

# Oldham Continued from Page 9

and long jumped during track season, he thought he was too small (5-foot-nine) to play football and only tried out for the team because a friend talked him into it.

"Once I started to play, I found out that I like football," Oldham said. In his first year of competition, he intercepted 12 passes as a defensive back and caught 20 as a wide receiver, was named defensive MVP of

the Delta League, earned All City and All Superior California honors, and received votes in the "Best in the West" balloting.

Although Oldham chose to play college football at Oregon partly because he thought he would get a chance to contribute as a freshman, he was forced to sit out a year for academic reasons under the guidelines of NCAA Proposition 48.

He was stripped of a year of eligibility and was banned from attending team practices or meetings in 1986, but worked out with four other Duck recruits who were in the same situation.

When Oldham got his chance last year, he took advantage of it. No other reserve defensive back played more downs than Oldham, who filled in for in-

jured senior Ron Gould to start against UCLA, Stanford, California and Arizona State. He returned two kickoffs and recorded two interceptions, two pass deflections and 23 tackles in 1987.

"I just want to play my position to the best of my ability," Oldham said. "I want to play consistent football and I don't want to get beat for a touch-

down."

As the Ducks prepare for Saturday's crucial showdown with the 17th-ranked Washington Huskies, the Oregon secondary has adopted a zero tolerance policy. "We don't want to have any passes caught against us," Oldham said. "We just have to settle down and do our job. Our intensity level for this game is really high. All we have on our minds now is Washington."



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