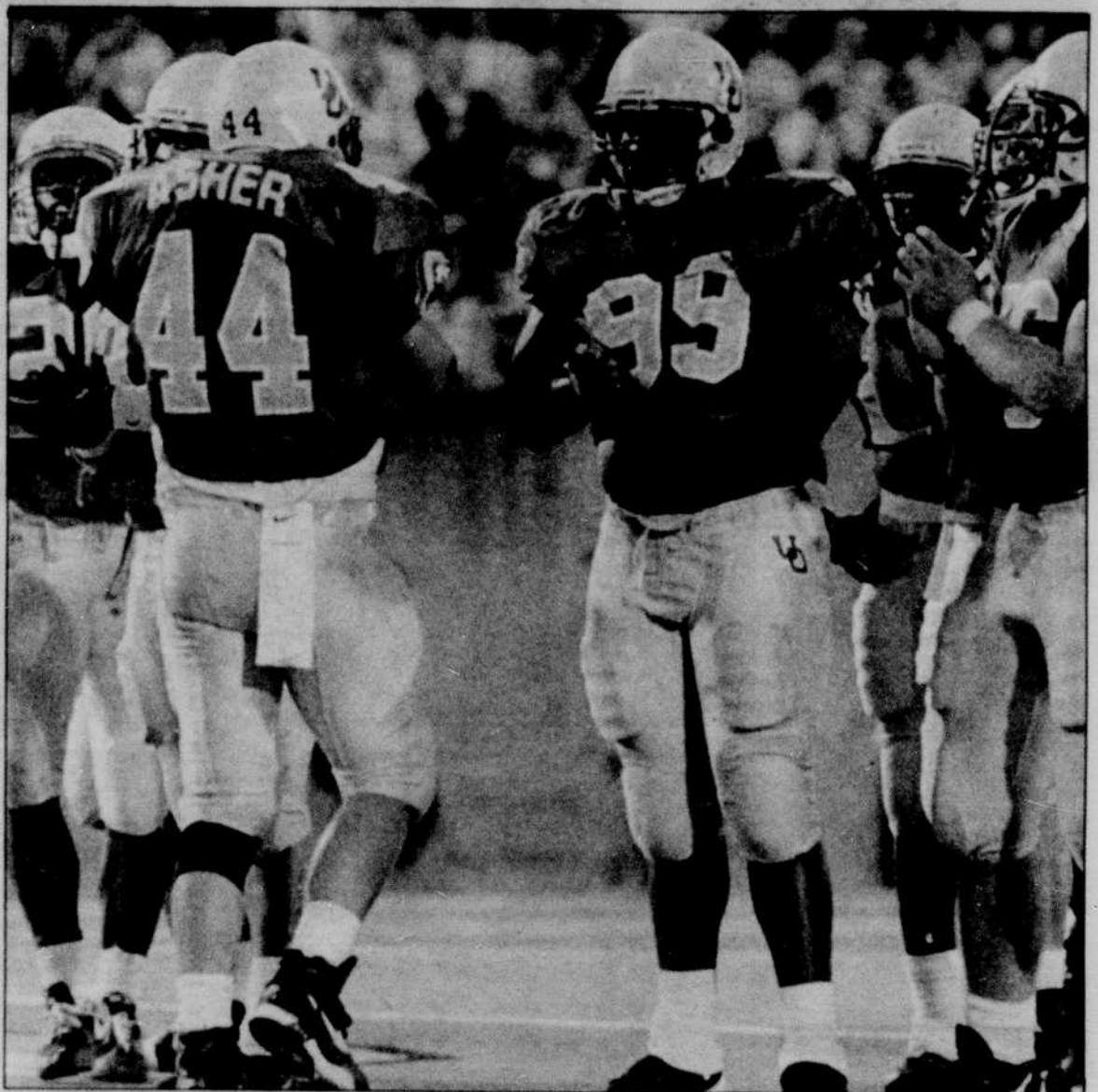


FOOTBALL

OREGON VS STANFORD



New defensive coordinator Charlie Waters has helped Gang Green keep the fearsome reputation that it earned last year.



Oregon's defense has come up big in each of the Ducks' first three games, helping the team start the season undefeated and earn a No. 12 ranking in the Associated Press Top 25 poll.

Alive & Well

Gang Green continues to log big plays when the Ducks need them most

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

The ultimate test of a sports team's durability is dependability in the clutch, being able to perform under pressure and when it really counts. If a team has that kind of charisma, if the level of play can be stepped up to that notch, almost nothing else matters.



WATERS

One needs to go no further than the Oregon defensive unit to find this kind of big play ability.

After establishing itself as the premier defensive team in the Pacific-10 Conference last season, Gang Green returned seven starters this season — but graduated four players that were all but the heart and soul of the unit.

The Ducks, however, were used to replacing players all last season. After all, when All-American cornerback Herman O'Berry was forced out of the lineup with an injury, redshirt freshman Kenny Wheaton stepped up and got the job done. And when the Ducks needed help at the outside linebacker position, Mark Schmidt came in and did the job.

So with four very important starters departed from the Oregon defense, it was only natural that other players would step up and fill the void. And they have.

While some of the spirit that was generated by the likes of Chad Cota and Silila Malepeai is sorely missed, players like

senior defensive end Troy Bailey and junior nose tackle Bryant Jackson have upped their level of play in attempt to fill those voids.

"The concept of the defense is to just get it done," said senior linebacker Jeremy Asher. "It doesn't really matter who makes the play just as long as people take care of their assignments and somebody gets the job done."

Against Utah, the job definitely got done, as Gang Green only allowed six points — in the form of two field goals — as the team marched on to a 27-20 season opening victory. In that game, the Utes gained only 63 second half yards and were unable to score in the final two quarters.

"Our team needs to play hungry all the time, that is just what makes us perform," defensive coordinator Charlie Waters said of his players. "We need to play hungry."

Week two brought a tough Illinois team to Autzen Stadium, where the Ducks were forced to face the Illini without starting quarterback Tony Graziani. To make things worse for the defense, the offense turned the ball over five times, giving Illinois an abundance of scoring opportunities.

But Gang Green stood its ground, allowing five touchdowns but coming up with some clutch plays, including a blocked extra point and a blocked field goal by Jackson and a forced fumble and recovery for the game winning touchdown by strong safety Jaiya Figueras.

"Our defense played their rear ends off," offensive coordi-

Lineman graced as leader

■ FOOTBALL: Troy Bailey is thought of as the leader of Gang Green

By Mark McTyre
Assistant Sports Editor

Every team has its leader, be it in the office, in the military or on the field. In some cases this leader may be considered a warrior for his efforts. But what really constitutes a person as being a leader or warrior?

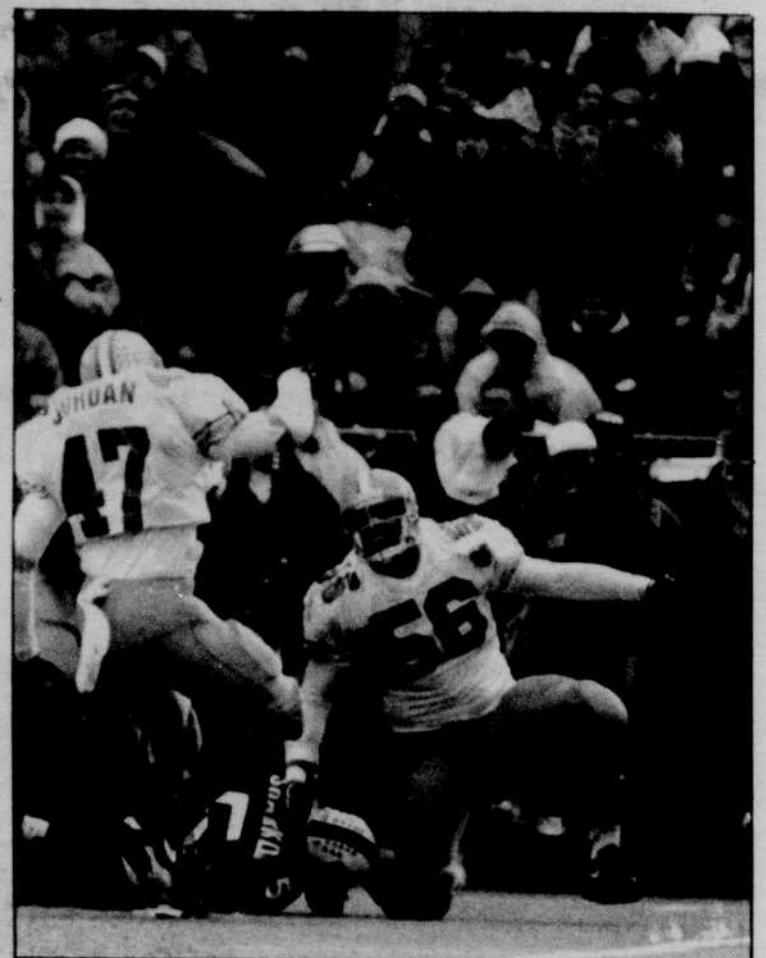
In the mind of Oregon head football coach Mike Bellotti, Troy Bailey fulfills these terms to the fullest.

"He's one of our leaders and warriors," said Bellotti. "I like what he brings to the team. He may not be the fastest or the strongest on the team but he makes the plays when needed. He's a true leader by example."

Bailey doesn't lead his team in tackles, sacks, fumble recoveries, pass deflections or interceptions, but he has proved to be the emotional inspiration and leader of Gang Green.

"Troy is the vocal leader," said strong safety Jaiya Figueras. "He has a lot of emotion. When our team is down and our defense isn't doing too good he just tells us what we need to do."

Figueras added that Bailey's talkative manner is not just kept on the field.



Troy Bailey may not be the most athletic player on the team, but when a big play is needed you can be sure he is in the middle of the action.

"He's always talking," said Figueras. "He jokes around all the time off the field — he's just always talking."

When Bailey was confronted with the question of where his leadership qualities came from, he points to a former Oregon player.

"When I was young here Matt LaBounty taught me that if you want to look at somebody and have them do it, well it's not going to get done," said

Bailey. "So you've got to look within yourself and get the job done. I've taken that for the last five years and have tried to live by it."

Last year Bailey proved that this mentality can be used to his advantage on the field. The hard-charging defensive lineman was among the Ducks leaders in big defensive plays last fall. He paced the line with 48 tackles, including a team-

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