

**DEFENSE**

Continued from Page 2B

to third-best in the conference and 17th overall in the nation, allowing just 108.6 yards a game. Oregon's passing efficiency defense is ranked second in the conference and 19th in the nation.

The captain of the defense, and team inspiration, is Silila Malepeai. Malepeai, lining up at the nose tackle position, doesn't lead his team in tackles, sacks, fumble recoveries, pass deflections or interceptions, but he has proved to everybody that he is the man to count on when the big play is needed.

"No question about it — he is our spiritual and our emotional leader," Aliotti said of Malepeai. "He is the guy that gets us going. He's a true warrior. He comes to practice everyday and gives you everything he's got.

"Guys respect him. He plays hard, he's tough, he plays when he's hurt — he's just a winner. He's the guy that we need in our defense."

Malepeai isn't sure where his ability to be a leader or his talent on the field comes from.

"It's just me," Malepeai said. "I just look at everybody there and they're ready to play so they get me pumped. I guess within the team concept, I'm just more vocal than anybody."

Malepeai is proud of being a part of Gang Green and feels that this defense has matured to the level of play that it needs to be at.

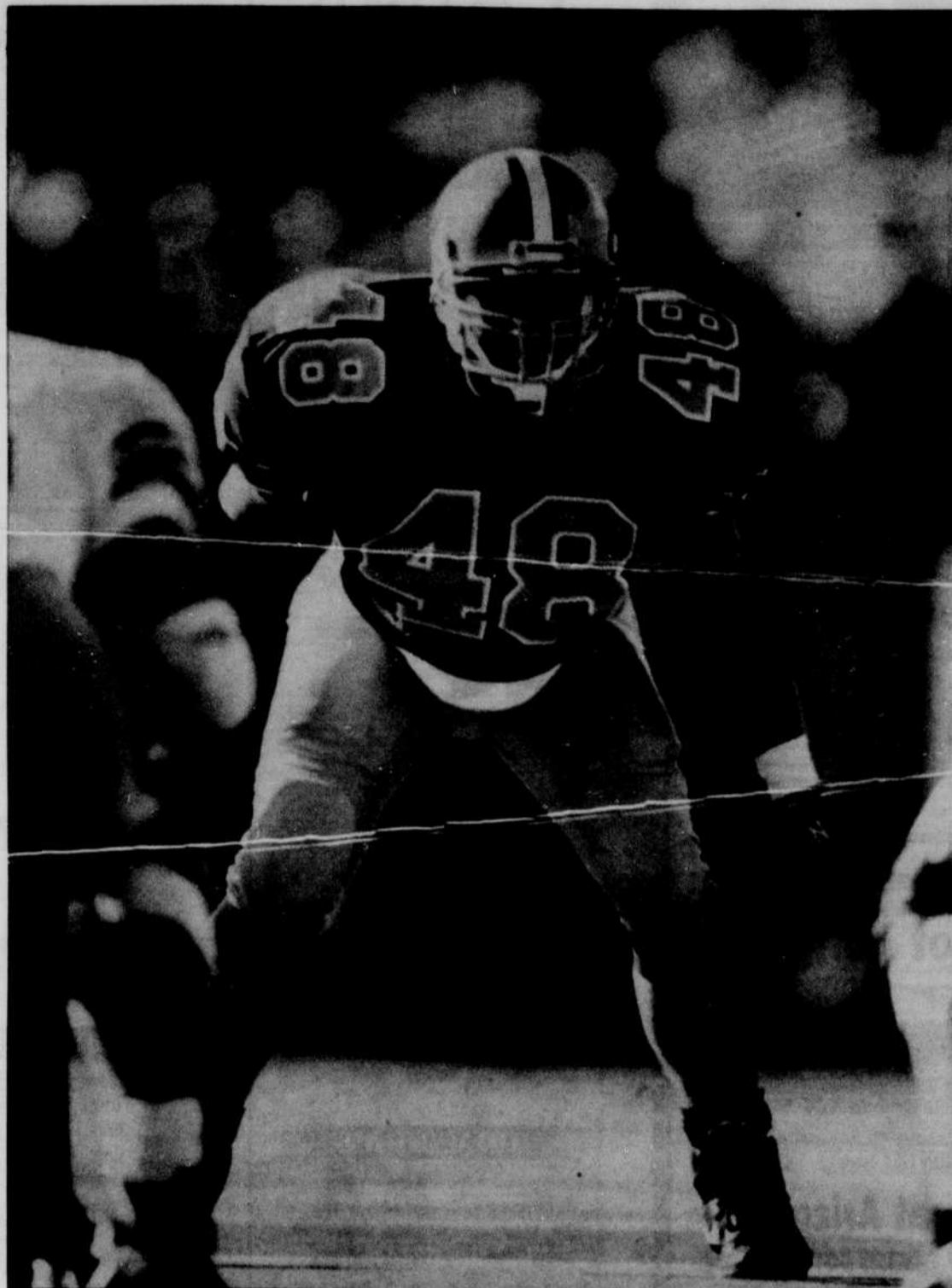
"I'm proud of the defense," Malepeai said. "We've got so many young players stepping up their play. I'm at awe."

The turnaround that the defense has taken this year, according to Malepeai and middle linebacker Rich Ruhl, has come due to the intensity level that surrounds the Oregon practices.

"Every time we come out here everybody's reminding each other that 'you got to strap it up, let's prepare mentally, physically and get out there and try to execute,' and then come Saturday, we take the final (step)," Malepeai said.

"I think a lot of it is just hard work out in practice and guys wanting to play well and putting a little bit of pride on the line," Ruhl said. "We knew we had a good team, we just had to go out there and play like we had a little confidence."

The level of intensity that has been produced at the Oregon practices paid off last week



Linebacker Rich Ruhl has stepped up in 1994 to help anchor the Ducks' defensive attack. Ruhl's 54 tackles is third-best on the team this season.

against the Huskies and was the biggest win for Malepeai in his four years of wearing a Ducks' uniform.

"For all of the years that I've been here we've lost," Malepeai said. "I finally got that victory over the Huskies."

When Malepeai saw Kenny Wheaton sprinting down the sidelines he knew that was the game.

"I was rushing and I got pulled down," Malepeai said. "When I turned up, I looked up. I just saw all yellow palms. I peeped up again and I saw Kenny bolting

down the sidelines and I knew that was game."

Gang Green's next opponent, Arizona, just happens to own the second-best defense in the Pac-10. The Oregon defense would like nothing better than to show everybody that there are other defenses in the conference, and the nation, besides those of Washington State and Arizona, according to Ruhl.

"We held Wazzu to 75 yards and they held us to 74 yards through three quarters, so when we play teams with great defenses, we want to try to match their

defenses to show that we have a good defense ourselves," Ruhl said.


Gang Green is not expecting the Wildcats to try to run the ball nearly as much as they did last season, now that Oregon's defense is stable. Aliotti figures that the Wildcats will initially try to run the ball and rely on its defense, but he thinks that the inspired Oregon defense will be ready.

"This is a different group and we're going to battle like hell to not let them run the ball on us," Aliotti said.

**FOOTBALL**

- SPORTS EDITOR: Chris Metz  
 GRAPHICS EDITOR: Jeff Paslay  
 PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR: Michael Shindler  
 REPORTERS: Kris Henry, Trevor Kearney, Mark McTyre  
 GRAPHIC ARTIST: Matt Garton

EAT HERE & TAKE OUT COUPON



**SERVING DELICIOUS NEW YORK PIZZA 7 DAYS A WEEK**

By the slice—or by the whole pizza. Choice of reg. crust or deep dish Sicilian  
*Something New — Italian Ices — Lemon & Strawberry*

**Come down or call up Sy's and order these great specials.**

<b>1 FREE SODA</b>	<b>\$1<sup>00</sup> OFF</b>	<b>\$2<sup>00</sup> OFF</b>
PLUS 10¢ OFF ANY SLICE	OR ANY SMALL PIZZA	ANY LARGE OR MEDIUM PIZZA
PLUS <b>2 FREE LARGE DRINKS</b>		

Sy's New York Pizza • 1211 Alder on campus • 686-9598  
 11:30-Midnight Mon.-Sat. 3:30-Midnight Sun.

COUPON GOOD THROUGH NOVEMBER 7, 1994

SURE IT'S A GREAT

# CAR

BUT YOU SHOULD HEAR MY

# STEREO

From The Co-inventor Of Compact Disc Technology

SONY CDX-4650 • AM-FM CD PLAYER

**\$249.00**

Suggested Retail Price \$350.  
 SSIR Tuner, 18FM+6AM Presets  
 7.5 Watt X 4 Output, Preamp Out

SONY CDX-5070 • AM-FM CD PLAYER

**\$329.00**

Suggested Retail Price \$380.  
 SSIR-EX Tuner  
 18FM+6AM Presets  
 20 Watt X 4 High Power  
 Preamp Out  
 Full Detachable Face  
 with Carry Case

SONY CDX-5270 • AM-FM CD PLAYER

**\$379.00**

Suggested Retail Price \$430.  
 SSIR-EX Tuner  
 18FM+6AM Presets  
 30 Watt X 4 High Power  
 Dual Preamp Out  
 Optional Wired and Wireless remote  
 Full Detachable Face  
 with Carry Case

**BRADFORD'S**  
**HIGH FIDELITY**  
*Car Stereo*

OPEN MON-FRI 10-6, SAT 10-5:30, SUN 12-5  
 CAR STEREO CLOSED SUNDAY • 344-9117  
 942 OLIVE STREET • FREE PARKING