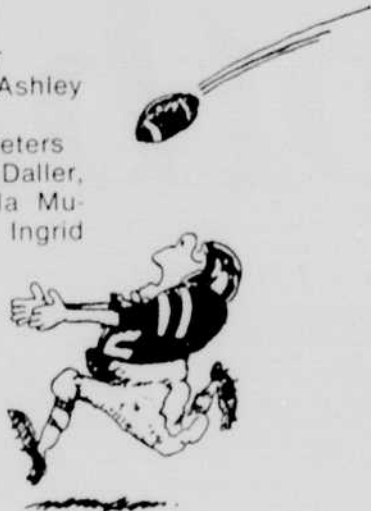


**EDITOR:** Tracy Sumner  
**CONTRIBUTORS:** Ashley Conklin, Cam Sivesind  
**COPY EDITOR:** Don Peters  
**PRODUCTION:** Sandi Daller, Elisa Lichtman, Angela Muniz, Michele Ross, Ingrid White

Cover photo by Martin Thiel



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◀ FOOTBALL PROFILE ▶



Photo by Andre Ranieri

Chris Oldham, who has excelled as both a defensive back and a kick returner for the Ducks, will play his last game in an Oregon uniform against Tulsa Dec. 16 in the Independence Bowl.

**Ducks big play man ends career**

By Ashley Conklin  
 Emerald Sports Reporter

If Oregon football fans bought tickets solely to see one or two exciting plays per game, it's a good bet they got their money's worth in senior Chris Oldham.

Whether it's running back a kickoff for a touchdown, intercepting a pass to stop a drive, or blocking a field goal, Oldham has always made the big plays for the Ducks.

And while the Oregon football team might not retire numbers, it would be hard to find anybody who could play any better than Oldham has wearing No. 2.

Putting together an Oldham highlight film might look something like this:

- Two plays stand out in this year's Washington State-Oregon game as vintage Oldham.

On the third play of the game Oldham picks off a pass at the Cougar 34-yard line and returns

it 28 yards to the six, giving Oregon a 3-0 lead after a field goal.

Fast forward to the fourth quarter and Washington State scores to go ahead 34-24. On the ensuing kickoff, Oldham breaks the containment up the middle and goes 89 yards to set the Ducks up on the Cougar six. Two plays later Oregon scores to pull within 34-31.

- Against UCLA in the Rose Bowl, the Ducks trail 20-14 and the Bruins are threatening to score on the opening drive of the second half. An Oregon loss would kill any hopes of a bowl appearance, or a seven-win season.

On fourth down, Oldham blocks a field goal and the tide turns in the Ducks favor. They go on to win 38-20.

That Oldham is where he is today might be surprising in a way. He liked baseball much more than football, and didn't even go out for football until his senior year in high school. Then Oldham was sidelined his

first season as a Duck due to Proposition 48 guidelines.

"I had always played baseball from when I was real small in T-ball," Oldham said. "I was about 5-foot-7 and 150 pounds, and didn't think I was big enough to play football. My senior year my best friend said, 'Let's go out for football' and I said O.K."

Oldham chose Oregon, where his father Hugh played in 1965, over Utah, because "I wanted to play in the Pac-10 and I knew I could come in and play as a rookie since they had lost some defensive backs."

While sitting out his first year due to Prop 48, Oldham knew it would be an uphill climb to make it in the Pacific-10 Conference, and gave a lot of credit to strength coach Jim Radcliffe for his success.

"I only had one year of high school football so I was really inexperienced," Oldham said. "We had three other guys who

Turn to Oldham, Page 8



**GEAR UP FOR THE BIG GAME**

UO vs. TULSA

DEC. 16

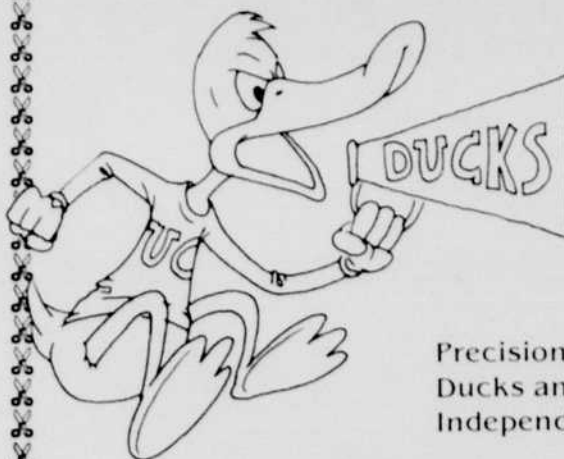
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Precision Cuts would like to congratulate the Ducks and wish them good luck in the Independence Bowl!

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