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Cardinals end Oregon bowl hopes

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon's up-and-down 1993 season took a sharp turn down Saturday as Stanford beat the Ducks 38-34 at Autzen Stadium, officially ending Oregon's post-season hopes.

Stanford quarterback Steve Stenstrom picked apart Oregon's secondary at will, throwing for 407 yards and three touchdowns while breaking the Pacific-10 Conference record with 3,281 yards passing on the year.

Stenstrom broke the record of former Cardinal John Elway — who tossed for 3,242 in 1982 — with one game still left in the season.

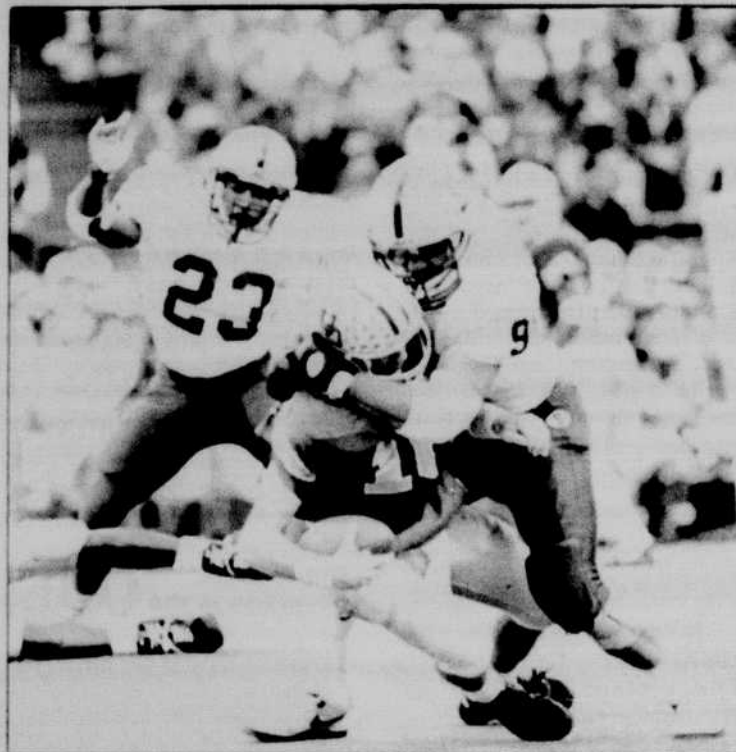
The loss knocked Oregon to 5-5 for the year, meaning the Ducks can't go to a bowl game. NCAA rules specify a team must have six wins over Division I-A teams to qualify for postseason, and one of Oregon's wins was over Division I-AA Montana.

Stanford head coach Bill Walsh didn't even realize the extent of the damage his team did to the Ducks. Apparently "The Genius" hasn't been studying NCAA regulations lately.

"I hope they go to a bowl game," Walsh said of the Ducks.

Oregon knew the passing game was Stanford's strength coming in, but Stenstrom was even better than advertised. However, it helped that Stanford receivers were often at least two or three steps away from Oregon defenders on long plays.

"I felt like we were exploiting their weaknesses on every play," said Stanford receiver



ANTHONY FORNEY/Emerald

Stanford's Jason White gets one of five Cardinal sacks on Oregon quarterback Danny O'Neil Saturday.

Mark Harris, who had a huge day with 12 catches for 189 yards, one touchdown and another long reception down to the one-yard line. "On certain times they ran blitzes and Steve (Stenstrom) called audibles to exploit holes. Coach Walsh told us when to look out for blitzes and holes."

The game featured the top two offensive teams in the conference, but it took a while before the offenses got warmed up. Oregon's Tommy Thompson

kicked a 29-yard field goal for the only scoring in the first quarter.

Stanford's defense ranked last in the Pacific-10 Conference entering the game, but came up big early, limiting the Ducks to 77 yards total offense in the first half, including minus-four yards rushing. Stanford had only nine sacks in its first nine games, but picked up five on Saturday.

"I thought during the week

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