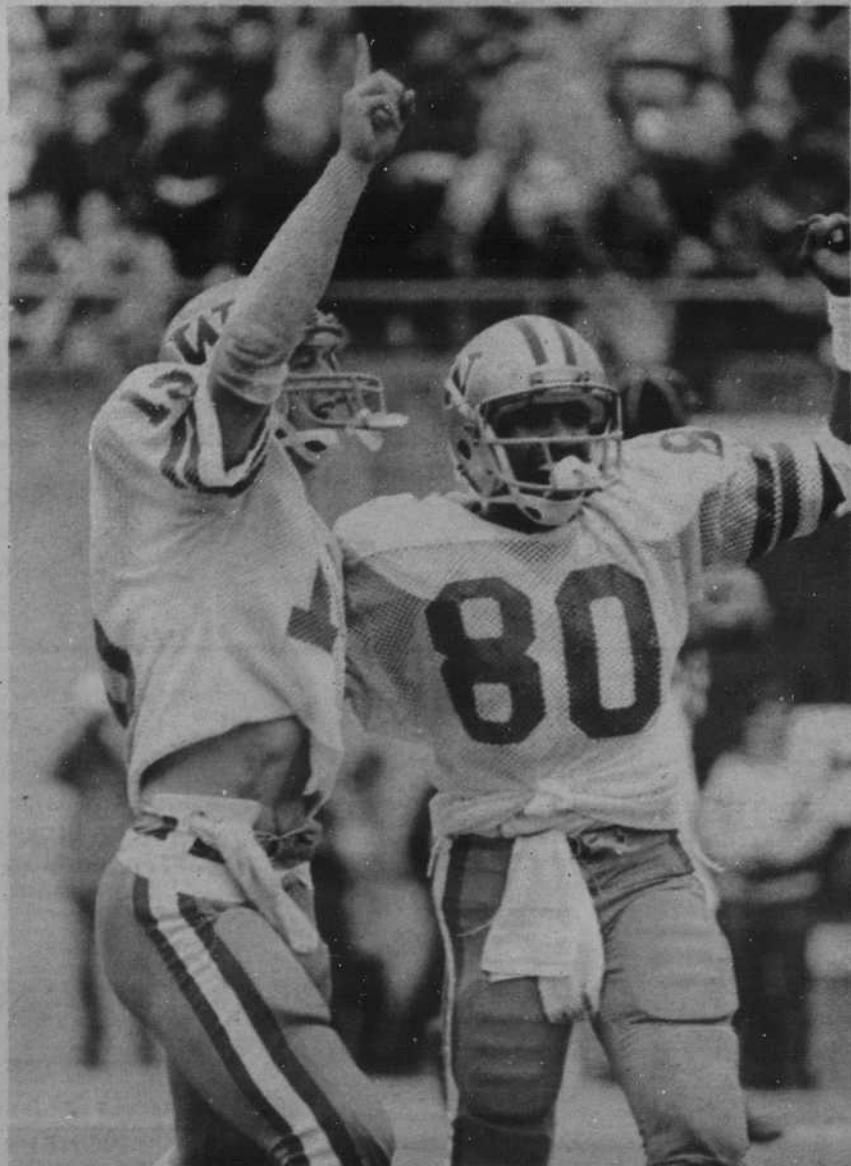
"I think Oregon has probably had as many skilled athletes as they have ever had," says James.

James is particularly concerned with the Ducks' explosive offense which has been averaging 21.5 points a game.

"We have a lot of respect for their ability to make the big plays," says James. "The things that they are doing is like Stanford. They do a lot of formations and use the field better. They make you play from sideline to sideline."

Being number one in the football polls hasn't made a lot of impact with James yet.

"We really aren't too concerned with that ranking business," says James who has said earlier that he would be like to be ranked No. 1 on Jan. 2 after the final polls come out.



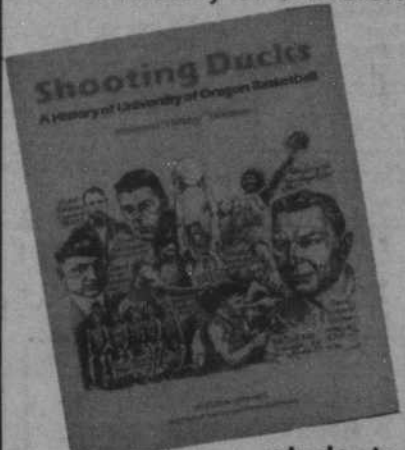
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University of Washington split end Mark Pattison and flanker Danny Greene (80) signal the Huskies are No. 1 as the Ducks travel to Seattle for Saturday's Pacific 10 contest.

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