



Photo by Bill Haines

Oregon's senior tailback Derek Loville, seen here eluding a Washington defender, has been stifled by tough defenses so far this season, but is confident he and his team will enjoy an excellent Pacific 10 season. The Ducks play host to a tough Arizona squad Saturday.

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downs in three games, has thrown for 235.7 yards per game, and is off to his best start as a Duck.

Senior split end Terry Obee has eight catches for a 21.5 average and two scores while junior flanker Tony Hargain is off to a fast start with nine catches for an 18.0 average and two touchdowns.

"We've been passing the ball well, so we really haven't had to rely or depend on our running game," Loville said.

A glance at last year's statistics compared with this season's is all it takes to understand just how much of an impact all of the above factors are having on Loville's game. Last

year, Loville had 100-yard games against six teams, including Long Beach State (154), Washington State (131), San Diego State (129), Oregon State (117), and Hawaii (134).

Idaho State was the unlucky recipient of Loville's 215-yard game, the third best rushing effort in Oregon history. The senior tailback has managed just 74 yards against California, 48 yards at Iowa, and 31 against Stanford this year. The big game and long gain have eluded Loville to this point, but he said he still has his hopes up.

"I haven't let it get me down," Loville said. "I haven't let it upset my overall game. Eventually (the big gain) is go-

ing to come."

The loss of Berry might also have a big impact on Loville's running game. The two backs are good friends and had turned into a lethal duo coming out of the UO backfield.

"I feel like I'm missing a part of myself when Latin is not out there," Loville said. "It has affected me a little bit because it added some pressure. It's really hard to lose a running mate, but we've got a good runner in Dondre Bausley."

Loville still has his goals for the season, and he said he is confident he can accomplish them.

"I wanted to better myself

from last year," he said. "That 1,200 yards last year I wanted to boost up to 1,500. I just want to better myself. I can't be satisfied with myself."

Team goals are also important in Loville's mind.

"As a team, it has always been a goal for us to make it to a bowl game," he said. "We haven't been to a bowl game in a long time. And the time is now."

The Duck tailback said he does not believe a change of running styles can solve his rushing woes.

"I might have to put my shoulder down a little bit more," he said. "I think I'll be

able to do that because I've added some strength and some size. I'm not going to change anything."

Loville again stressed that he has no beef with his offensive line and with the job they are doing.

"They're trying hard, and that's all I can ask," he said. "I won't give up on them if they won't give up on me."

As for this Saturday's contest against the Arizona Wildcats, Loville gives them plenty of respect.

"Arizona has always been a tough defense and they're tough to exploit," he said.

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