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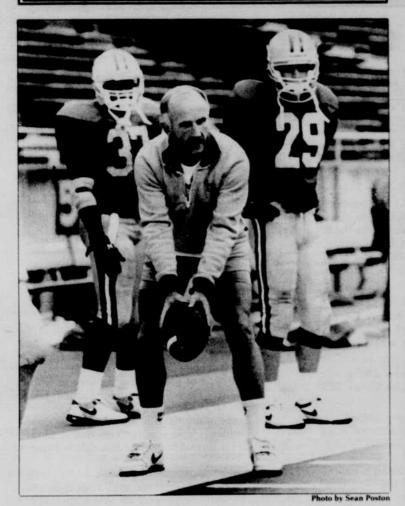
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Oregon's defense has steadily improved under the prowess of coordinator Denny Schuler.

## Schuler not surprised with defensive effort

By Robert Weber Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon's complete suffocation of Ty Detmer and the Brigham Young Cougars last Saturday afternoon confused, worried and downright amazed the rest of the country, but not Denny Schuler.

Schuler, in his fifth year as the Ducks' defensive coordinator, wouldn't guarantee that his young defensive squad would squash the nation's most powerful offense, but he was positive that they were capable of such a job.

"Nobody in the world thought we could slow them down," Schuler said, "but I knew we were capable of doing what we did."

The Ducks ended up sacking Detmer five times and forcing the Heisman Trophy candidate into throwing a career-high five interceptions.

Oregon Coach Rich Brooks wasn't shocked by Oregon's defensive dominance last weekend but said. "I'd be lying if I said I thought we would hold BYU to 16 points."

Schuler stressed the importance of having played the Cougars last season. The Cougars' 45-41 come-from-behind victory over the Ducks in Provo, Utah last year set the stage for another offensive shoot-out, but Schuler and the Ducks' defense ended any thoughts of that early on.

"I was concerned about our corners because I felt we weren't quite as talented back there as we were last season." Schuler said, "but we actually played better back there than we did a year ago."

"Last year they gave us a lot of problems on picking patterns," Schuler said. "Our corners played a lot of man-to-man against BYU without any help, and we were still able to hold them to 180 yards for three

quarters."

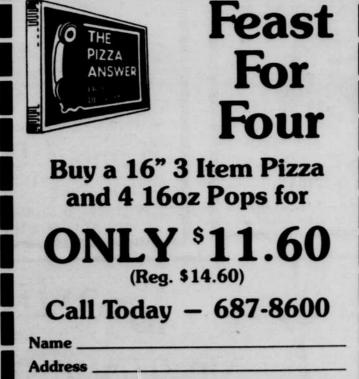
Schuler said that he spent extra time last summer preparing game plans for the Arizona, BYU and Washington games this season. After watching his defense play tough in a five-point loss to Arizona and dominate BYU, Schuler has his eyes set on the Huskies.

"Washington presents problems for us that Arizona and BYU don't because they are a two-dimensional team," Schuler said. "But I feel that our defense will be ready for them."

Schuler is thrilled with the Ducks' defensive performances the last two weekends, but he still feels they can improve.

"A good defensive team has

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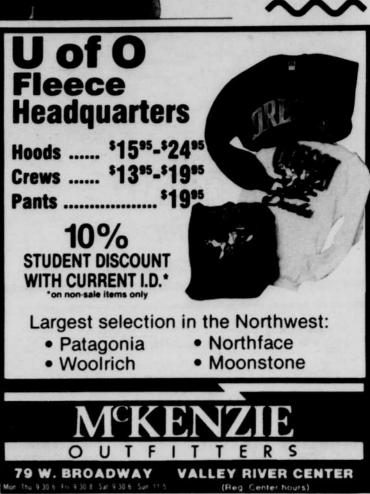
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