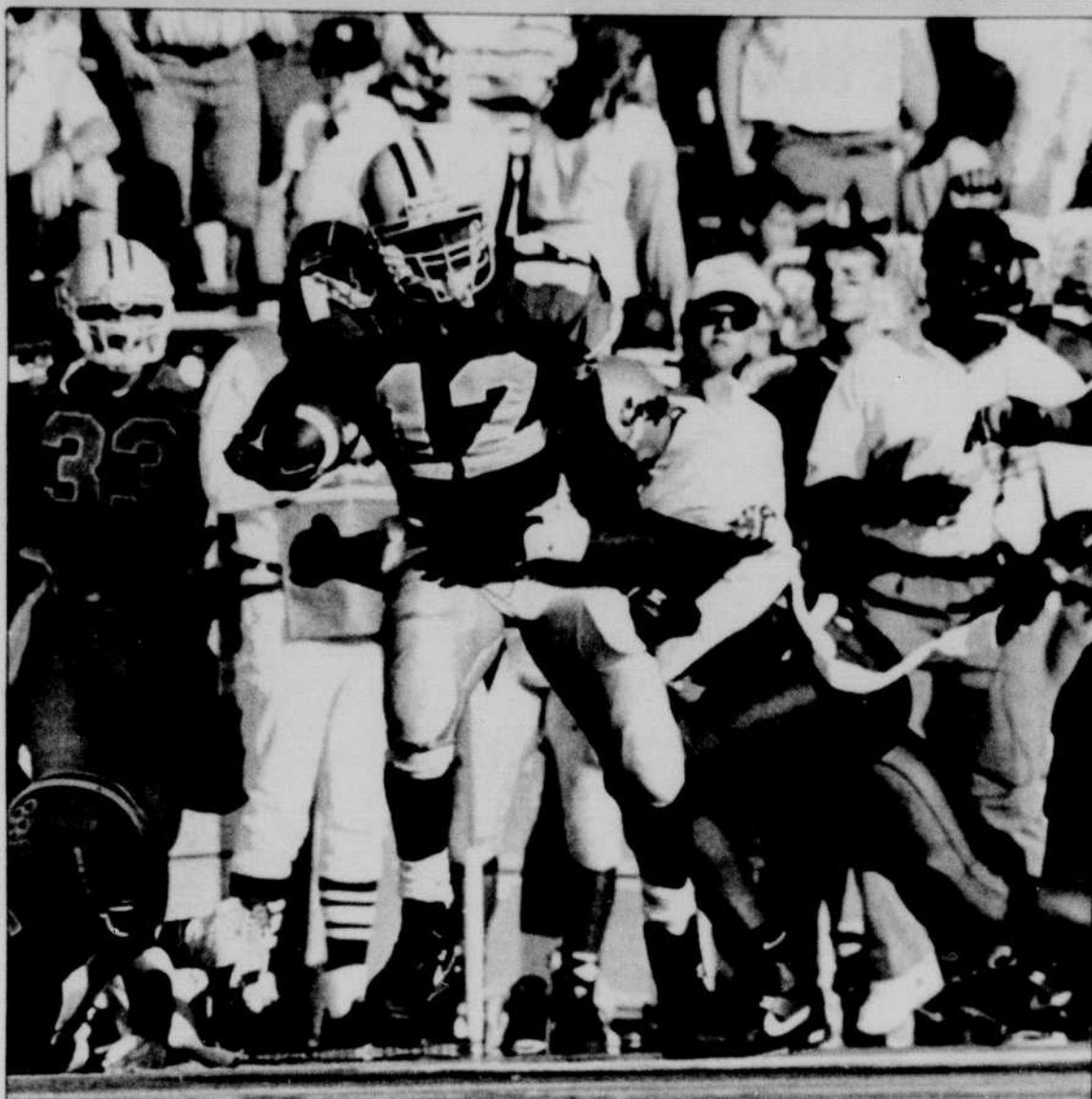


FOOTBALL

OREGON VS WASHINGTON STATE



Former tailback Dino Philyaw helped the Ducks conquer the Cougars in 1993 when they visited Autzen Stadium, but couldn't stop Washington State last year in Pullman.

WSU loss only blemish in 1994

■ **RECAP:** The Cougars were the only Pacific-10 Conference team to beat the Ducks last season

By Andrea DeYoung
Sports Reporter

Last season may seem like a blur of unexpected wins and massive celebration of a Rose Bowl bid, but things did not always seem quite so rosy.

Turn back the clock to Oct. 8, 1994. The Ducks, having just come off a surprising win at USC, traveled north to Pullman to face Washington State. Quarterback Tony Graziani had started his first game for Oregon down in Los Angeles and had posted his first collegiate win.

Despite a less-than-brilliant non-conference schedule, the Ducks looked good in their first Pacific-10 Conference game down south and were ready to face another conference foe.

Washington State was picked to finish last in the Pac-10 last season, but Oregon head coach Rich Brooks wasn't fooled by this. He knew that the Cougars would be tough to beat.

"There is a lot of talk about the Desert Swarm at Arizona," Brooks said in the Oct. 7 edition of the *Emerald*, "but Washington State is better statistically."

These words proved to ring true as the Cougars easily beat the Ducks, but Arizona could not do the same.

Martin Stadium in Pullman was packed with 37,600 people, eager to see the Cougars and the Ducks battle it out.

The hero from the week before, Graziani, was to start again. But Oregon was to play without tailback Ricky Whittle,

offensive tackle Steve Hardin and cornerback Herman O'Berry.

Despite the injuries to these key players, Oregon looked good coming out in the first quarter. Graziani passed to Cristin McLemore for what proved to be an important 11-yard gain. Although this play gave the Ducks a first down, it took away their star receiver when McLemore went down at the end of the play.

On one of Oregon's few successful plays, Graziani handed the ball off to tailback Dino Philyaw, who ran up the middle for 27 yards.

But two plays later, Graziani was sacked, turned the ball over, sprained his ankle and was forced to leave the game.

While Graziani lay on the ground with a throbbing ankle, he had to watch his fumble be returned 26 yards for the Cougars first score.

Washington State 7, Oregon 0.

Welcome back, Danny O'Neil.

O'Neil, who had been a starter all four years at Oregon, had been cleared to play only two days before the Washington State game, but he had barely practiced in the previous two weeks. When O'Neil went to Pullman, it was as the emergency back-up. But he was forced to step in and assume the duties of the hero — an injured one, but a hero nonetheless.

In his first series, O'Neil stood behind an offensive line minus Hardin, throwing to a receiving unit without McLemore and with Philyaw the only one to hand off to. The bruised and battered quarterback called four running plays, completed one pass to Philyaw and was finally sacked, forcing kicker Matt Belden to punt.

In the course of the next three quarters, Washington State proceeded to rack up 279 yards of total offense. At halftime, Oregon had 46 yards offensively and ended the game with only 97 yards in total.

In the third quarter, the Ducks were able to tie the score at seven on a 42-yard touchdown pass to tight end Josh Wilcox. But after that, the Cougars took hold of the game and ran away with it.

At the end of the game, the scoreboard read Washington State 21, Oregon 7.

The Ducks had just traveled to Los Angeles and beat a team that they weren't supposed to. Now they had lost to the Cougars — a team they were picked to beat by 10 points.

The injured O'Neil had only four completions out of 20 attempts, passing for 51 yards.

Unfortunately, the player who had the best game was Belden. He had to punt 12 times, but he did well. He averaged 44.2 yards.

On 19 carries, Philyaw had 61 yards. Wilcox caught two passes and gained 50 yards. They were the only two players who put up significant numbers.

So the Ducks left Pullman with their first conference loss. Their record stood at 3-3 overall and things did not look very good. In the next three weeks, Oregon was to face Washington and Arizona, both of which were 5-1 at that point in the season.

The Ducks, of course, rebounded from this loss and proceeded to win six games in a row and to go on to the Rose Bowl. The Cougars, despite their win against Oregon, had to go to San Antonio in order to play in a bowl game, where they faced Baylor in the Builders Square Alamo Bowl.

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