

Ducks face losing season after falling to ASU

By Jake Berg
Emerald Sports Editor

Oregon played its best football game in a month, but unfortunately for the Ducks, every game looks the same in the loss column.

Oregon dropped its fifth consecutive Pacific-10 Conference game in a 24-21 loss to Arizona State Saturday night at Tempe, Ariz. The loss guaranteed the

Ducks of their first losing season since finishing 5-6 in 1986.

Mike Richey's 33-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter proved the difference in the final score.

"Obviously we're not going to have a winning season, but this is the first time that I can honestly say we improved from one week to the next," Oregon coach Rich Brooks said of his team, 1-5 in the Pac-10 and 3-6

overall.

"It's tough to give a great effort without a reward, but I'm still proud of this team, and there are things left for us to accomplish."

The Ducks were crushed at Autzen Stadium last week by Stanford, 33-13, and will play at UCLA next Saturday before ending their season at home against Oregon State on Nov. 23.

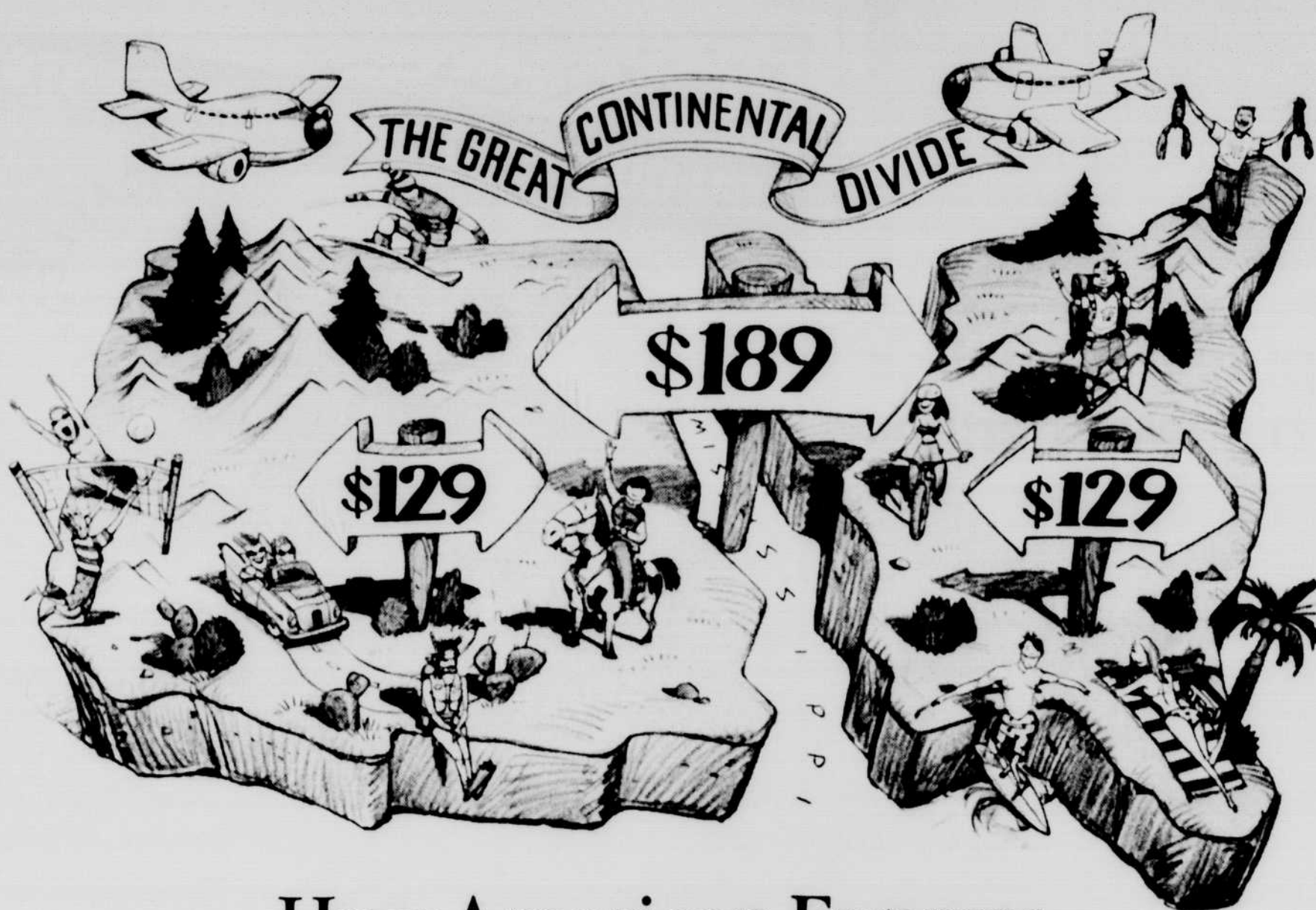
Oregon led in a game for the first time since beating New Mexico State a month ago when free safety Eric Castle turned his interception into a 30-yard touchdown run, giving the Ducks a 14-7 lead in the second quarter.

The Ducks picked up their first score of the evening when Bob Brothers, the fifth starting quarterback for Oregon in as many games, hit tight end Jeff

Thomason for a 29-yard touchdown pass. Thomason earned much of the yardage himself, weaving through tacklers before falling into the end zone.

Later in the second period, when the Ducks failed to get a first down, punter Tommy Thompson came in to kick to the Sun Devils, but his punt was partially blocked after a

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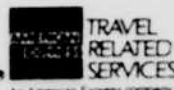


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