## SPORTS

## Ducks bowled over by mistakes in 32-31 loss

## By Ashley Conklin Emerald Sports Editor

ANAHEIM, Calif. - For those in attendance. Freedom Bowl VII was one of the most exciting football games a fan could see.

But for the Oregon Ducks. there was too much excitement in the form of costly mistakes that led to a 32-31 loss to Colorado State.

The loss left the Ducks at 8-4 for the second straight season while the Rams finished 9-4 in their first bowl appearance since 1948.

"We gave you an exciting football game, by golly - excitement, dropped balls, penalties, mistakes," Oregon Coach Rich Brooks said. "You have to give Colorado State a lot of credit. They're a hard-nosed football team

"They hung in there and took advantage of almost every one of our mistakes that we gave them the opportunity to take advantage of," he said. "Unfortunately, we played, I think, very uncharacteristically of the way we played most of they year.

The only thing not uncharacteristic about the Ducks was the play of quarterback Bill Musgrave who may have played his best game in an Oregon uni-

form by completing 29 of 47 passes for 392 vards and three touchdowns

But despite the play of Musgrave, the Ducks were unable to overcome several crucial mistakes including:

· A Freedom Bowl record-tying three lost fumbles. The first, by punt returner Brian Brown in the second quarter. set up a one-yard scoring run by Tony Alford that gave Colorado State a 14-10 lead.

Tailback Sean Burwell also coughed up the ball twice. Both came in Ram territory and the second came with the Ducks trailing 26-25. Oregon had moved to the Colorado State 26-yard line before Burwell's second fumble that helped set up Todd Yert's 52yard touchdown that gave the Rams a 32-25 lead with 4:59 remaining

· Penalties. The Ducks came into the game as the least penalized team in Division I, but were flagged seven times for 60 yards.

Oregon had two face mask penalties on Colorado State's game-opening scoring drive and a late hit by defensive end Jeff Cummins on quarterback Mike Gimenez negated Rory Dairy's interception of a **Gimenez** pass

•Four plays later Gimenez hits



Colorado State fullback Todd Yert outruns the Oregon secondary to the end zone to give the Rams a 32-25 lead late in the fourth quarter.

Greg Primus on a 49-yard scoring play that put the Rams in front, 26-25.

• Two other strange occurrences that gave the Rams five third-quarter points.

First, Musgrave and fullback Ngalu Kelemeni collided on a third down from the Oregon

two-yard line. Guard Bud Bowie recovered the fumble in the end zone, but Colorado State got a safety

Then, on the Ducks' next offensive series, punter Tommy Thompson was ruled down on the 19-yard line when his knee was on the ground trying to field a low snap from deep snapper Matt LaBounty

The Rams got a field goal out of the miscue and led 19-17 after the third quarter. Colorado State's five third-quarter points equaled their total yardage for the entire quarter.

Turn to FREEDOM, Page 23



ATTENTION

**Oregon Daily Emerald** 

The second s