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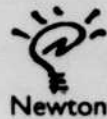
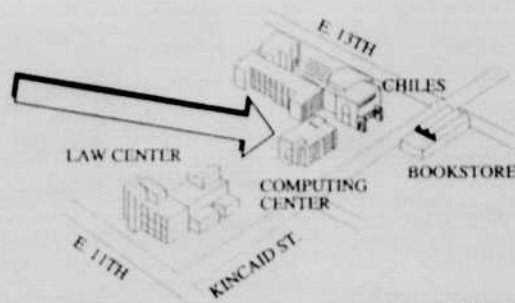
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DUCK FOOTBALL

Ducks a bit below FSU

By Scott Simonson
Oregon Daily Emerald

By Pacific-10 Conference standards, Oregon's offense has posted some impressive numbers this season. Down south, in places like Florida, fans barely know whom Oregon might be playing, let alone how to pronounce Oregon or what state it might be in.

In Oregon, nobody wants to be the second-best football team in the state. In Florida, being the third-best football team in the state still might make you the third-best team in the nation.

So, with a little help from the Florida State University sports information department, the *Emerald* decided it's time to see how the Oregon offense stacks up against vaunted offensive juggernaut of the Florida State University Seminoles, currently the best college football team in Florida, and therefore, according to not only wire services and coaches, but to Floridians themselves, the best college football team in the known universe.

Let's try to keep a straight face, shall we?

At quarterback for the Seminoles: Charlie Ward. At quarterback for the Ducks: Danny O'Neil. After his regular season ends, Charlie Ward may be seen accepting the Heisman Trophy in front of a national television audience. After his regular season ends, Danny O'Neil may be seen watching Charlie Ward accept the Heisman Trophy as part of a national television audience.

Heisman hype aside, how do their numbers compare? Ward averages 32 pass attempts and 22 completions a game. O'Neil averages 33 attempts and 20 completions a game.

That's an extra three incompletions per game for O'Neil, but what if Danny had the Seminole offensive line to protect him? (Respectful note to the Duck offensive line: Please don't take this personally. There's no shame in being the second- or third-best offensive line in the country.) O'Neil has been sacked 20 times this season; Ward has been sacked only six.

So, take a little heat off O'Neil and attempts and completion averages are pretty much equal. What happens when they complete the ball? Ward averages 12.1 yards per completion. O'Neil averages 13.8.

So much for the notion that Oregon head coach Rich Brooks



JEFF PASLAY/Emerald

Oregon quarterback Danny O'Neil is having a great year, but his stats don't match those of Florida State's Charlie Ward.

likes offenses that used to be run by guys wearing leather helmets and no face masks. The two quarterbacks are also close in touchdown passes. Ward has thrown 16; O'Neil has thrown 14.

Now comes the bad news. Interceptions: O'Neil has thrown 12; Ward has thrown one. Forget the offensive line theory: Maybe the reason that O'Neil is averaging two fewer completions per game than Ward is that he's averaging almost two completions per game to the other team.

Ward is averaging 302.7 yards per game in total offense, and O'Neil is averaging 290.7 yards per game. Both are among the top 10 nationally in that category. More significantly, Ward averages an 8.2 yards per play, compared with 6.9 yards per play for O'Neil.

What's the difference? Rushing yardage. While most quarterbacks spend their rushing attempts going backward and away from opposing defenses, Ward averages six yards per carry. Six yards per carry is a great average for a running back, unless you're a Florida State running back. The Seminoles average 5.9 yards per

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