

Tomey respects resurgent Ducks

Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

When Arizona head coach Dick Tomey looked at last week's tapes of the Oregon Duck football game, he saw a little more than a strong defense dominating a nationally ranked team. He saw a flashback to 1992.

According to Tomey, the Ducks resemble the 1992 Wildcats.

"I see them very much like we were in 1992," Tomey said. "They have a very young offensive line. Their offensive line is hanging in there and doing a nice job for them and giving them a chance to win. And their defense is playing great football."

But even more importantly than the resemblance, when Tomey watches the Ducks play, he sees a team on the verge of capturing the Pacific-10 conference title.

"Oregon clearly, if they win this football game, will be in the driver's seat," Tomey said. "Everybody else loses control of the race, and Oregon has all the control. We would all like to be able to control our own destiny."

"They make more plays than anyone we've played. They do the little things. (They have) a great kicking game, the best return guys we have played against and the best secondary we've played against."

Tomey, who has coached Arizona since 1987, has a 45-31-4 record with the Wildcats. Last year, he guided Arizona to a first-place tie in the Pac-10, and then on to a 29-0 thrashing of Miami in the Fiesta Bowl. This year Arizona is 4-0 in the conference, 6-1 overall, and is ranked 11th in the nation.

But with bowl appearances in 1989, 1990 and 1992, coupled with the strong victory over Washington last week, the Ducks have gained Tomey's respect.

"Oregon has been one of the most successful teams in the conference the last six years," Tomey said. "They've played a lot of outstanding football. When they had

to make a drive (against Washington), they did."

As far as experience goes, Tomey believes that there are more important keys to a football team than just veteran play. In Tomey's eyes, Oregon has the attitude to win Saturday's game.

"Certainly their offensive line hasn't been dominant, but they've done a great job for an inexperienced group. You don't have to have a veteran at every position," Tomey said, adding that he was impressed with the way the Ducks have fought off early season woes. "The fans were down on them, (but) the team kept believing in themselves. They fought back and continued to win. As the season progressed, they've gotten better and better."

"They're playing with a tremendous belief that they are going to win, which is the most important thing that you can have. That is probably more important than talent. The toughest guy to play is the guy that is playing and believes he can win it ... and that's Oregon."

Some of the Wildcats' less experienced players have stepped up a level and become key contributors to the team's success.

"We've got some inexperienced players that are playing, in some cases, better than our experienced players," Tomey said.

Despite Oregon's defense running rampant on its opponents, Tomey said the Wildcats are going to do nothing different against the Ducks than they would against any other team.

"Everybody is trying to win and we're trying to do what we have to do to win," Tomey said. "You're just trying to win a game. You don't think you have to score this many points, you just try to have more than they do at the end."

"I think (Saturday's game) is exciting for both teams," Tomey said. "It is going to take a real good, strong football game to win."

EMERALD FOOTBALL PICKS



Chris Metz Kris Henry Mark McTyre Trevor Kearney Michele Ross Kaly Soto Jeff Paslay

Arizona -6 Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Arizona	Arizona
Washington -16 Oregon St.	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington
UCLA -2 Stanford	UCLA	UCLA	Stanford	UCLA	Stanford	Stanford	UCLA
Washington St. -10 California	Washington St.	Washington St.	Washington St.	Washington St.	California	Washington St.	California
Florida St. -23 Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke
Iowa St. -1 Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Iowa St.	Missouri	Missouri	Iowa St.
Colorado -1 Nebraska	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Nebraska	Colorado	Colorado	Nebraska
BYU -9 Arizona St.	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU
OVERALL	16-24	16-24	16-24	15-25	18-22	22-18	20-20

SPORTS WEEKEND EVENTS

	Friday, Oct. 28	Saturday, Oct. 29	Sunday, Oct. 30
Women's Soccer	Oregon vs. Pacific Southbank Field 3:30 p.m.		Oregon vs. Linfield Southbank Field 12:30 p.m.
Volleyball	Oregon @ Stanford	Oregon @ California	
Cross Country		Pac-10 Championships Stanford, Calif.	
Hockey	Oregon vs. Wash. St. Lane County Ice 10:15 p.m.	Oregon vs. Wash. St. Lane County Ice 10:15 p.m.	
Women's Golf	Oregon @ San Jose St. Invitational	Oregon @ San Jose St. Invitational	Oregon @ San Jose St. Invitational

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