

# DUCK FOOTBALL

## JOHNSON

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40 passes, including four for touchdowns. Morton's eight catches per game ranks him third in the country for that category. The Johnson-to-Morton combination has caught the eye of the Oregon defense as it prepares for this Saturday's game against the Trojans.

"Johnson is a lot like California quarterback Dave Barr," Oregon safety Chad Cota said. "He is a strong guy with a good arm. He's also got Morton, who is good at making acrobatic catches. It'll be another big test for the sec-

ondary."

Johnson said he has seen the film of California's 30-point comeback over the Ducks last weekend, but said he does not think that was the real Duck defense.

"They have a good defense," Johnson said. "I watched the California game, but I don't think that was a true picture of Oregon's defense. A team gets a few long passes, and it just continues to add up."

Oregon head coach Rich Brooks knows his defense will have to improve on last week's effort or else Johnson will have a field day Saturday.

"Johnson does an excellent job of finding the open receiv-

er," Brooks said. "He has the ability to scramble, he is accurate and does an outstanding job when given time. He does a good job of getting the ball to Morton; no matter what coverage comes against them, they seem to connect."

The Trojans will be short-

handed on the offensive line this week, as three starters, including all-American Tony Boselli, will miss this weekend's game because of injuries. Johnson did not try to hide the fact the injuries will hurt, but said he does not expect them to affect his

game.

"The injuries definitely hurt," Johnson said. "Hopefully some guys will step up and perform at a high level. It does not change my attitude. I have to have confidence in the job the guys around me will do."

## STATS

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passing stats. Since 1989, Oregon is 5-6 when it passes for at least 300 yards in a game. The Ducks are 4-5 in the same period when their opponent rolls up at least 300 yards in a game.

- History says the Ducks won't sweep the Arizona schools. Since Arizona and Arizona State entered the Pac-10, Oregon has beaten both Arizona schools in the same year only one time.

- Even if Oregon goes on a rampage the rest of the season, don't pick the Ducks to beat both the Bruins and Trojans. After all, Oregon doesn't play UCLA this year.

- Watch out for Oregon State this year. Not because Oregon State is good, but years ending in three aren't lucky for the Ducks. Since 1913, the Ducks are 2-3-2 in every 10th game against the Beavers. (Not counting 1943, when the teams didn't play.) Ten years ago, the two waged an epic battle of wills and skills. The final score: 0-0.

- Just because you read it doesn't mean it will happen. As the saying goes: Figures lie and liars figure. Sports is full of reminders to expect the unexpected.

If you don't believe that, you weren't in Berkeley last weekend.



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