

# FOOTBALL

OREGON VS PACIFIC

## Preview: Players to watch

■ **Continued from Page 3B**  
Abdullah is an All-America candidate, and netted over 1,000 rushing yards last year.

"(Abdullah) is as good of running back as we have seen all year and hopefully will see all year," Bellotti said.

Senior wide receiver Eric Atkins is another of Pacific's offensive weapons that Gang Green must stop. Atkins was an all-league player last year and he amassed over 700 yards receiving in 11 games.

The Tigers have two quarterbacks with different

strengths, but who both have the ability to score points. Senior Nick Sellers is the more mobile of the two. Junior Chad Fotheringham is the powerful one, standing at 6-foot-6 and 232 pounds. Bellotti is concerned about both quarterbacks.

"I think that they have the ability of moving the ball," stated Bellotti.

Oregon looks to get another win in its last non-conference game. The Ducks are currently ranked 17th in the nation by the Associated Press poll.

## Tigers' schedule is no joking matter

■ **PACIFIC:** Big bucks and valuable experience are gained from the team's tough non-conference road trips

By Trevor Kearney  
Sports Editor

With the kind of rough and tumble football schedule Pacific puts up year after year, some people might call the Tigers masochists. Others might call them crazy and still others might even call them a joke.

But the Tigers will simply be laughing at these name callers — all the way to the bank.

It is no secret that Pacific's unbalanced schedule isn't a scheme to earn the team a national championship — not yet, anyway. Nor is it an optimistic plan to upset some of college football's powerhouse teams.

"To say this year's schedule is challenging is an understatement," Pacific head coach Chuck Shelton said. "It's a schedule that we probably would have liked to wait a year or two to take on, in terms of getting the athletes in here that we need to meet that kind of schedule."

At the moment, the school is simply making big bucks playing non-conference football foes at just a slight cost: lopsided scores.

While the Tigers have had to endure a 41-9 loss to Arizona, a 56-24 loss to Fresno State and a 49-7 defeat at the hands of second-ranked Nebraska this year, they will have collected nearly \$800,000 from non-conference opponents at the end of the season to cover travel expenses and fund the school's football scholarships.

Nebraska forked over \$400,000 of that dividend, while Arizona paid Pacific \$250,000 and Oregon will pay the Tigers \$150,000.

### MONEY IN THE BANK

By school, the money paid to Pacific by its 1995 non-conference opponents:

Nebraska \$400,000  
Arizona \$250,000  
Oregon \$150,000

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That kind of money is hard for a school with an enrollment of 4,000 to pass up. And somewhere along the line, the experience of playing big name and big game football teams is going to pay off.

"The schedule is here, we have to deal with it," Sheldon said. "I think a lot of our athletes that will be helping us win in '96, '97 and '98 are here because of that schedule. So you have to take the good with the bad."

In fact, it has already started to help Pacific this year. In the Tigers' second game of the season, they beat Oregon State 23-10. The win was the Tigers' first win over a Pacific-10 Conference team since 1983.

While Oregon State is by no means a Nebraska- or even Oregon- caliber team, it shows the Tigers have come a long way since putting together a string of 16 losing seasons from 1978 to 1993.

And in terms of recruits, Pacific's schedule has helped them come up with a few players that have come to Pacific because of the team's competitive nature. The Tigers landed three transfers from Sacramento State in wide receiver Jake Hoffart and defensive backs Kato Serwanga and Wasswa Serwanga, and also attracted junior quarterback Chad Fotheringham from Snow Junior College.

In 1994, Pacific attracted 6-foot-2, 304-pound defensive tackle Jyme Daniels, who has become one of the Tigers' most valued

defensive players.

Shelton, who was named co-coach of the Year for the Big West Conference last year, turned Pacific around in just his third season as head coach, taking the Tigers from a 3-8 overall record in 1993 to a 6-5 record last year, the team's first winning season in 17 years. The showing made the Tigers the 12th most improved team in the country last year.

In 1993, Shelton initiated the tough-schedule routine for the Tigers, penciling in three Pacific-10 Conference teams, including powerhouse Arizona along with Washington State and Oregon State. The schedule got even tougher the next year, as the Tigers faced national champions to be Nebraska for the first time in team history.

Pacific's tough schedule has also caught the eye of the Ducks, who are wary after a loss to under-rated Stanford two weeks ago.

"Pacific is a good team," Oregon quarterback Tony Graziani said. "They lost by less points to Nebraska than Arizona State did."

So far this season, Pacific hasn't even played a team in their conference. The Tiger's impressive non-conference schedule comes to a close Saturday at Autzen when Pacific plays the Ducks, but hitting the road is something that the Tigers are accustomed to, as they have only had one home game this year and only have four all year long.

"That is what scares me the most, that they have gone into hostile situations and played well," Graziani said.

While the team's competitiveness hasn't by any means produced a national championship or even a conference title yet, Pacific is a team on the rise, and a team that is gaining the experience and financial status needed to become a college football powerhouse.

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