

## Gang Green shines in sloppy game

Trevor Kearney

Oregon Daily Emerald

Tackling the wettest of conditions, the Oregon football team slipped, fumbled and waded its way to the end of formal spring drills on Saturday in the annual spring scrimmage.

Despite the playing conditions and sometimes sloppy play, the Green team's 41-6 victory over the White showed hints of last year's glory and a smattering of what is to come next fall.

The defense highlighted the game, as the Green team prevented the White team from threatening to score a touchdown. Senior cornerback Alex Molden lead the team with two interceptions, and senior inside linebacker Jeremy Asher added one interception and four total tackles.

"Our defense was superb," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I don't think they missed a beat."

"Our players are playing very well and are responding to the challenge of keeping Gang Green alive. Gang Green is alive and well in Eugene."

Junior free safety Chad Williams and junior linebacker Derek Allen each picked off passes for the White team, and sophomore Jeff Branson added 11 total tackles in the team's losing effort.

But possibly the biggest surprise was junior cornerback LaMont Woods, who recorded seven tackles for the Green team.

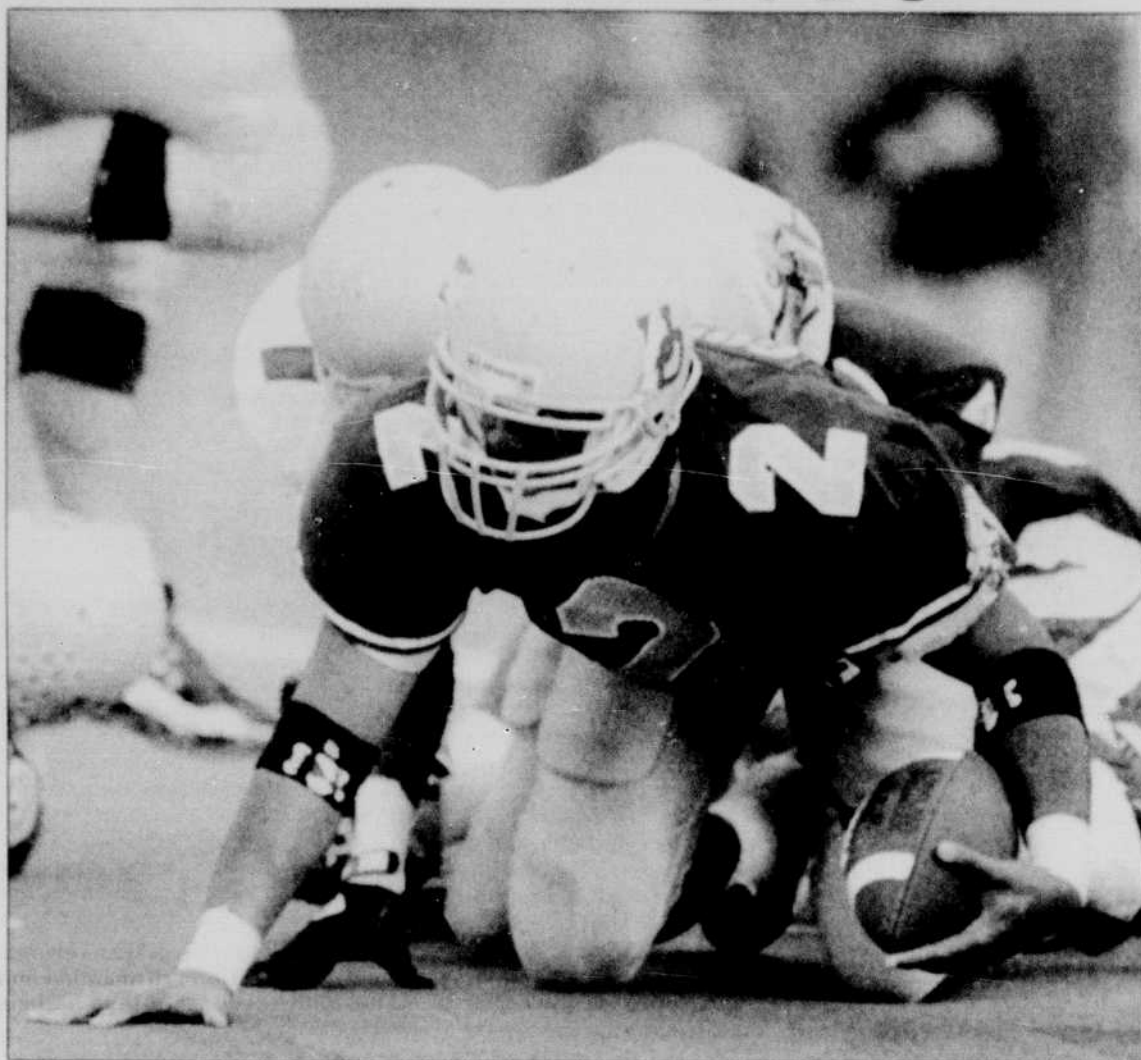
"[Woods] made a lot of great plays and a lot of great tackles," Bellotti said. "[He showed] very physical play, and he has shown up as that guy that can play either the corner or give us that nickel-and-dime package that we have used so successfully in the past."

"I'm a junior now, so I have to step up my game a little," Woods said. "I got a lot of rips today, and I feel that I did what I wanted to do today."

The offense looked shaky at times, however, allowing five interceptions between the two teams.

Junior Tony Graziani, the Ducks' first-string quarterback,

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Free safety Brian Collins entertains thoughts of offensive glory in Saturday's Spring Game. Collins and the first-team defense held the White team's offense without a score.



Quarterback Tony Graziani went 15-of-24 for 172 yards Saturday.

## Ducks begin defense, beat potential enemy

With the anticipation of a college football game on the horizon, Saturday started much like any other game day.

A quick stop for a Big Gulp (sans inebriates, of course), and off to Autzen we went.

The parking lot was jam-packed with cars (thanks to one of those mega car sell-a-thons) and electricity filled the air. Or maybe that was rain?

Out of the car and into a puddle, it felt like any other day where the anticipation of a Duck victory is fresh and the stench of opportunities gone by the wayside at Autzen forgotten.

Heading up the familiar ramp leading to the rim of the stadium, the cold, rainy weather reminded one of last season's classic Civil War battle or the 10-9 defensive struggle against Arizona — the game that really set the Ducks' Rose Bowl wheels in motion.

Then came the rain, and it was in no mood to leave.

After seeking adequate shelter under the covered seating area of Autzen, the band toughed out the elements to play a rousing version of "Louie, Louie" as well as some other familiar standards.

The poor, rain-soaked pep squad was there too, dressed



CHRIS METZ

more for a mid-September matchup against Illinois than the spongy lake that the newly christened Rich Brooks Field at Autzen Stadium (don't ask me to explain) soon became.

Throw in a couple hundred strange, very strange, Duck fans and the familiar voice of Don Essig and you've got yourself a game.

But this time around the Ducks weren't facing the Beavers, the Wildcats or even the Bears. This time around, the fresh-faced Ducks were facing an enemy that they can't afford to overlook as they begin their defense of the Pac-10 Championship.

An enemy stronger than the Trojans. More experienced than the Huskies. And even more opportunistic than the Cougars.

That enemy?

Themselves, who else?

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## Ducks showcase talents with best at Drake event

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This weekend's Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, played host to the Oregon men's and women's track and field teams, and ended up being the stomping ground for several Oregon athletes to show off their talents nationally.

The women claimed two event titles at the competi-

tion and came close in several other events. Senior Kelsey Stellick claimed the javelin title on Friday with a throw of 160-9, almost six feet farther than runner-up Laura Kruse of Washington.

The women then followed up Friday's success with several strong performances, highlighted by the 3,200-

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MONDAY

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## Rangers clinch berth; West still undecided

The defending Stanley Cup champion New York Rangers, led by Brian Leetch's two goals, finally clinched a playoff berth on their next-to-last game of the season with a 2-0 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Sunday.

With the Ranger win, Montreal and Florida were eliminated from playoff contention.

In the Western Conference race, only one point separates San Jose, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Los Angeles for the eighth and final playoff slot.

Los Angeles, San Jose and Winnipeg all have 39 points with two games remaining — one point ahead of 11th-place Edmonton, which did not play Sunday. The Sharks lost 4-3 to St. Louis, while Winnipeg was idle and will host the Kings on Tuesday.

## Ducks off to good start in Softball

Oregon started its road trip on a good note with an opening sweep over Stanford on Saturday with 7-2 and 5-2 wins.

The Ducks, now 19-21 overall, were paced by short-stop Kathy Stahl, who finished the day with four hits, two of them triples. She also scored five runs and drove in another as the Ducks took the first of three doubleheaders that conclude today.

Center fielder Lisa Preston added a home run and two RBI in the first game.

Oregon's Kim Kampfer picked up wins in both games to up her record to 14-16.

## ON THE TUBE

May 1

■ 2:30 p.m. ESPN

Cycling, Tour

DuPont, day No. 5, at various sites (same-day tape)

■ 5 p.m. TNT — NBA Basketball Playoffs, doubleheader, first round game No. 3's, New York at Cleveland and Seattle at L.A. Lakers

■ 6 p.m. ESPN — Boxing, heavyweights, Tommy Morrison (43-2-1) vs. Terry Anderson (20-8-0), at Tulsa, Okla.

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