

Duck victory will be anything but gentlemanly

Oregon State's win streak should end

By Tracy Sumner
Emerald Sports Editor

It is understandable that Oregon football Coach Rich Brooks is wary of overconfidence in his team going into Saturday's game with Long Beach State.

"I don't think we're a good enough football team to be overconfident about anybody," he said.

Presumably, that includes the 49ers, a team the Ducks drilled 49-0 in last season's season opener.

Long Beach State has dropped four of its last five games after a 2-1 start. That includes a 63-10 manhandling by Hawaii and a 52-0 washout against Fresno State. Last week, it was 21-10 to San Jose State.

Still, Brooks warns, the 49ers are not that bad of a football team.

"They have a lot of speed at the skill positions and an outstanding quarterback who throws the ball very well," Brooks said. "They also run some things on defense that could give us a lot of trouble."

"They're a much better football team than they were a year ago," he said. "We have to keep that emotional high, because it could be a very long day if we're not ready to play."

If this year's Long Beach State record as compared with last year's means anything, Brooks may be right. Last year after eight games, the 49ers were 1-7, with very few close losses. So far this year, they are 3-5.

But some of those losses have been ugly — very ugly. It would be a good guess to say that the 49ers' improved record is more due to an easier schedule than better play.

The bottom line is that Long Beach State may be a marginally better football team this year than last, but not improved enough to compete with the

Ducks.

Oregon is coming off an impressive 27-7 win over Arizona State and may just have found a running game.

After spending much of the first half of the season with their running game stuck in park, the Ducks came alive against the Sun Devils, racking up 267 yards rushing.

Derek Loville broke out of a season-long slump to post a career high (in conference play)

point out that your opponent is overmatched.

If the Ducks can maintain their intensity from last week, it will be a long afternoon for the 49ers.

Oregon by 21. Mr. Brooks, you're a true gentleman.

The Oregon State football fans who bothered to show up for last weekend's 18-17 (it's eerie how many times that score has shown up in "upsets" this season) upset win over UCLA got to participate in one of the wildest post-game celebrations in recent memory.

To watch those people carry on, one would think they'd just nailed down a Rose Bowl berth.

UCLA is certainly not the team it has been in recent years, but it was nonetheless a big win for the Oregon State program. The Beavers deserve congratulations.

Are the Beavers for real, or are they playing over their heads?

This week isn't the week to answer that question. The Beavers travel to Berkeley to meet the absolutely awful California Golden Bears.

The Bears can't move the ball and they can't stop anyone. It doesn't take Don Heinrich to figure out that a team with those kinds of problems isn't going to win many games.

The saddest part of this story

is that the magnificently talented quarterback Troy Taylor is stuck there. Even Taylor is not enough to make this bunch respectable.

The Beavers are really in a no-win situation this week. If they win, it is over a bad team and doesn't prove anything. If they lose, it would just be an extension of Oregon State tradition.

Look for tradition to win out. California by 1.

The Pac-10 rout of the week (conference games) will be in Los Angeles this week where Stanford meets an angry Southern California team.

Southern California is fresh from its 28-24 loss to top-ranked Notre Dame.

If the loss to Notre Dame proved anything, it proved that USC quarterback Todd Marinovich is a prime-time performer

who will only get better as his career progresses.

The redshirt freshman signal caller completed 33 of his 55 passes for 333 yards and three touchdowns. Fourteen of those completions went to senior wide receiver John Jackson for 200 yards.

While the Trojans were standing toe to toe with the defending national champions, Stanford was busy blowing a 24-13 lead against Scott Mitchell and Utah. It's hard to believe it, but Stanford has not won a game since beating Oregon. They're 1-6 now and looking at an emphatic 1-7.

Southern California by at least 14.

How can UCLA have fallen so far in just one year?

The Bruins have gone from a

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Team	Conf	Overall
	W-L-T	W-L-T
USC	3-0-0	5-2-0
Arizona	4-1-0	5-2-0
Oregon St	2-1-1	3-3-1
Washington St	3-2-0	6-2-0
Oregon	3-3-0	4-3-0
Washington	2-2-0	4-3-0
UCLA	2-2-0	3-4-0
Stanford	1-3-0	1-6-0
Arizona St	0-2-1	3-3-1
California	0-4-0	2-5-0

203 yards on the day to go with three touchdowns.

With a running game, quarterback Bill Musgrave is free to complement the team's offense, not carry it. When that happens, the Ducks are hard to stop.

Why does Brooks sound so worried about the game?

Because worrying (or sounding worried) is part of his job. It's also not gentlemanly to

	LBS at UO	OSU at Cal	Stanford at USC	WSU at ASU	Pacific at UA	UW at UCLA
T. Sumner (11-13)	UO + 21	Cal + 1	USC + 14	WSU + 7	UA + 17	UCLA + 3
A. Conklin (11-13)	UO + 17	OSU + 1	USC + 10	WSU + 9	UA + 14	UW + 1
C. Sivesind (11-13)	UO + 14	OSU + 3	USC + 9	WSU + 10	UA + 20	UW + 3
D. Peters (12-12)	UO + 21	OSU + 3	USC + 10	WSU + 7	UA + 14	UCLA + 1

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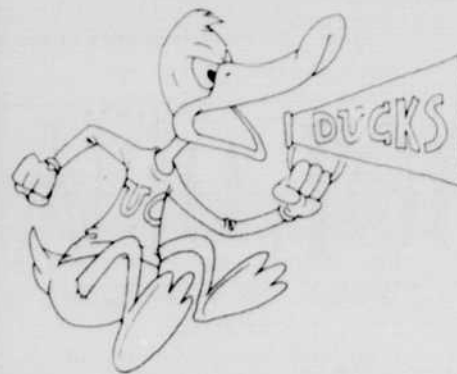
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