

Schneider: McLemore is a go-to guy

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State with a severely injured hand. I'm still convinced that he actually stayed in the Parker Stadium locker room during that Rose Bowl clincher. Someone was just flashing a green and yellow blur across the camera and calling it McLemore. The Beaver secondary wouldn't have known any better.

McLemore leads the nation in turning a routine pass reception into a Sports Center highlight. It seems that he relishes in his roll as the Ducks designated crowd pleaser. Many players can make the big play and score the crucial touchdown, but for some reason, it is much more fun to watch 'CrisMac' than anyone else.

According to McLemore, the high hardball in traffic is more fun to catch than those lame passes that don't make you dive out of bounds or catch the ball with one hand.

"I like to be the guy who catches the balls that are not so easy," McLemore said. "I like it when people stand up and say 'Whoa!'"

Whoa is right. McLemore feeds off the crowd like Shaggy feeds on Scooby Snacks.

The best example of how McLemore likes to play to the crowd came during Oregon's slaughter of Pacific earlier this year. Apparently, McLemore got a bad batch of hash browns at the team breakfast and developed a scorching case of food poisoning. McLemore felt good enough to go at game time

and played without much discomfort for most of the first half.

Towards the end of the first half, McLemore beat his inept Pacific coverage assignment and caught a pass out of bounds in front of the student section. The crowd went wild and McLemore threw-up on the turf.

"I puked the first time and the crowd loved it," McLemore explained. "I puked again and they went nuts. Maybe I should throw-up at every game."

Anything to get a rise out of the crowd.

The main thing that makes McLemore one of the best wide receivers in the league is that he has a screw loose when it comes to running pass patterns. It is like he expects to catch every ball thrown to him. If a ball is in the air, it belongs to McLemore. If it means out-leaping triple coverage to snatch a ball that Kareem Abdul-Jabar couldn't get on a step ladder, McLemore will do it. Run across the field into the teeth of the opponent's defense when a train wreck is imminent? McLemore is the man. You don't catch 132 passes in less than four seasons with personality alone.

And he actually feels bad for his quarterback when he doesn't catch every pass thrown his way. Basically, the key to his success as a wide receiver seems to be to avoid hurting Tony Graziani's feelings. I

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imagine the conversation that goes on when McLemore gets back to the huddle after an incomplete pass:

"Hey Graz, I'm really, really sorry I didn't catch that one."
"That's OK, Cris. I threw it 20 yards out of bounds."

It would be blasphemous to put him in the same sentence as Rice, Irvin, or Rison right now, but Oregon has a go-to-guy in McLemore. He is a commodity that most teams in the Pacific-10 Conference can't boast about — a receiver that can be relied on in tight games.

Right now, McLemore's various injuries look like the only things that can stop him, since it is extremely difficult to be a dominating receiver when you have trouble getting out of bed in the morning. If he can stay healthy, though, someday we may be seeing CrisMac's crowd-pleasing antics on Sunday.

Pete Schneider is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

TUESDAY'S TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
Midwest League
■ BURLINGTON BEES—Named Dana Johnston assistant general manager.
BASKETBALL
NBA
■ CHARLOTTE HORNETS—Waived Negele Knight, guard.
FOOTBALL
NFL
■ CHICAGO BEARS—Released Richard Dent, defensive end.
■ CINCINNATI BENGALS—Signed Barry Foster, running back.
HOCKEY
NHL
■ DALLAS STARS—Recalled Zac Boyer, forward, from Michigan of the IHL.
■ DETROIT RED WINGS—Traded Ray Sheppard, right wing, to San

Jose for Igor Larionov, center.
■ NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Assigned Corey Schwab, goalie, and Reid Simpson, left wing, to Albany of the IHL.
■ SAN JOSE SHARKS—Assigned Viktor Kozlov, right wing, to Kansas City of the IHL.
SOCCER
US Soccer Federation
■ USSF—Named Bruce Arena coach of the men's under-23 national team.
COLLEGE
■ BUTLER—Named Jim Price men's assistant basketball coach.
■ UC IRVINE—Announced the retirement of Mike Puritz, women's volleyball coach, effective at the end of the season.
■ DREXEL—Named Dr. Louis Marciani director of athletics, ball coaches.

The football experts?



Awwwwwww, come on.

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Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1995
ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)
Be careful with extravagant spending. Also, avoid those who could take advantage of you in financial ventures. New beginnings, at work and at home, are heavily favored.
TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)
Career matters take a decided turn for the better. Your suspicions about a friend's manipulations are correct. Perhaps you should rethink whether this relationship is good for you.
GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20)
Avoid being overly judgmental with a certain co-worker, who needs your understanding rather than your criticism in order to straighten out. Couples make spur-of-the-moment social plans.
CANCER
(June 21 to July 22)
Some are planning to travel to a place never before seen. A mentor enters your life with valuable insights for your future. Your significant other doesn't understand your concerns about work.
LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22)
A relative is boring you with talk about past events that can't be changed. A business opportunity comes your way unexpectedly. Domestic interests are accented this evening.
VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
You make positive strides in business and financial dealings. However, you still encounter some obstacles completing an existing assignment. You succeed by being persistent.
LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Some make a sudden decision regarding a romantic relationship. Travel is on the agenda for others. At night, feel free to socialize, but avoid

going overboard.
SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Your social circle happily opens up to include more fascinating people. In fact, a new acquaintance is radically different from anyone you've met. Guard against a tendency to daydream.
SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
You are interested in a new hobby or intellectual pursuit. Work of a creative nature is inspired. Open yourself up to what a family member has to say and try to be supportive.
CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
A superior is in an obviously foul mood and should be avoided. If out shopping, you find something valuable in a surprising outlet. Your finances take a turn for the better.
AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
You could find yourself doing some unplanned shopping for a home appliance that needs to be replaced. Avoid letting things slide on the job. An overbearing type isn't likely to listen to reason.
PISCES
(Feb. 19 to March 20)
You're champing at the bit to try new things. Your thinking is spurred by originality. Socially, you think a friend is being unreasonable and unyielding and you could be right.
YOU BORN TODAY question the status quo at every turn. You are suspicious of accepted rules and values and test the boundaries whenever possible. Your rather rebellious nature is a problem in your youth, but you have the courage of your convictions. You are a social activist and naturally attracted to politics and work in civic organizations. Ultimately, you are an asset to your community.
Birthdate of: Helen Reddy, singer; Anne Tyler, author; Barbara Cook, actress.

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