

DUCKS

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but nothing could compare to his big return Saturday night.

"Once I got past everybody else, I was just hoping to get past the punter," Brown said. "I think about the 10-yard line I started to run out of gas."

"It's by far my biggest thrill," he said.

The play also thrilled the crowd and was the turning point in the game, Brooks said.

"We needed a spark and that great punt return," he said. "I think it got the crowd on our side and then the momentum really flip-flopped for us."

Kemp's play wasn't as big as Brown's, but was a fitting end to a great defensive performance for the Ducks over the game's last three quarters.

Ironically, the last Oregon player to return an interception for a touchdown was strong safety Rory Dairy two years ago. Dairy had his first interception since that game to stop an Arizona State scoring drive in the first quarter.

"I knew I had a lot of blockers in front of me, so I just took off as fast as I could," Kemp said. "With Rory Dairy out there I knew I was home free."

Early on it looked like the Sun Devils might be home with fullback Kelvin Fisher and tailback Leonard Russell running right through the Duck defense.

The Sun Devils took the opening kickoff 81 yards and marched in for a 7-0 lead behind the two running backs who accounted for all but 23 yards on the drive.

Arizona State was on the move again following an Oregon punt and had gone from its own 22-yard line to the Oregon 42 before Dairy picked off a Bret Powers pass on third-and-22.

"If someone had told me midway through the first quarter that the score would end up 27-7 in our favor, I'd have told them they were crazy," Oregon defensive coordinator Denny Schuler said.

But the Duck defense came alive after Dairy's interception. After rushing for 96 yards in the first quarter, the Sun Devils finished with only 82 net yards rushing and 260 yards of total offense.

A big reason why the Arizona State ground game went nowhere was a personnel change by the Sun Devils. After using a two tight end set early in the game, Arizona State went away from it in the second quarter.

"We came alive after that first quarter," Schuler said.

"You'll have to ask them why they got out of the two tight ends."

When the Sun Devils were forced to pass after being shut-down on the ground, the Ducks came up with six sacks and three interceptions of Powers, a redshirt freshman making his first college start.

"With a redshirt freshman in there, we knew they were going to try and run a lot of us," said Oregon nose tackle Marcus Woods, who had two sacks.

"We wanted to stop the run and put them in passing situations where we could use our fast guys up front to get to the quarterback," Woods said.

On a night when the Ducks got both a punt and an interception return for a touchdown, stopping the run was enough to get Oregon a win.

Duck Notes: Bowl scouts from the Copper and Freedom Bowls were on hand to watch the Oregon game. ... McCallum's two field goals gave him 32 for his career, tying the school record held by Kirk Dennis and Matt MacLeod.

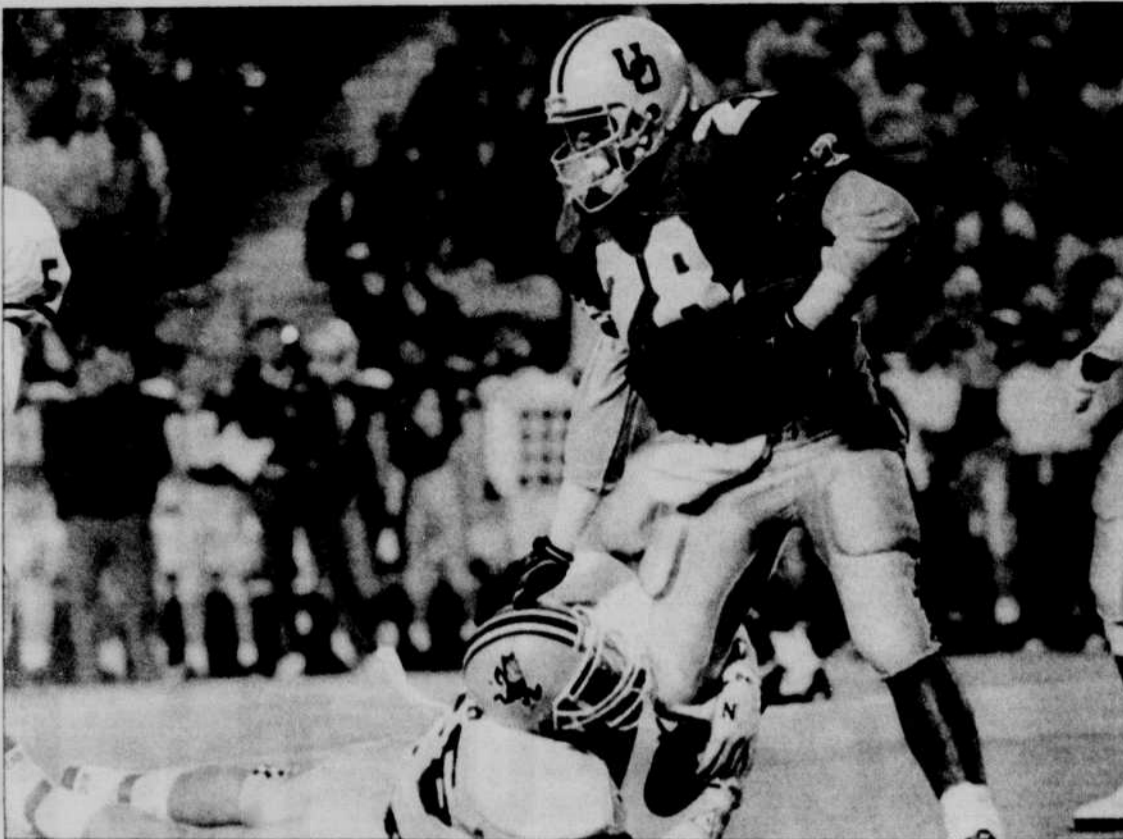


Photo by Andre Kasier

Oregon fullback Ngalu Kelemeni gained only 27 yards on the ground against Arizona State but caught four passes for 43 yards for the Ducks.

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