

Photo by Sean Poston

Junior Matt LaBounty sacks UCLA quarterback Tommy Maddox in the closing seconds of Saturday's contest, a 28-24 victory for the Ducks as Joe Farweel (51) and Marcus Woods close in.

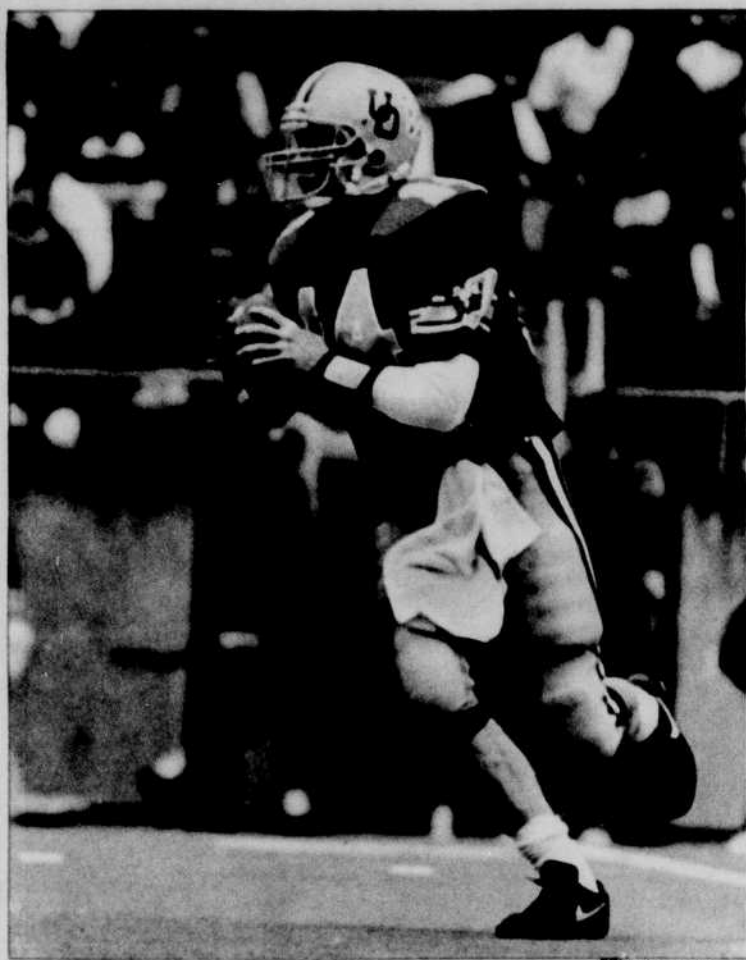


Photo by Eric Evans

Senior quarterback Bill Musgrave ended his career at Autzen stadium with a 19-1 home record, the best in Oregon history.

Seniors happy with victory in last home game of season

By Paul Morgan
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon's 28-24 victory over UCLA Saturday is not the last game of the season, but the seniors on this year's squad bid a fond farewell to Autzen Stadium and the fans that helped the Ducks post an undefeated home record.

"We're never going to hear that kind of crowd noise behind us again," senior split end Joe Reitzug said. "The people here are great fans and that was apparent today."

The Ducks ended their home season with a 7-0 record, and will start next season with a nine-game home winning streak. Oregon is 21-7 at home since 1986, when many of this year's seniors were first donning Duck uniforms.

"We expect to win in this stadium," senior tackle Todd Kaanapu said. "This win is fantastic. I couldn't ask for it to end a better way."

As senior offensive guard Andy Sunia walked down the breezeway toward the Oregon lockerroom, tears welled in his eyes.

"It feels great to know that I can look back in 10 years and say I never lost here as a senior," he explained later. "It's a great honor."

But sentimental emotions about the last game at Autzen were not totally apparent in the faces of all Oregon seniors.

Quarterback Bill Musgrave, who finished with a 19-1 home record in games he started and finished and was perhaps the driving force behind Oregon's success over the last three years, was as calm and businesslike as usual.

"I'm kind of thinking about California right now," he said, alluding to Oregon's contest next weekend at Cal.

However, Musgrave did take a quick moment to reflect on his last home game.

"Well, when we were walk-

ing out for the coin toss Rory Dairy turned to me and said 'You know it's really hitting me that this is our last game here.' Then I said, 'I know, don't say it.' But he was right, you know, and it was hitting me right then too that this was the last time out there in front

of a full stadium." And how about after the game?

"We couldn't just sit out there and enjoy it," Musgrave said. "It was a tough game and we really had to battle. We're all pretty much shaking inside right now, because when you

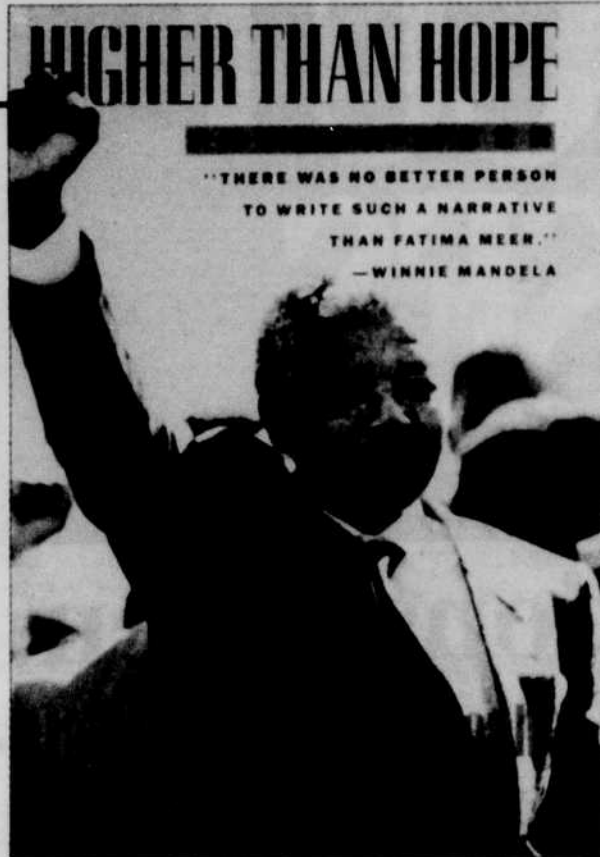
battle like that it takes a while to recover."

The same cannot be said for the Oregon fans, though, who gave the senior quarterback a standing ovation when his name was announced before the game.

Musgrave was slightly off on

his passing all day long, and admitted after the game that he "didn't feel that great, even in warm-ups." But he came through - like he has so many times for the Ducks - on the game-winning drive with time

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