

LINEBACKERS

play against the good running teams, and we also had to prove we could play against a BYU."

Shutting down the run is what both do best. Farwell is second on the team to free safety Eric Castle in tackles with 90, and is fifth in the Pacific-10 Conference. Bautista is third on the team with 66 stops, has two quarterback sacks, a fumble recovery and an interception.

"Basically I just try and take on the blockers and let Joe come in and make the tackle," Bautista said. "We've both been willing to take on blockers which is one of the things a linebacker has to do."

Schuler, for one, is pleased with how both have played the run.

"There's no question James is what you want out there." he said. "He plays the run well and does what's needed."

While Bautista is a little more able to take on 280 and 300-pound guards with his size, it is Farwell who always seems to make a play.

"Joe is great student of the game." Schuler said. "He keys and reacts very well and physically, he's very good at avoiding blockers."

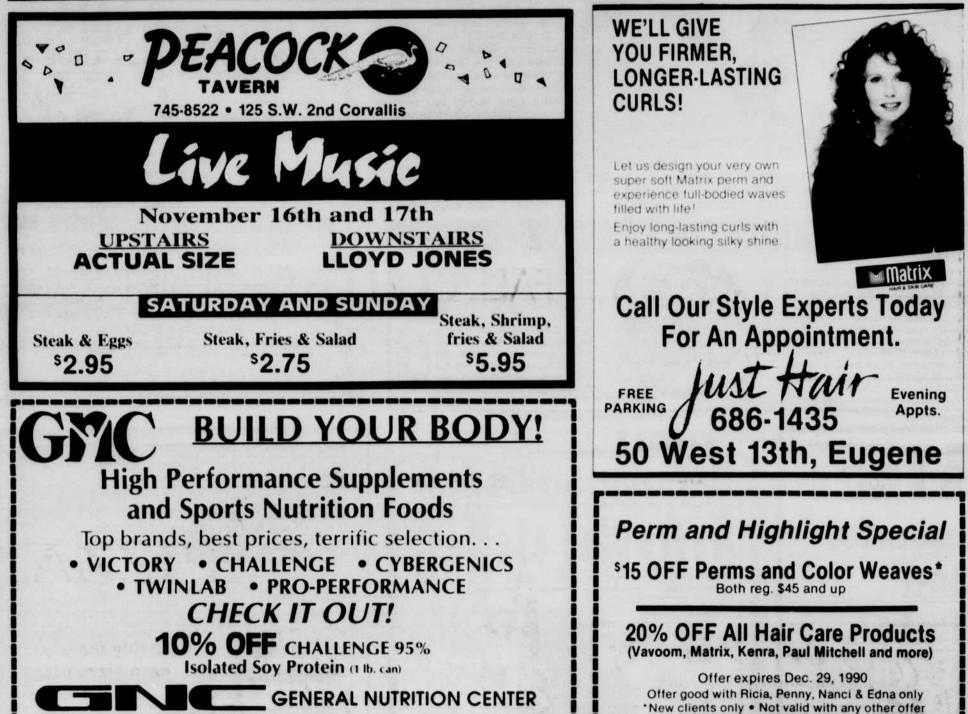
Schuler hasn't been surprised at the play of the two either — Farwell who was returning to the starting weakside linebacker position and Bautista who took over the middle from Kearns.

What has been a surprise is how much the two have played in Oregon's "Hawk" and "Falcon" packages, the speciality units the Ducks use when employing five and six defensive backs in passing situations.

The Ducks had always used two linebackers in the two groups before, usually outside linebacker Peter Brantley as a defensive end to use his rushing skills, and Kearns or this season, outside linebacker Andy Conner, in the middle to protect against the run.

But Oregon was getting hurt by the run in those speciality groups early in the season, so the coaching staff decided to plug Farwell and Bautista in the middle and use Connor as a rusher.

"That has proved to be a very good decision for us." Oregon Coach Rich Brooks said. "and not only (have they) done a good job shutting the run down against those two speciality groups we put in, but they've also covered well on the pass and they have both come up with some sacks on delayed blitzes."





the second secon

a dimensional a disease a secondaria