



GARY GRASS/emerald

One of the keys to Oregon's success in 1994 was an improved running game that proved to be difficult for opposing teams to 1asso.

Season of destiny wins Oregon Pacific-10 title

Kris Henry
Oregon Daily Emerald



Sept. 3 at Autzen Stadium — Oregon opened its season against Portland State in a matchup many Oregonians had requested for years. The Duck offense took control early, posting 21 points in 10 minutes of play with touchdown passes by quarterback Danny O'Neil to flanker Cristin McLemore and tight end Josh Wilcox and a rushing touchdown by converted cornerback Kenny Wheaton. Oregon forced five Portland State turnovers and held the Vikings to -11 yards on the ground and only 144 yards of total offense on its way to a 58-16 rout of Portland State.



Sept. 10 at Hawaii — Oregon's first road-venture of the season was not a pleasant one as the Ducks fell prey to the Hawaii Rainbows and their spread-option attack, 36-16. O'Neil

was intercepted three times and flanker Kory Murphy had to be taken from the field by ambulance with a spinal injury. Back-up quarterback Tony Graziani pieced together a 66-yard drive, capped off with a touchdown toss to McLemore, after replacing an ineffective O'Neil. Murphy's injury sustained in the game against Hawaii would force his early retirement from competitive football and leave the Ducks inexperienced at wide receiver beyond McLemore.



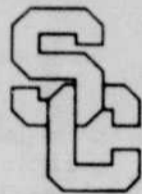
Sept. 17 at Autzen Stadium — The Ducks received a rude return home from a Utah squad that featured the strong-armed attack of Mike McCoy, who threw for 309 yards on

the day. The Utes ran in a fake field goal for a touchdown and had two key interceptions of O'Neil passes to surprise the Ducks, 34-16. True freshman kicker Matt Belden missed field goal attempts from 45, 48 and 50 yards away. The Ducks' Gang Green defense kept the game as close as possible behind free safety Jeff Sherman's 17 tackles, one forced fumble and one interception.



Sept. 24 at Autzen Stadium — Tailback Ricky Whittle rushed for 66 yards and three touchdowns in his first game back from a

hamstring injury and tailback Dino Philyaw rushed for 73 yards and one touchdown. Gang Green stood firm against the Hawkeyes, recovering one fumble while intercepting three passes. Oregon blanked Iowa 20-0 in the second quarter on its way to a 40-18 blistering of the Hawkeyes. O'Neil, hampered by an infected index finger on his throwing hand, completed only 7 of 17 passes for 74 yards and two touchdown passes. Oregon kick returner and cornerback Herman O'Berry suffered a knee injury, originally thought to be season-ending.



Oct. 1 at Southern Cal — The Ducks traveled to Southern California without O'Neil, O'Berry and Whittle to face the 19th-ranked Trojans. Philyaw, manning the tailback position solo, rushed for

123 yards on the day, including a 49-yard touchdown scamper. A confident Graziani went 16-31 for 287 yards with one touchdown pass to McLemore. Oregon's offense broke through with 478 yards, including 191 yards from a much-maligned running game. Gang Green punished the Trojans' Heisman-hopeful quarterback with nine sacks and held the vaunted USC running game to only 31 net yards rushing.



Oct. 8 at Washington State — Oregon lost the services of McLemore and Graziani, who each sprained an ankle, against the 22nd-ranked Cougars. O'Neil was forced into action and

responded with a 42-yard touchdown pass to Wilcox, but the senior signal caller could only muster 51 yards on 4 of 20 passing for the day against one of the nation's toughest defenses. Gang Green forced the Cougars to punt the ball 11 times on the day and held Washington State to 279 yards of total offense, but the Cougars converted some opportunistic

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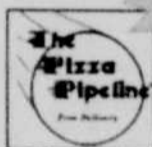


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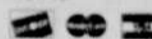
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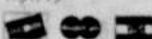
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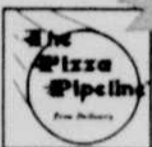


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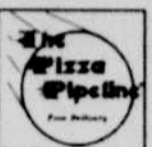


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