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Weight: 228 Hometown:

Elk Grove, Calif. Elk Grove High School

Major:

Personal:

Born on Aug. 7, 1972 in Fontana, Calif

Miscellany:

- ·Obtained two-year all-Delta League honors and named to the all-city and all-Superior California squad as a senior
- · League champion in high hurdles.
- . One of the three tight ends to catch passes a
- · Caught two passes against Stanford for 28 yards for his only recep-
- · Has realized the allimportant third criteria for his position, performing the chores of blocking as well.

Graphic by Heather Zilbauer



TATE

Continued from Page 3B

"He drove 17 hours to see the Washington State game. Some of the guys couldn't believe he had driven all the way just to see a game," Tate said. Tate wouldn't mind making

his father take another trip, to a bowl game, in January

'Like coach Brooks' theme has been all season, 'We're hangin' in November,'" Tate said. "We're in control of our own destiny, our future rides on our own shoulders.

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have two hefty challenges in front of us, starting with Oregon.'

The biggest question mark surrounding UCLA is who will start at quarterback. Donahue said senior John Barnes will get the nod, but freshman Rob Walker appears to be healthy and may play on Saturday. Walker completed 55 percent of his passes for 780 yards and three touchdown before he sprained his

Barnes, who was once a backup at Western Oregon, has completed 50 percent of his passes for 416 yards, but he has four interceptions and only one touchdown. Last week in UCLA's victory over Oregon State, Barnes completed eight of 15 passes for 149 yards and no interceptions.

"I'd say Rob is at least 50-50 to play," Donahue said. "What Rob has to do is be able to protect himself, which he has been unable to do. We'll just have to wait and see how much work he will be able to do this week. Right now, I anticipate John Barnes will

Barnes appears to have settled in and is taking advantage of the situation and playing well," Brooks said. "They run a lot of play action with him, and he does it well.

UCLA has also suffered injuries at running back and wide receiver. Receiver Sean LaChapelle has missed most of the month with rib injuries but is expected back in the lineup on Saturday. Kevin Williams, the Pacific-10 Conference's leading rusher last year, has suffered a series of ailments. but he is expected to return. Sophomore Chris Alexander filled in for Williams last week and rushed for 227 yards on 35

"I have been impressed with

Alexander," Brooks said. "He is tough, fast and has been very productive. They have suffered injuries, but what a nice deal it is to have a guy like that step up."

Whoever is on the field for the Bruins on Saturday will face a rejuvenated Oregon team that appears to be peaking at the right time. Oregon's season has been one of streaks, as the Ducks have a pair of two-game losing streaks to go along with a three-game winning streak and the current two-game winning streak against Washington State and California

'If we lose this weekend, it will take more than a tourniquet to stop the bleeding."

Rich Brooks, Oregon football coach

'We failed to make big plays against USC and Washington, and we came up just a little short," Brooks said. "The last two games we made those plays and that comes with confidence. We have had two good games against two good defenses.

With the possible absence of Whittle, junior Sean Burwell will have to carry the load for the Ducks on the ground. Burwell is coming off his worst performance of the year, when he rushed for only 17 yards on 14 carries against California.

'We need to run the football against their outstanding defense," Brooks said. "We must be able to stop their running game; Alexander has emerged as a force, and they have a huge offensive line, so containing their running game is paramount.'

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