

# DUCKS

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own 17-yard line.

Stanford and quarterback Scott Frost struck in the second quarter as Frost took advantage of his running ability and worked his elusive magic on the Ducks' defense for a 28-yard touchdown run, breaking several tackles in the process.

"I tried to follow the play the way it was supposed to go to find a hole," Frost said. "Before I knew it, I was in the endzone trying to catch my breath. I felt like we were in the game right there, but we just couldn't seem to get things moving."

The Ducks made it clear that they wanted no part of a close game, especially on Stanford turf. O'Neil lit up the Cardinal defense for three more touchdown strikes before halftime as the thrifty Oregon offense mechanically rolled down the field and went into the locker room with a commanding 31-7 lead.

Of the nine Oregon scoring drives on the day, the longest one consumed only 3:37 off the clock, and the Ducks twice pieced together scoring drives of less than a minute.

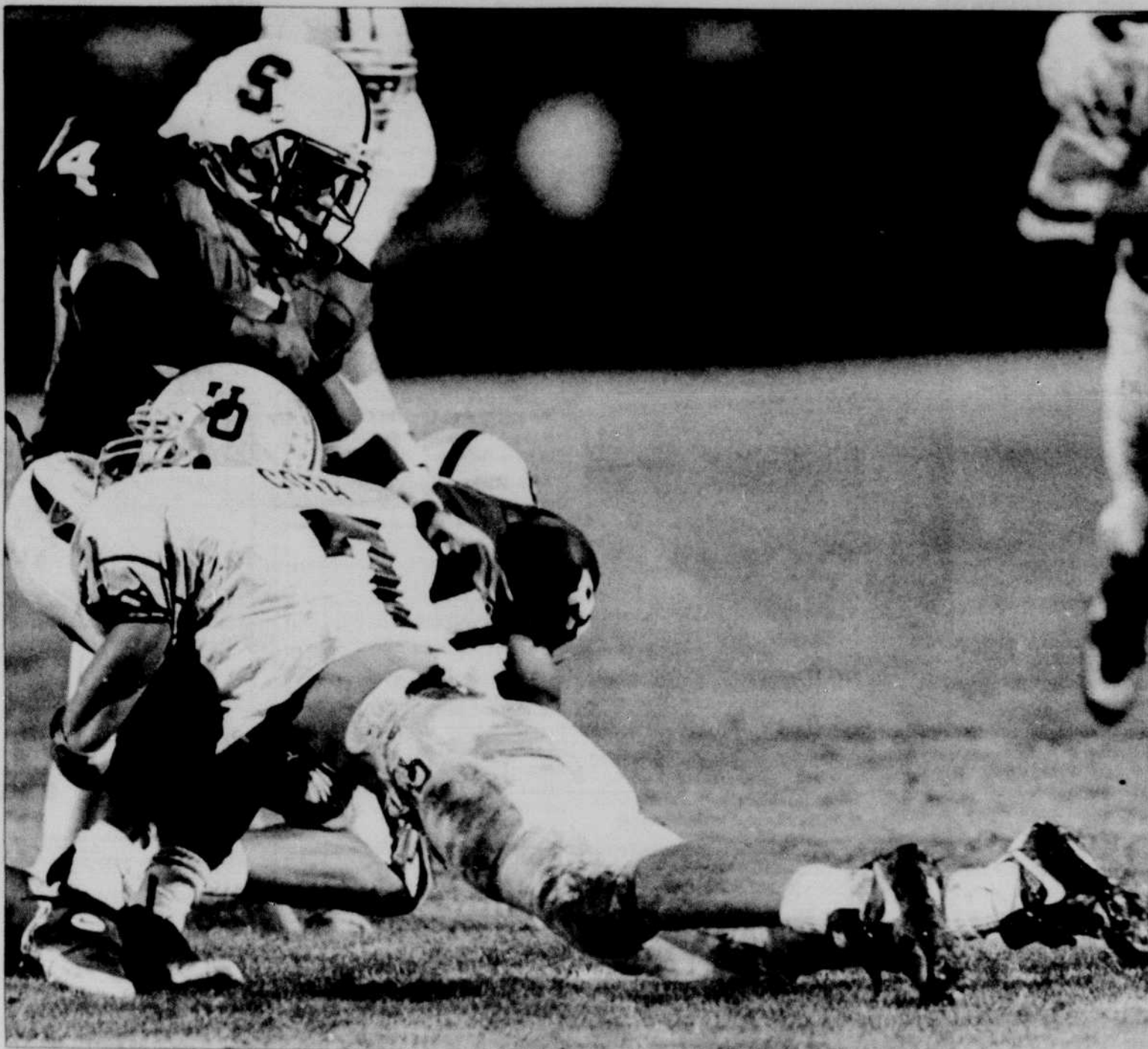
"They moved the ball well," Stanford head coach Bill Walsh said. "They did a great job with their speed and our inability to cover."

For Walsh and his team, Saturday's game was discouraging to say the least. A preseason favorite to finish toward the top of the Pac-10, the Cardinal (3-6-1, 2-5) have suffered from a sieve-like defense that has failed to complement a powerful offense that tallied 452 yards against a usually stingy Gang Green defense.

"I thought we would do well in this game, but we obviously didn't," Walsh said. "I'm disappointed, not only with the outcome, but with the progress of the game as well. This is really the first time all year that we unraveled. I think it's evident that we didn't play passing defense."

In only his second start at quarterback, Frost moved the ball well at times, connecting with receiver Justin Armour and effectively moving the Cardinal offense, but were only able to manage 21 points for their efforts.

"Stanford has a heck of an offense," Oregon linebacker Jeremy Asher said. "Our defense did bend a little, and that's disappointing."



Oregon safety Chad Cota drops Stanford's Anthony Bookman for one of his team-leading nine tackles.

Oregon dominated the second half as well, with the Ducks working their now-patented third-quarter magic once again on O'Neil's 17-yard pass to Dameron Ricketts and a Belden field goal to put the game out of reach.

Frost pieced together a 65-yard, nine play drive that damaged the Oregon defense in the fourth-quarter, but the bell finally tolled on backup quarterback Tony Graziani's Hail Mary pass that was intended for Damon Griffin, tipped by Stanford's Kwame Ellis, and eventually wound up in the hands of Pat Johnson for an insult-to-injury 43-yard touchdown for the Ducks.

"It was a good team effort,"

Oregon head coach Rich Brooks said. "I'm just really happy about the win and ready to move on."

The Ducks remain tied with the USC Trojans atop the Pac-10 and can end the conference race with a win over Oregon State next weekend and attend their first Rose Bowl since 1958. Confidence is high in the Duck camp, but the players and coaches know just how tough Civil War matches can be, no matter what's at stake.

"This is huge," Asher said looking forward to next week's game. "It's the biggest game of my life. They're going to want to take this Rose thing away from us."



Danny O'Neil dives for the first-down marker to keep Oregon's drive alive in the first half against Stanford.

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