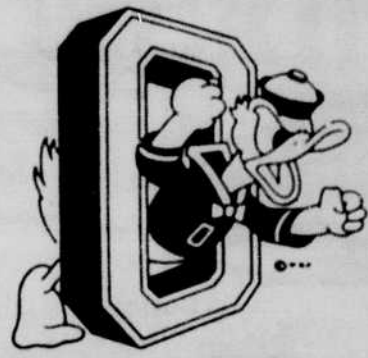


Red-hot Ducks face true test against Sun Devils



Oregon Probable Starters

OFFENSE

SE - 8 **Derrick Deadwiler** (5-9, 165, Jr.)
 QT - 75 **David Collinsworth** (6-5, 285, Sr.)
 OG - 64 **Jon Tattersall** (6-4, 280, Sr.)
 C - 57 **Tom Curran** (6-2, 260, Jr.)
 SG - 65 **Mike DiFonzo** (6-4, 295, Jr.)
 ST - 66 **Justin Starck** (6-6, 285, Jr.)
 TE - 88 **Vince Ferry** (6-4, 240, Sr.)
 QB - 16 **Danny O'Neil** (6-2, 180, So.)
 TB - 21 **Sean Burwell** (5-11, 190, Jr.)
 FB - 24 **Juan Shedrick** (6-2, 228, Jr.)
 FL - 81 **Ronnie Harris** (5-11, 188, Sr.)
 PK - 3 **Tommy Thompson** (5-10, 180, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LE - 54 **Gary Williams** (6-2, 273, Jr.)
 NG - 97 **Romeo Bandison** (6-5, 280, Jr.)
 RE - 99 **Jeff Cummins** (6-6, 265, Sr.)
 LO - 49 **Terrell Edwards** (6-2, 226, Jr.)
 ML - 46 **John Taumoepeau** (6-2, 232, Jr.)
 IL - 51 **Joe Farwell** (6-2, 210, Sr.)
 RO - 40 **Ernest Jones** (6-2, 230, Jr.)
 SS - 7 **Chad Cota** (6-1, 188, So.)
 LC - 1 **Alex Molden** (5-10, 180, Fr.)
 RC - 4 **Herman O'Berry** (5-11, 179, So.)
 FS - 12 **Eric Castle** (6-2, 208, Sr.)
 P - 3 **Tommy Thompson** (5-10, 180, Jr.)

Graphic by Heather Zibauer

By **Dave Charbonneau**
 Emerald Sports Editor

All right, so the Ducks have won two straight games.

They scored 59 points last week against UNLV. They have run for more than 600 yards in their past two games.

They have held their opponents to less than 50 yards in two consecutive games.

Arizona State lost their All-World running back last week.

So what could go wrong when Oregon faces the Sun Devils this weekend?

The best gauge to measure what the Ducks will be up against when they play Arizona State at 1 p.m. Saturday at Autzen Stadium is to look back to the last time they played a Pacific-10 Conference team.

Before Oregon went on a two-game rampage against Texas Tech and UNLV, they were buried by Stanford. In that 21-7 loss, the Ducks ran for a paltry 57 yards, completed less than 50 percent of their passes, and gave up 353 yards passing.

Stanford's pressure defense basically shut down Oregon's offense that has been so productive as of late. Especially the running game.

"Last week we did not play a very strong defensive football team," said Oregon head coach Rich Brooks. "The fact we ran for 399 yards against UNLV does not indicate that we're going to be able to do that against Arizona State."

"I think a better indication of our running game is what we did against Stanford. That was a pretty puny number."

Arizona State runs the same eight-man front pressure defense that Stanford killed the Ducks with. That scares Brooks.

"Our ability to run the ball will be tested like it hasn't been tested all year," Brooks said. "There are similarities in Arizona State and Stanford, and we expect Arizona State to be as tough, if not



Photo by Michael Shindler

The Duck defense, led here by Eric Castle, has been nearly invincible the last two games.

tougher, than Stanford."

Regardless of how bad they played against Stanford, or how bad their competition was last week, one thing is for sure.

The Ducks have made huge improvements.

"What I'm pleased about is our improvement in moving the football and finding the end zone," Brooks said. "I do think our offensive line is better than it was a year ago, and we have healthy running backs."

Sean Burwell and Ricky Whittle have established themselves as one of the top running back tandems in the country, running for more than 400 yards in their last two games. But, again, they have yet to prove themselves against a Pac-10 team this season.

Arizona State had a proven running back in Mario Bates, who ran for more than 400 yards

in three games. However, Bates was lost for the season last week when he blew out his knee.

Now, the Sun Devils will have to rely on Jerone Davison to pick up the slack. But Brooks is not resting easy about facing a seemingly weaker Arizona State backfield.

"Our ability to stop the run of Arizona State will go a long way in determining if we have a shot to win this football game," he said.

With two redshirt freshmen — Garrick McGee and Grady Benton — calling the plays for Arizona State, Oregon would like to force the Sun Devils to try and beat the Ducks through the air.

Saturday's game is equally important for both teams. The Ducks and the Sun Devils are both 0-1 in Pac-10 games and the loser will have to struggle to climb back into the Pac-10 race.

"The team who wins this game will obviously

ly have a chance to stick around for a while," Brooks said. "The loser will have a hard time just getting into the upper division of the conference by season's end."

Oregon has not won a Pac-10 game since Sept. 7, 1991, when it defeated Washington State in last season's opener.

"It would be very nice to have a Pac-10 win," Brooks said. "considering we haven't had one of those in well over a year."

One aspect of Oregon's game that has been overlooked in the past two games is the Ducks' passing game. Quarterback Danny O'Neil has thrown a total of 46 passes in the last two games. In recent years, that would have been a number constituting one game's-worth of passes. But with the running game performing so successfully, O'Neil has not had to put the ball up in the air much.

"I don't care how we move the ball," Brooks said. "If we have problems running the ball, then we may have to go to the air. It's really just a game-by-game thing."

On the injury front, tight end Vince Ferry reinjured his ribs against Texas Tech, sat out against UNLV and is listed as very doubtful for Saturday's game. Returning from the injury list will be offensive tackle Dave Cuttrel and inside linebacker Joe Farwell. Farwell sat out last week, but he said he could have played if needed. Farwell is the leading tackler in the Pac-10 with 18 solo tackles and 36 total.

Game Notes: Oregon announced the Oct. 17 meeting with Washington will be moved up to a 3:38 p.m. start. The reason for the change of time is so Prime Sports can televise the game.

In addition, the ticket office made available more tickets for the Husky game, which originally sold out in August. The tickets went on sale earlier this week and tickets were still available as of Wednesday. The seats were made available by a plan to install bleachers along the ramp on the four corners of Autzen Stadium.



ASU Probable Starters

OFFENSE

WR - 83 **Clyde McCoy** (6-1, 168, So.)
 LT - 76 **DeMario Vaughn** (6-5, 272, So.)
 LG - 56 **Farrington Toggia** (6-0, 329, Jr.)
 C - 51 **Toby Mills** (6-2, 217, Jr.)
 RG - 79 **Craig Ritter** (6-4, 284, Sr.)
 RT - 75 **Jeff Kysar** (6-7, 326, So.)
 TE - 46 **Bob Brasher** (6-5, 241, Sr.)
 QB - 6 **Garrick McGee** (6-3, 183, Fr.)
 TB - 29 **Jerone Davison** (6-0, 223, Sr.)
 FB - 23 **George Montgomery** (6-2, 208, Jr.)
 WR - 84 **Kevin Snyder** (5-8, 167, Sr.)
 PK - 91 **Mike Richey** (5-10, 190, Sr.)

DEFENSE

DE - 13 **Gavin Hill** (6-2, 243, Sr.)
 DT - 95 **Bryan Hooks** (6-3, 270, Sr.)
 DT - 9 **Isreal Stanley** (6-3, 255, Sr.)
 DE - 98 **Shante Carver** (6-5, 228, Jr.)
 OL - 22 **Kendall Rhyme** (6-3, 220, So.)
 IL - 48 **Justin Dragoo** (6-3, 231, So.)
 IL - 44 **Brett Wallerstedt** (6-1, 235, Sr.)
 RO - 20 **Jean Boyd** (6-0, 188, Sr.)
 LC - 3 **Kevin Miniefield** (5-9, 180, Sr.)
 RC - 4 **Lenny McGill** (6-3, 190, Jr.)
 FS - 26 **Adam Brass** (5-10, 185, Sr.)
 P - 17 **Steve Rausch** (6-1, 192, Sr.)

Graphic by Heather Zibauer

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