

DUCK FOOTBALL

SEMINOLES

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rushing attempt. Ward's yards-per-carry average is third on the team.

Though known as a better-than-average scrambler, O'Neil is averaging .58 yards per carry. Take away O'Neil's 20 sacks for -148 yards, and O'Neil averages about 2.7 yards per carry. Not bad, but that may not cut it in Florida.

Of course, the quarterback does not just run up his own numbers. He runs an entire offense. The comparison ends here. The Seminoles convert 54 percent of the time on third downs; the Ducks have a 38 percent third down conversion percentage. Florida State's offense averages three touchdowns for

every turnover. Oregon averages less than one.

Ward and the FSU air attack get most of the publicity, but a potent running game balances the Seminole offense. Florida State averages 229.7 yards a game on the ground, more than double Oregon's 112.4 yards a game.

Cynical Duck fans may suggest that if football games lasted only two quarters instead of four, the Ducks could beat any team in the nation. Oregon has outscored Florida State 68-66 in first quarters; however, Florida State has scored 150 points in the first halves of its games, compared with 124 by the quick-starting Ducks.

Lest any Oregon fans continue to feel that a Florida State-Oregon matchup would be an entertaining contest, it is time for an

old adage: Sometimes the best offense is a good defense.

Florida State's defense has given up 38 points in seven games. Oregon allowed 30 points against Montana. The Seminoles allow 5.4 points per game. Roughly stated, drunken fans bolting from the stands have a better chance of reaching the end zone during the game than Florida State opponents do.

Now, Oregon fans can rest secure in the knowledge that yes, the Ducks do have a pretty good offense. However, that means Florida State has a great offense, not to mention a great defense. It's probably a pretty good idea to decline any offer of a bowl game with Florida State this year. There's always next year, though. After all, the Ducks don't have to play Montana.

LINEBACKER

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tersued. The good thing was that I won and the judge laughed her out of court."

The episode made McClanahan an instant celebrity on campus when it aired during his redshirt year. However, over the past three and a half years it has been McClanahan's play on the field that has made people take notice.

McClanahan exploded onto the Pacific-10 Conference scene during his sophomore year in 1991 when he tied for the league lead with 144 tackles. He followed that up with 140 tackles last year, placing him second in the Pac-10.

Expectations were high entering this season when McClanahan was named to numerous all-American teams and listed as a candidate for the Butkus Award, given to the nation's best linebacker. McClanahan has not skipped a beat, compiling 86 tackles in eight games so far this year.

"McClanahan is a great linebacker," Oregon head coach Rich Brooks said. "It is not hard to know where he is on the field. He's usually where the ball is."

Brooks has gotten to know McClanahan well over the last two years, as the linebacker has made 31 tackles against the Ducks, although the Ducks have won both games. McClanahan says the tackles are nice, but he is looking for a victory over the Ducks this Saturday.

"I have the same feeling I had

against USC," McClanahan said about another team he is yet to beat. "Oregon is a team I am looking for us to get a win against."

One advantage the Ducks may have this weekend is that the game is not nationally televised, a factor that McClanahan says inspires him to play at a higher level.

"When a game is on TV, I usually have a great game," McClanahan said. "I'll probably have an okay game Saturday. I am more excited when the game is on TV because it's not just for yourself, but for everyone to see. If I mess up Saturday only the people at the game will know it."

McClanahan has made a name for himself off the field as well for his outspoken attitude. He called the Ducks "dirty" earlier this year, but saves his strongest comments for Arizona State, a team the Cougars beat 44-25 earlier this season.

"I don't like ASU," McClanahan said. "They play like a team that is not a football team. They play to beat you up."

McClanahan is an avid outdoorsman who especially enjoys hunting, and he takes that demeanor on the field as well.

"When I am on the field it is like when I'm hunting," McClanahan said. "I am trying to bring home the big kill. I think of the running back as a deer."

McClanahan says he wants to someday work outdoors as a game warden, but he hopes that is after a long career in the NFL.

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