

Ducks left little option – stop the run

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Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Ducks have had their fair share of problems with their offense. What awaits the Ducks this coming weekend is a fierce running attack, and the very style of play that the Oregon defense has been unable to stop in the last two seasons.

The option has been the Ducks downfall when the opposition has brought this game plan to the field against Oregon. The Ducks have lost by a combined score of 82-38, in three encounters with the option over the past two seasons.

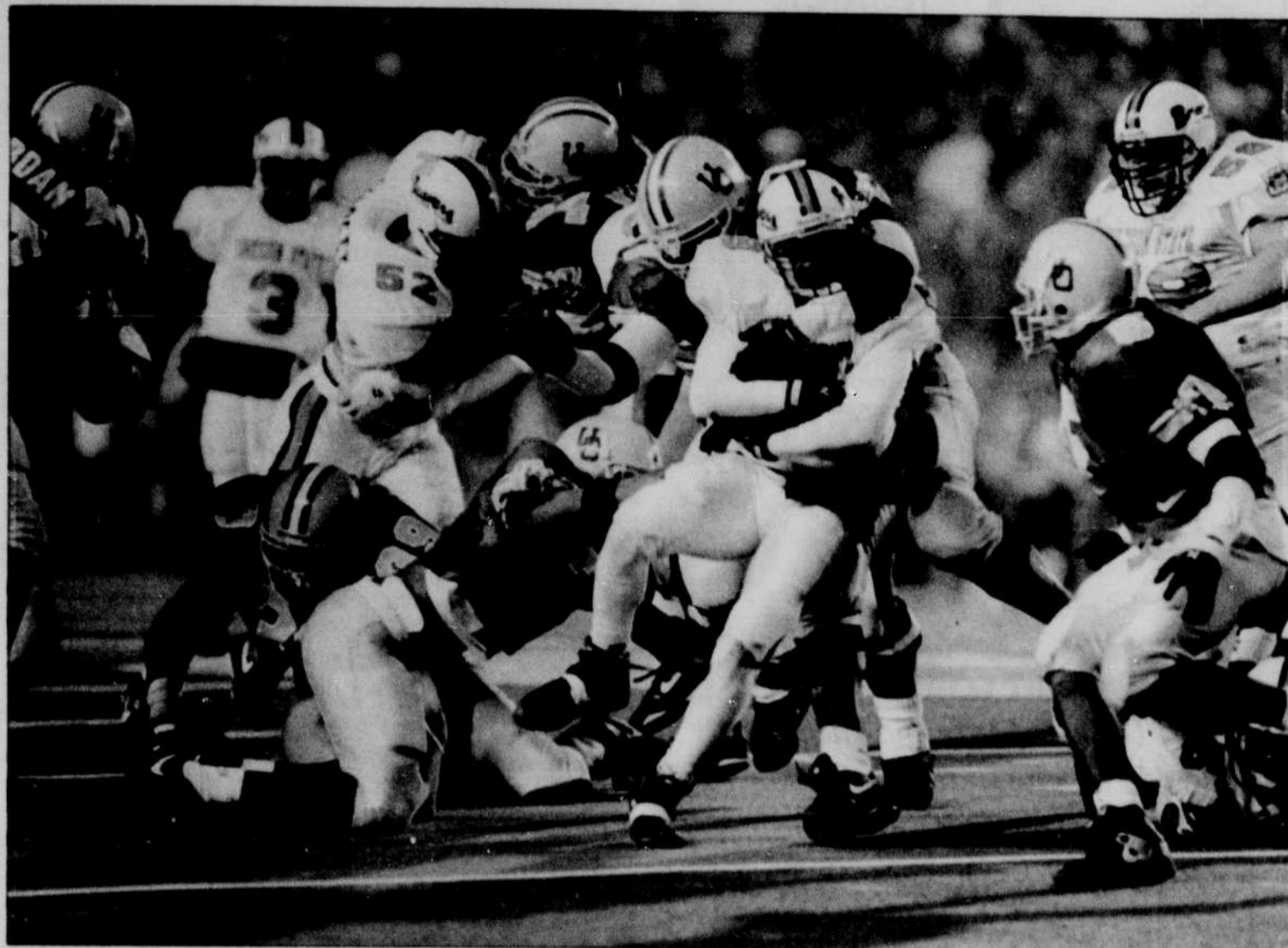
Last year the Ducks got their first look at this unique offensive style when they made the long haul to Tucson, Ariz. to face the Wildcats.

The Wildcats, faced with the absence of starting quarterback Dan White due to injury, decided to change their offensive scheme from passing to running. In a surprise move, the Wildcats inserted running back Chuck Levy into the quarterback position. Arizona collected 389 yards of total offense on 81 plays, throwing only one pass which landed incomplete.

Oregon had anticipated Arizona's switch to an option-style attack, but even the Wildcats had to be surprised at the effectiveness they had running the ball. Arizona pounded at the Ducks' defense for four scoring drives of 65 yards or longer.

Arizona crushed Oregon with two runners gaining over 100 yards for the first time in eight years and consequently held the Oregon offense to the sidelines. Oregon ran just 48 offensive plays in a losing effort 31-10.

After losing their next game to the air attack of Stanford in 1993, the Ducks had to get back in the mode of trying to stop the option



Oregon State optioned their way to 217 yards on 63 rushes in last year's Civil War.

FILE PHOTO

when Oregon State came to town for the Civil War.

The Ducks did enjoy some success against Oregon State's offense, not allowing the Beavers to put together a scoring drive until a muffed Oregon punt set up the drive that would give the Beavers the victory.

Oregon State's rushers did run for a combined 217 yards on 63 carries out of the wishbone, en route to a 15-12 Civil War victory and ending Oregon's season with a 5-6 record.

The Ducks first test against a form of the option this season came in the form of the spread-

option attack of the Hawaii Rainbows.

Unfortunately, the Hawaii game showed Oregonians that the Ducks still had not figured out a way to stop the option.

Oregon had plans of stopping ex-Duck Tupu Alualu, Hawaii's fullback, but on the opening dri-

ve of the game, Alualu rushed six straight times for 26 yards and the first touchdown of the game.

The rest of the game the Rainbows kept the Ducks guessing with its offensive show as quarterback Glenn Freitas ran for 117

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