

Sideline

Oregon suspends fullback Malepeai

Oregon will be without the experience of junior fullback Pulou Malepeai this Saturday at California. Malepeai has been suspended by coach Mike Bellotti for disciplinary reasons. Keeping accordance with team policy, Bellotti would not disclose the details of the suspension.

According to Jan Power, spokeswoman for the Eugene police department Malepeai was arrested on charges of third degree assault and was out on bail Monday.

Malepeai, who is from Honolulu, Hawaii, is the brother of former Oregon nose guard Silila Malepeai and current starting guard Tasi Malepeai.

Malepeai came in to the season as the most experienced fullback with nine career starts. He ran for 88 yards on 26 attempts last season while splitting time with the departed Dwayne Jones.

Pulou started last Saturday's game against Pacific in place of the injured A.J. Jelks, and would have likely started again this week.

One Cougar and two Cardinal tabbed with Pac-10 honors

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (AP) — Washington State quarterback Chad Davis and two Stanford players, linebacker Chris Draft and placekicker Eric Abrams, were named Pacific-10 football players of the week Monday.

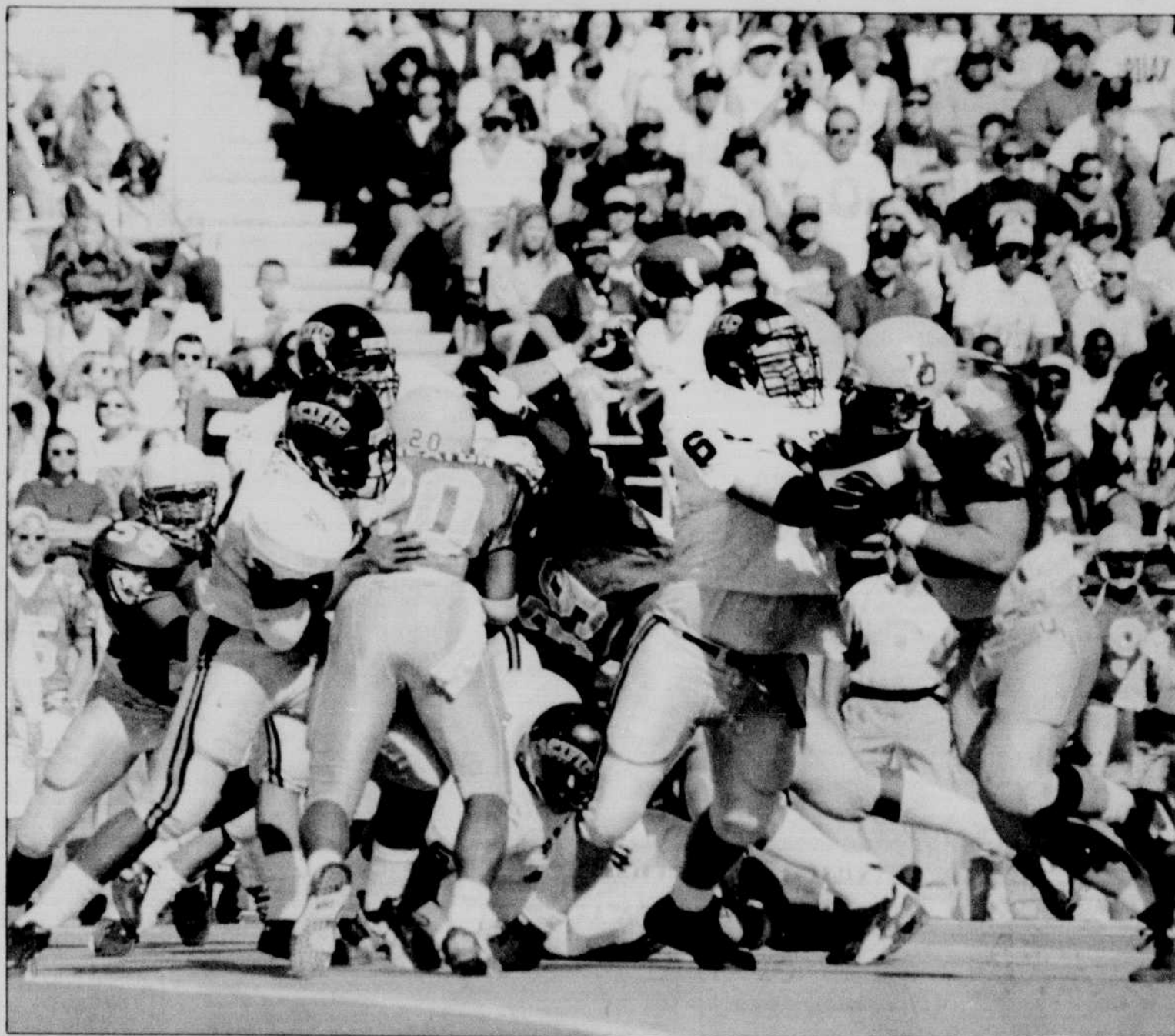
Davis, named the top offensive player, completed 21 of 28 passes for 274 yards and three touchdowns in less than three quarters, leading Washington State to a 40-14 win over Oregon State.

Draft won defensive honors for his 18 tackles, two of them for losses, in Stanford's 30-28 victory at Arizona State. Abrams, chosen for special teams play, made all three of his field goal tries, and three conversion kicks.

Washington's Weber signs six-year pact

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Chris Weber could have gotten more money to play elsewhere, and he could have picked a team with a more illustrious tradition.

Yet, when Weber put his name on a six-year contract with the Washington Bullets on Monday, he finally got what he had been striving for since becoming the NBA's top draft choice in 1993.



The Oregon defense collapsed two years ago at Berkeley against California, but the Ducks have different plans for this year's contest in northern California. MARK MCTYRE/Emerald

Cal game holds too many similarities to overlook

The Oregon football team and its fans have covered much ground over the past couple of years. During some of that time, the road that was traveled was filled with bumps and potholes — returning from the Rose Bowl in January empty handed, losing the last Civil War game that was played at Autzen Stadium and falling prey to two Western Athletic Conference teams last season.

Although those losses held their own respective implications — mainly bragging rights — the last loss that held the fortunes of a whole season within it was the humiliating, demoralizing and upsetting blunder versus the California Golden Bears at Berkeley on Oct. 2, 1993. Two years later, the same holds true entering this weekend's contest.

In 1993, the Ducks shocked everyone with a 3-0 start heading into its next game versus then-15th-ranked California, building the hopes of Oregon fans for a bowl berth and a national ranking. With a 30-0 lead in the first half, the dreams seemed to be solidified.

Then, being the beginning of my first year at Oregon as a transfer student from Seattle, I

instantly jumped on the bandwagon and began draping the walls and windows of my dorm room with Duck paraphernalia. "Go Ducks" posters and handkerchiefs, and anything green and yellow covered my wall before the second half began.



Mark
McTyre

the Ducks are going to win." But then the second half began — a.k.a. "The Death Half."

Oregon's unbeaten football world came crashing down when the Bears engineered a 35-point second-half counterattack to nullify one of the Ducks' top offensive performances in the school's history.

California struck with lightning quickness three times in the second half and won with an 85-yard drive in the final three minutes. California quarterback Dave Barr completed the comeback when he found receiver Iheanyi Uweazueke for a 26-yard scoring pass with 1:17 left in the game before

Mike Caldwell caught a pass for the two-point conversion.

The Bears gobbled Oregon's lead with one-play drives of 61 and 72 yards and a blocked punt for a score. The Ducks were nearly unstoppable on offense in the first 30 minutes. Quarterback Danny O'Neil fired three touchdown passes in the first quarter while Ricky Whitte racked up 113 yards for the game. Oregon finished with 614 total yards, the No. 3 mark ever by the Ducks' offense.

After the loss, Oregon dropped five of its next seven games finishing the season in a downward spiral with a 5-6 record.

With the Ducks' first return to Berkeley since the disaster just five days away, and the team posting a similar record to 1993, the memories have been unearthed again for the Oregon players to face. Although many of the starters from the comeback game are gone, including O'Neil and head coach Rich Brooks, some still remain ready to finally wipe the slate clean.

"We have to get out there and reestablish where we're at and step up," tight end Josh Wilcox said, "because we've got a big one next week. They've got a great defensive line and a great

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offense, so if we don't come to play then we're going to be coming back with our heads between our legs.

"It's [the 1993 loss] fresh in my mind because that was a team with a lot of potential and we didn't do too much with it. We went down there two years ago being ahead and we turned into crap. A lot of us were there and we know how it feels and we want to go down there and play hard."

Other players hold another view to their upcoming game — it's a different team on both fronts so the 1993 contest doesn't matter.

"I'm going to play Cal in '95 and beat Cal in '95," flanker Cristin McLemore said. "I didn't play against them last year and my last game against them was that comeback. There won't be any comeback this year at all. Bottom line is we're

Turn to MCTYRE, Page 14